

Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2025
6:00PM

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, February 24, 2025, 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, and Councilman Michael Bryant.

Councilwoman Sherri Sweet was absent.

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

Minutes- Minutes of February 10, 2025, Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the February 10, 2025, Council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Claims- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett presented two sets of claims in the amount of \$591,921.63 for end of month December 2024 and \$899,266.74 for February 24, 2025.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the claims as presented in the amounts of \$591,921.63 and \$899,266.74. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2025-2 Amending Ordinance 2024-19 and 2024-28 Abolishing the Office of the Town Marshal (1st Reading)- Attorney Huddleston stated Council previously passed two ordinances to set up a new organization for the 77 Fund for the Police Department. Abolishing the Town Marshal position is one of the required first steps and was scheduled to happen on March 1, 2025. The process of setting up the boards for the 77 Fund are still in the process so this Ordinance changes the date to May 1, 2025. Attorney Huddleston suggested waiving the first reading and approving the Ordinance tonight.

Council President Piercefield made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2025-2 Amending Ordinance 2024-19 and 2024-28 Abolishing the Office of the Town Marshal. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-2 Amending Ordinance 2024-19 and 2024-28 Abolishing the Office of the Town Marshal. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

712 Eisenhower Drive Public Notice- Attorney Huddleston stated this is for the expiring lease for residential purposes at 712 Eisenhower Drive. Attorney Huddleston stated this is a public notice that the Town will advertise leasing out the property again with a deadline for anyone to submit bids to rent the property. A determination would be made by the Council at the March 24, 2025, Council meeting. The current lease allows the tenants to remain on a month-to-month basis.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the 712 Eisenhower Public Notice. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution 2025-3 Fair Rental Value of Town Owned Real Estate- Attorney Huddleston stated this adopts the past appraisal rental values of 712 Eisenhower Drive as the fair market rental value.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-3 Fair Rental Value of Town Owned Real Estate. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Department Donation- Clerk-Treasurer Barrett stated the Fire Department received a donation from the Edinburgh American Legion in the amount of \$15,000 to purchase water rescue equipment.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the \$15,000 Fire Department donation from the Edinburgh American Legion for Water Rescue Equipment. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

2024-02 CCMG Paving Project Contract- Town Manager John Myers stated this is the contract for the CCMG Paving Project with Robertson Paving. The contract is ready for approval and signature by the council.

Attorney Huddleston asked if Robertson Paving approved the contract. Town Manager Myers confirmed it had been approved by Robertson Paving.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve 2024-02 CCMG Paving Project Contract. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on the 2024-02 CCMG Paving Project Contract. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Rumpke Contract Addendum #3- Town Manager John Myers stated the Town is in year four out of five of the Rumpke contract. This addendum is for the annual price changes and is ready for approval and signature.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Rumpke Contract Addendum #3. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Rumpke Contract Addendum #3. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement- Town Manager John Myers stated this is the CCMG matching grant agreement with the state. Attorney Huddleston has reviewed and approved the contract. Agreement is ready for approval and signature by the council.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize Council President Piercefield to sign off on Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Assistant Street Superintendent Position- Town Manager John Myers stated he and Street Superintendent Jacob Cox would like to promote Anthony Barnett to Assistant Street Superintendent. Mr. Myers stated Mr. Barnett was an asset to the Street Department while they were short-staffed.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to authorize the promotion of Anthony Barnett to Assistant Street Superintendent. Councilman Bryant seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Green Power Discussion- Victoria Ross-Frost and Dirk Garriott with IMPA distributed and discussed a printed power point presentation to the council. Dirk Garriott gave some background information and stated that IMPA is a wholesale power provider that has been providing power to the Town of Edinburgh since 1989. Ms. Ross-Frost stated IMPA's current fuel mix spread is 51% coal, 21% nuclear, 15% natural gas, and 11% renewables.

Discussion was held regarding how the want for renewable energy is expected to grow by 2030.

Ms. Ross-Frost stated the Green Power Program was established to enable customers to support the use of renewable energy. If a customer were interested in joining the Green Power Program, there would be a minimal additional cost per kilowatt hour each month to receive a certain portion of their power from a renewable source. Ms. Ross-Frost stated Georg Utz, Inc. reached out to IMPA and Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark with interest in participating in the Green Power Program.

For them to participate, the Town must pass a resolution that establishes a new rate schedule as the Green Power Program would be a new rate as there is an additional cost on top of the retail rate.

Ms. Ross-Frost stated that customer participation in the program comes at no cost to the Town, the town would need to determine what sort of retail adder they would like to add to IMPA's wholesale rates. IMPA's wholesale rate for the program is 1/2 percent. IMPA recommends a 1/10 percent adder for the Town to cover the administrative work to administer the program.

