

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD JULY 8, 2013

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on Monday July 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Andrews Municipal Building in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Raymond Tackett, Michael Rohler and John Harshbarger were present. Clerk-Treasurer William Johnson declared a quorum was present and that the meeting would continue.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Council approved the minutes of the regular and special meetings of June 24, 2013 without any amendments or changes by unanimous vote. Minutes signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council President Harshbarger made note of a public hearing on the vacating of Alabama Street will be conducted prior to the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting on the 22nd of July.

Council President Harshbarger stated that the awarding of the library construction bid was being delayed due to some additional paper work needed by both the USDA and OCRA. After the paper work is completed, the library will host a preconstruction meeting prior to the awarding of the construction bids. Harshbarger did make note of the library's request to close off Madison Street between Main and Market so as to allow the construction company to use that portion of the street for a staging area. Harshbarger stated that the Town needed to upgrade the alley between Madison and McKeever so as to allow the residents of the homes affected by the closing to access McKeever Street by means of a decent access.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Council member Tackett expressed some concerns over two of the new reserve police officers. Tackett stated that he had heard that one of the new reserve officers had allegedly flashed a weapon and badge when intoxicated at a local establishment. Tackett stated that he had discussion with the owner who directed him to the employees to verify the incident. Tackett also stated some concerns over another reserve officer who has had a past history of issues involving sexual harassment. Council member Rohler asked what type of background checks had been conducted prior to the appointments. Marshall VanOver stated that he was aware of both situations, had reviewed both and determined that one could not be substantiated and the other issued had been addressed by the sheriffs' department. Council member Tackett requested that both officers be removed from the reserve force immediately. Council member Rohler made a motion to suspend both officers until a full review of their alleged actions could be verified. The motion was seconded by Council President Harshbarger and passed by a majority voice vote. Council member Tackett requested a roll call vote. The motion was then presented

to Council for a roll call vote. Council member Rohler and Council President Harshbarger voted to affirm the motion. Council member Tackett voted against the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council President Harshbarger initiated a discussion on the sidewalk replacement policy for the Town. Council member Tackett presented a proposal from the Bethesda Baptist Church for reimbursement of a new sidewalk that they will complete along with the new construction going on at the church. Harshbarger indicated that the total cost of the project would be around \$4500. Discussions about the procedures of the policy continue with Council finally establishing a policy that will have residents bring a request to the Council to replace their sidewalk. The Town will solicit bids from contractors for the project. The selected contractor will complete the work and bill the Town. The Town will pay the contractor and bill the resident for 50% of the total amount disbursed. The Clerk-Treasurer will modify the application to meet the guidelines of the new policy.

Council member Rohler made a motion to reimburse Larry Rainwater \$812.50 for work done on his sidewalk. Rohler amended his motion to include a final inspection by the Town before disbursement of funds. Council member Tackett seconded the motion which was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Marshal VanOver did not have anything for the Council at this time.

Fire Marshal Wuensch was not present for the meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson reminded Council of the IACT roundtable schedule for Wednesday night at the Town Hall. Johnson informed Council of the budget meeting with the Department of Local Government next Monday. He also mentioned the new Municipal Building security system which was being installed as the meeting was in process. Johnson also stated that he, the Town Marshall and County Animal Control officer will be working to formulate a new animal ordinance. Finally, Johnson stated that is his belief that Indiana's fireworks law is a farce. He stated that the explosives going off around his home rattled windows and frightened animals throughout the neighborhood.

Rick Wright, representing the Park Commission, asked the Council for permission to hire Greg Caudill to patch and repair the cracks on the tennis court. Caudill's estimate of approximately \$800 included packing sand, sealing cracks, and pull weeds. Council member Rohler questioned why the Town did not go ahead and repair the courts in their entirety. Council member Tackett made a motion to accept the quote on the repairs which was seconded by Council member Rohler and accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

Utility Superintendent Bullock updated Council on the status of the water tower demolition. He also presented pictures of the work done on the fire hydrant on Market Street and of two vehicles he would like to purchase from the County. The two vehicles, a dump truck and a lift truck would cost the Town \$18,000. Bullock was instructed to contact the County to determine if the trucks are still available and if so, make arrangements to purchase them on behalf of the Town.

CLAIMS:

All claims were approved as presented by a unanimous voice vote after a brief discussion

Without any other business, Council adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVED BY _____ as
JOHN HARSHBARGER COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY _____ as
MICHAEL ROHLER COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY _____ as
RAYMOND TACKETT COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY _____ as
WILLIAM K. JOHNSON CLERK-TREASURER