

**Town Council Meeting**  
**December 9, 2024**  
**6:00PM**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:00PM, at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, IN.

Council President Piercefield called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Answering Roll Call:** Council President Ryan Piercefield, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Sherri Sweet, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Barrett, Town Manager John Myers, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

**Minutes-** Minutes of November 25, 2024, Town Council Meeting

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve November 25, 2024, Town Council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Council President Piercefield abstained as he was absent from the November 25, 2024, Town Council meeting.*

**Claims-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented one claim docket in the amount of \$662,179.50. All claims have been reviewed and signed.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the claim docket as presented in the amount of \$662,179.50. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Public Hearing Additional Appropriations-** Council President Piercefield opened the public hearing for the Additional Appropriations.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated this is for \$80,000 in the General fund for other services and charges, due to various projects that had higher than expected expenses in advertising, legal fees, and other professional services. There is also an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$318,350 for the Rainy Day fund to allow for payment of the Park BOT project.

With no further comments, President Piercefield closed the public hearing.

**Resolution 2024-36 Additional Appropriations-** This is related to what was discussed in the public hearing for additional appropriations. Council President Piercefield asked for the approval of the appropriation requests individually.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-36 Additional Appropriations in the amount of \$80,000 for General fund. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-36 Additional Appropriations in the amount of \$318,350 for Rainy-Day fund. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Roll Call Councilman Bryant voted yea, Councilwoman Sweet voted yea, Councilwoman Buck voted yea, Councilwoman Rooks voted nay, and Council President Piercefield voted yea. Motion carried 4-1.*

**Resolution 2024-34 Holiday Schedule-** Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated this was introduced at the previous Town Council meeting. New Year's Eve was added to the 2025 holiday schedule.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-34 Holiday Schedule. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Resolution 2024-35 Board Appointments Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Redevelopment Commission, Economic Development Board and Storm Water Board-** Councilwoman Rooks gave an update on who would be appointed to these boards per Resolution 2024-35.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-35 Board Appointments Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Redevelopment Commission, Economic Development Board, and Storm Water Board. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Ordinance 2024-25 Amending Planned Unit Development for Timbergate (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)-** Attorney Huddleston stated this is an introduction to the proposal presented to the Planning

Commission to reduce the square footage of the houses in certain sections. This proposal was met with an unfavorable recommendation by the Planning Commission. Since then, Ryan Homes has withdrawn this request. This is the first reading and will be brought back at the next meeting to be either approved or denied. Attorney Huddleston suggested denial at the next meeting due to the unfavorable recommendation of the Planning Commission and the withdrawal by the developer.

**Ordinance 2024-26 Amending Salary Ordinance (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated the Town typically has a pay range with a top scale to cover a five-year period. Barrett stated for the 77 Fund, there must be a Police Metropolitan Commission with board members. A salary needs to be established for these board members.

**Ordinance 2024-27 Amending Fee Schedule (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated this includes updated fees for the compactor, fire department, and building and zoning departments.

Councilwoman Buck asked if the \$400 TNT (Treatment No Transport) would be a direct bill or if it could be submitted to insurance.

Fire Chief Justin Lollar stated the \$400 TNT bill is when emergency services are called, and the first responders do thorough treatment and use a bunch of their supplies instead of taking the patient to the hospital. Chief Lollar stated this is a standard fee and we are one of the only ones in Johnson County not billing for it.

**Insight Pipe Contracting Request for Extension**- Town Manager John Myers had Insight Contracting's Senior Project Manager Tom Ronan present via phone call. Mr. Ronan stated a newer project manager was over this project and they did not provide the right information to Mr. Ronan. Mr. Ronan has now taken over the project and stated they spoke to the engineer and figured out what repairs were needed with their subcontractor Border Patrol present. A crew was mobilized here today to install a liner and is scheduled to finish on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ronan is requesting the substantial completion deadline be extended to December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held concerning what their subcontractor, Border Patrol, was working on in this project.

Council President Piercefield asked if the estimated major completion date is no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ronan confirmed this and stated there is a crew there working Monday-Thursday.

President Piercefield asked Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie if he felt confident in the substantial completion date being December 19<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Jessie confirmed he does feel confident in this and stated Insight's subcontractor did really great work.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to extend Insight Pipe Contracting's substantial completion date to December 19, 2024. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Insight Pipe Contracting Pay Application #1**- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated we have received a request for payment from Insight Pipe Contracting in the amount of \$20,790. Barrett stated this is for the period of August 15<sup>th</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup> and includes payment for protruding lateral removal, mobilization, insurance, and maintenance of traffic. The request has been reviewed and signed by Wessler.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Insight Pipe Contracting Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$20,790. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Insight Pipe Contracting Pay Application 1. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Crossroad Engineers Invoice 241942**- Town Manager John Myers presented an invoice from Crossroad Engineers in the amount of \$20,050 for paving project 2024-02 for work completed from October 26<sup>th</sup> - November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Councilwoman Buck asked what this was for. Mr. Myers stated it is for the CCMG grant work Crossroad Engineers has completed for the Town.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Crossroad Engineers Invoice 241942 in the amount of \$20,050. Councilwoman Sweet seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Crossroad Engineers Invoice 241942. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Unified Development Ordinance HWC Scope and Fee Proposal-** Planning Director Julie Young requested to start the contraction portion of one of her 2025 projects. Director Young would like HWC Engineering to be awarded this project to do a unified development ordinance. This is the first recommendation of the 2024 Comp Plan and HWC would be doing the Unified Development Ordinance and zoning map. Director Young confirmed this is in the 2025 budget. Director Young requested Attorney Huddleston prepare a contract so that we could move forward with the project in February.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Unified Development Ordinance HWC Scope and Fee Proposal. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