Council President asked for clarification on the ordinance for a new rate and if this affects all customers.

Dirk Garriott stated that the new rate only affects those customers who chose to be a part of the green power program, adoption of an ordinance and putting it in the rate schedule allows people who want to have green power to purchase it from the Town.

Discussion was held regarding what the additional cost per kilowatt hour would look like for customers who choose to participate in the program.

Councilwoman Buck asked if residents can be a part of the program as well. Ms. Ross-Frost confirmed that residents can participate in the program.

Discussion was held regarding how IMPA would determine how much of the power was specifically green power.

Ms. Ross-Frost stated that this is a voluntary program that gives the Town an opportunity to offer to companies if they are interested in it.

Councilwoman Rooks asked if Georg Utz, Inc. is the only company showing interest in the program currently. Superintendent Clark confirmed that they are, but he has received two applications for two factories interested in installing solar power into their facilities.

Superintendent Clark stated that he had sent the template of the resolution/ordinance to Attorney Huddleston to review. If the Town is looking to adopt the program, then we need to determine the 1/10 percent or what rate we decide to allow Attorney Huddleston to draft up the documents.

Council President Piercefield stated he thinks it would be best to wait to decide until Councilwoman Sherri Sweet is present.

Councilwoman Buck asked if we could put this on the next meeting agenda.

Dive Team Opportunities- Police Chief Doyne Little stated Johnson County Sheriff's Department asked if any Edinburgh Police Officers would be interested in partaking in their dive team.

Chief Little stated the Town would have to pay \$6,000 for the equipment if an Officer is interested in joining. The Johnson County Sheriff's Department would pay for all the required training. Chief Little stated that currently for any water rescues now it typically takes Johnson County 30-45 mins to have a team here to respond.

Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve one officer be appointed to the Johnson County Dive Team. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Council President Piercefield asked how many Swiftwater Technicians the Fire Department has. Fire Chief Justin Lollar stated the department currently has 11 Swiftwater Technicians and 4-5 staff members that are trained to do ice rescues.

Other Business

Town Manager John Myers congratulated Council President Piercefield on his retirement from the Fire Department.

Council President Piercefield stated he toured the new fire station and is very proud of the station and the equipment and the job the Fire and Rescue staff is doing.

Police Chief Doyne Little stated the Police Department received a \$200 donation from a lady who was assisted by Officer Sean Pendleton and his K9.

Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the \$200 donation for the Police Department. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Little stated the Chief Deputy from Bartholomew County Sherriff's Office is putting together a letter for Officer Darren Koors and his K9 assisting them on a situation.

Fire Chief Justin Lollar thanked the American Legion for their donations over the years and always reaching out to see how they can help.

Electric Superintendent Stephen Clark stated Electricom is working along 252 again. Electricom will be temporarily closing some alleys during their work and will give notices to residents beforehand.

Council President Piercefield asked if there were any updates about AT&T putting lines underground on 252.

Superintendent Clark stated that at last week's INDOT meeting, AT&T is submitting another work plan. What was communicated was that everything from Eisenhower to Casey's on 252 would be underground, and the rest would be overhead, but he has not seen the plan or drawings yet from AT&T. INDOT asked for work plans from everybody concerning sidewalks, curbs, lighting, widening and asked for anything that might conflict with the plans. If there is no conflict, then it can't be required to go underground.

Discussion was held regarding pollution on the lines and removal of old cable lines.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones stated the new water treatment plant has been running for a full year. Superintendent Jones stated he entered the Town into a contest for the best drinking water in Indiana.

Parks Director Daniel Teter stated basketball has finished up and they are preparing for baseball season. Applications are being accepted for seasonal positions in the Park & Rec and Pool. Director Teter conveyed that a returning lifeguard expressed her thanks for the pay raise that the council approved for lifeguards.

Director of Economic Development Sarabeth Drybread stated that Edinburgh was selected for the IU Rural Development Studio Placemaking Grant. This aids and designs work for the downtown plaza. Director Drybread stated Festival Country was in town today to give input on the downtown space and a commitment to funding.


Director Drybread stated that Launch Johnson County met today to select six entrepreneurs to give pitches. Director Drybread stated the JRDC hosted a sourdough making class on Sunday, February 23, 2025, with 35 people in attendance.

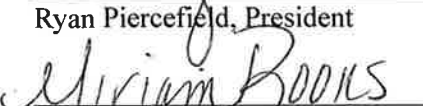
Adjourn

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

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=PL0pagNU7lg5FkjGffQyWphtcPehlL-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