

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on Monday September 9, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Shad Paul, Huntington County Building Inspector, presented Council with notices to three property owners notifying them of unsafe housing violations that have been noted by his department. The property at 165 W Jefferson Street was cited for ten unsafe violations and sixteen minimum housing violations. The owner of the property, Apostolic Grace Fellowship Inc. was given until the 12th of September to abate the violations. The property at 760 N Colorado Street belonging to Vicki Harris was cited for seven unsafe violations and sixteen minimum housing violations. She has until September 13th to abate the violations. The commercial property at 21 N Main Street was found to be in violation of nine unsafe violations and one minimum housing violation and given until November 25, 2013 to abate. Council members were advised that the property at 165 W Jefferson Street would be unable to meet the order, therefore the Council advised the Clerk to prepare a legal advertisement for demolition bids. Ms. Harris is said to have contacted Zahm Excavating to determine the cost and have the work completed as soon as possible. Council instructed the Clerk to notify Zahm Excavating to determine the status of the work. Chuck Miller, owner of the commercial property at 21 N Main Street, stated that the cost to repair his structure is beyond his ability to have done, therefore, he will abandon the property as soon as he gets all his personal belongings removed. Council President Harshbarger asked Mr. Miller to notify the Town when that had occurred so as to allow the Town to start preparing for the demolition of the building. Without any other discussion, Council President Harshbarger closed the public hearing on the property issues.

PUBLIC HEARING:

William Johnson, Clerk-Treasurer, presented the Towns 2014 Budget and explained tax rates, assessed valuations and levies to those in attendance. Johnson stated that although the rate and budget are higher than the 2013 numbers, the Towns aggregate levy is still approximately \$60,000 below the maximum the Town is allowed to levy. He stated that the Town has been able to meet the service demands of the community while reducing the tax rate to its residents. Without any comment from residents in attendance, Council President Harshbarger closed the public meeting on the 2014 budget.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Council approved the minutes of the regular meeting on August 26, 2013 without any amendments or changes by unanimous vote. Minutes signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council President Harshbarger updated those in attendance on the status of the Loon Creek issue. Harshbarger revealed that the Town had received a notice of violation from the State's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the altering of Loon Creek without authorization from the DNR. Many residents were dismayed over how the Town could be liable for something it was unaware of. Harshbarger stated that the portions of the creek that were altered are owned by the Town and therefore the Town is liable for the condition of the waterway. The DNR is not an investigative agency, that is, they do not seek to determine who is at fault, and they just see that the damage is repaired. The DNR has ordered all property owners to restore or mitigate the damages. Council voted unanimously to appeal the decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

Michael Vieau, 344 N Main Street, presented a sign that he is going to place around the Towns railroad crossing to celebrate the Wabash Cannonball, a steam engine train that travels through Andrews. It is his hope that if people are aware of the times that the train will come through Town that many will turn out to see it.

Council President Harshbarger reviewed a quote from Keystone software for the annual maintenance agreement of the three applications that the Town uses. The quote was for \$4,050. In addition, the company is asking for another \$2500 to install a module to the utility billing software that will allow it to interface with the new radio read meter program that the Town will be installing soon. Council member Mike Rohler was concerned that the cost was not presented to the Council at the time the Council agreed to install the new meters. The Clerk-Treasurer stated that without the benefit of the interface capability of the new meters into the software, some of the cost savings will not be realized.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Marshal VanOver reviewed the reserve patrolman applications with Council members. Council decided to review the finalist before conducting either an executive session or administrative meeting to finalize the selection process.

Fire Member Johsua Young stated that the Fire Department had recently completed extrication drills to train each member in removing injured individuals from automobiles.

Council approved the Clerk-Treasurers request for permission to purchase new chairs for his office and the Council members. The Clerk-Treasurer also updated everyone on the status of the new website with hope that it will be completed in a couple of weeks.

Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock presented Council with a quote from Humbert and Associates to begin the process of preparing drawings for the new Town service garage. The estimate was for approximately \$5000 and included storm water calculations for the Huntington Department of Community Development. Bullock also informed Council that his department was working to utilize the two buildings at the end of Terrell Street for storage this winter.

CLAIMS:

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business presented to Council at this time.

Without any other business, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:07p.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