**Purchase of Police Cars-** Police Chief Doyme Little stated this was discussed at the previous council meeting and Clerk-Treasurer Barrett was going to see if the department was able to get two separate cars. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated according to the State Board of Accounts, in reference to IC 5-22-8-3 for purchases between \$50,000 - \$150,000 three quotes are required and bid will be presented to the lowest offer.

Chief Little stated the window to order the 2025 Ford Interceptor's has closed. Attorney Huddleston requested Chief Little to send him the closure as sometimes there are exceptions to the imports. Attorney Huddleston also requested the dealer specs from both dealerships as well.

**Staff Vehicle Purchase – 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe -** Fire Chief Justin Lollar stated since taking his position he has been monitoring and evaluating the department's staffing and equipment needs. Chief Lollar stated the Fire department has not purchased a new staff vehicle since 2012 and currently there are three staff vehicles. Chief Lollar's 2012 Chevrolet truck has approximately 105,000 miles on it, the second vehicle is a 2007 Ford Expedition that was purchased from the City of Franklin this year with 57,000 miles on it and the third vehicle is a 2006 Ford Expedition that the Town got for free from the City of Franklin when purchasing the ladder truck with 112,000 miles on it and is the roughest.

Chief Lollar stated he put a staff vehicle purchase in his 2025 budget proposal and has a quote from Kelley Chevrolet in Fort Wayne, IN for a leftover 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe in the amount of \$51,795 QPA pricing. Chief Lollar stated the new 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe's are over \$52,000. Chief Lollar stated he would like to get a bigger vehicle compared to a Ford for carrying equipment.

Councilwoman Buck asked if the Tahoe would replace Chief Lollar's 2012 Chevrolet truck. Chief Lollar confirmed it would, and the truck would be bumped down and eventually the 2006 Ford Expedition the department has would be sold on Gov Deals or donated to a local station such as Amity.

Councilwoman Sweet asked if this was in the 2025 budget. Chief Lollar confirmed that it was. Councilwoman Buck asked if this purchase could possibly be held off until later in the year and how much the current Chief vehicle is driven.

Chief Lollar stated the vehicle would be used when activated in an emergency as a command center to have a dependable vehicle.

Discussion was held concerning if/how many times the 2012 Chevrolet truck has broken down and what is used now for a command center. Chief Lollar stated that is an area we are lacking as we don't really have a command center that contains accountability items in it such as books, hazmat materials.

Councilwoman Sweet asked if the command center was included in the Tahoe. Chief Lollar stated that it does not, that would need to be added an approximate cost of \$2,000.

Chief Lollar stated that he operates like a battalion chief and carries more equipment than a normal fire chief in a bigger city does.

Discussion was held concerning the use of the 2012 Chevrolet truck when it was first purchased and if this purchase would be subject to the State Board of Accounts rules.

Council President Piercefield asked if we traded in something and it came down below the \$50,000 threshold, would it still be applicable to the SBOA rules. Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated

she will check into this. President Piercefield stated this will be tabled until the next Council meeting.

### **Other Business**

Council President Piercefield asked for an update on the 201 West Main Cross Street property. Attorney Huddleston stated JMH's attorney informed him that all the avenues the hospital has explored to tear down the building at their expense have expired. Huddleston stated we have until early January to decide whether to go ahead and purchase the property with the building still on it, or to not go through with the purchase since the building is still there.

President Piercefield asked who would be liable for any injuries if we put the ice-skating rink for the 12 Days of Christmas on that property.

Attorney Huddleston stated that at the last council meeting there were two items concerning the property. 1. SaraBeth was going to get confirmed with an email that they were giving us permission to put the Ice Skating Rink on the property. 2. SaraBeth was going to confirm with the insurance company that we have a policy in place.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated he spoke to insurance and since it is our event, it is our responsibility to cover the insurance for it, like when we had fireworks on the school hill.

Council President Piercefield asked for that information be sent to Attorney Huddleston before the ice-skating rink is placed.

Attorney Huddleston asked Director Teter to send him the insurance contact information. Discussion was held concerning the contract for the skating rink that was sent by Director Teter to our insurance.

Council President Piercefield asked if there was written permission from JMH for use of their property for the ice-skating rink. Economic Development Director Drybread stated that could be obtained, as after the last council meeting when it was asked, she was informed the next day that it was in legal's hands and to not communicate any further with JMH. Attorney Huddleston stated that he would contact JMH legal counsel.

Attorney Huddleston stated the Town has options to explore grants or funding to take the building down, otherwise if the property is purchased with the building, it would be at the town's expense to tear it down.

Discussion was held concerning quotes to tear the building down. Director Drybread stated that there are some quotes on taking the building down from local contractors, as well as communication with verbal commitment from Festival Country and other entities that would help with that and she would prefer to not have those funds be used for demolition.

Town Manager John Myers stated he has received 18 applications for the Street Superintendent position. Mr. Myers stated he would like to start interviews this week.

Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated the Council received an open house invitation for the Habitat for Humanity house.

Planning and Zoning Official Robert Overton stated there are several properties that he would like Attorney Huddleston to send letters to. The properties either did not finish the building process and obtain a certificate of occupancy, they did not get a building permit and started work and are under a stop work order or went ahead and finished the work, and a property that has been abandoned for three years that is missing windows and the roof is collapsing on the garage. Mr. Overton stated he has already sent letters to these property owners, but they are unresponsive.

Discussion was held on the process for properties that start work without obtaining a permit.

Council President Piercefield asked if all the properties on the list were ready to be sent to legal. Zoning Official Overton stated that the pending properties at the bottom of his list were at that point. Attorney Huddleston stated that if the council wants him to proceed with sending letters, then a motion would be needed authorizing him to proceed.

*Councilwoman Sweet made a motion to authorize Attorney Huddleston to send letters.  
Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

Council President Piercefield noted that one of the property owners on the list was present and asked if they would like to speak.

Jeff Burton, 203 Franklin Street, discussed the house and garage at 201 Franklin Street, that used to sit next to his property that he had purchased and demolished. There is now a 12-foot wide 32-foot long shed on the 201 Franklin Street property that he placed there 20 months ago and uses for storage. Mr. Burton stated he received a letter informing him that his shed is in the front yard and that he needs a building permit. Mr. Burton stated he was unaware that a permit was required for a shed and paid a \$150 fine. Planning Director Julie Young asked Mr. Burton to come and see her tomorrow to discuss this.

Discussion was held concerning taking Mr. Burton's property off the list that Attorney Huddleston will be sending letters to.

*Council President Piercefield made a motion to send the list as follows to legal counsel for further legal action with the redaction of 201 Franklin Street. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated Electricom on September 24, 2024, bored through a four-inch service line by Country Place Apartments. Superintendent Jones stated a bill was sent to Electricom for the damage in the amount of \$3,150.27. Electricom is refusing to pay the bill now and sent the Town a bill for their crew having to stay over that evening. Superintendent Jones asked for permission to forward the information to Attorney Huddleston to resolve the matter.

Discussion was held concerning the damage and the crew called in that evening to repair it.

*President Piercefield made a motion to forward Electricom's refusal to pay the bill for the damage to Attorney Huddleston for further review Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

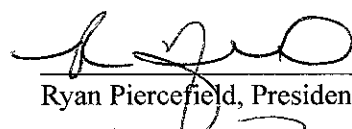
Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated the 12 days of Christmas is starting this week. Director Drybread stated they had a cookie walk to raise money for the Edinburgh Good Cheer fund, 33 bakers in town provided cookies, 97 boxes of cookies sold and a total of \$1,075 was raised. Director Drybread stated the ice-skating rink opens on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Holiday of Lights activities include a holiday market in the Holland Street building, the Oriental Grill, Swine & Dine, a coffee truck, an ice sculptor, the Hoosier Wagyu Wagon food truck, the Cub Scouts of Hope serving food, the cocoa café, a parade and a community lighting of the Christmas tree in front of the library. Director Drybread thanked all the departments for their help getting ready for the Holiday of Lights.

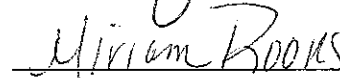
### Adjourn

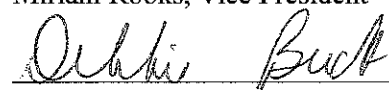
*Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*


*These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Edinburgh Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffOyWphtcPehIL-R5g> for as long as this media is supported.*

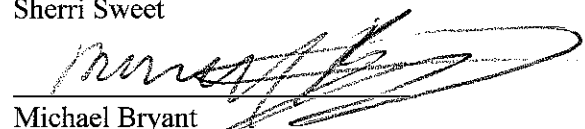
### EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

  
Ryan Piercefield, President

  
Miriam Rooks, Vice President

  
Debbie Buck

  
Sherri Sweet

  
Michael Bryant

ATTEST:

  
Rhonda Barrett, Clerk-Treasurer