

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on September 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Andrews Municipal Building in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members John Harshbarger, Bonnie Walker and William Johnson were present. Clerk-Treasurer Laura Dillon declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

PUBLIC HEARING-2017 TOWN BUDGET

John Harshbarger opened a public hearing for the 2017 Town of Andrews budget. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon announced the total appropriated budget is lower for 2017 from \$949,693.00 to \$905,565.00 and the tax levy (amount to be raised from property taxes) has been advertised at \$385,381.00 up from the approved 2016 levy amount of \$250,541.00. Dillon has worked the 2017 budget according to the maximum levy set by the Department of Local Government Financing in order to gain additional operating funding. Bill Johnson wants the Clerk-Treasurer to prepare a promise not to spend resolution for the 2016 appropriations and bring back to council. This would bring the tax levy and tax rates down to a level that is not such a burden for the residents to pay their property taxes in 2017. Johnson also stated there is approximately \$500,000.00 in other funds (CEDIT, Rainy Day & Riverboat) to use for emergency funding. Dillon will prepare the reduction resolution for the next meeting. The 2017 budget will be adopted the council meeting of October 11, 2016. Dillon also gave council a copy of the 2017 Salary Ordinance for their review. William Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Bonnie Walker motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bonnie Walker made a motion to approve the council minutes with an amendment to Scott Gray instead of Scott Graff for the meeting of September 26, 2016, seconded by William Johnson. Motion passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Johnson attended a Community Crossing Grant meeting in Fort Wayne on September 11, 2016. He announced the project manager is Susan Dole. The state will need banking information and the program will last for three years and 2016 projects will need to be finished by May 1, 2017. The same time frame will be the same for the next three years. If the bids come in higher than the amount of \$92,030.00 approved for the 2016 grant the town would have to pay the additional. The bids do not have to be sealed but bids will need to be on bid form 96. Johnson will file the letter of intent.

Harshbarger attended a meeting with Regional 3-A to identify the problem areas with the first round grant application and made suggestions when applying for the second round. Project needs scored low and we need to put more emphasis on photos of existing problems at the wastewater treatment plant and identify problems we have been having for the past five years. The second issue is to gather letters from residents. The letters need to address the impact to them individually. If the town would not get the \$600,000.00 grant the rates would have to be increased and how will this impact residents in their own words. Third would be what health and safety issues as to why we need a new wastewater treatment plant. Johnson replied that we are currently under an agreed order from the IDEM. Fourth issue is what has been the cost over the past years in expenses and the man hours to run and fix the plant. Fifth is why this grant is the best option. Six is to explain the fund balances and they want to know how much money we have in discretionary funds. Johnson told the Clerk to attach the CEDIT report that was given to the County Auditor in 2015. We need to write a letter as to what we are doing to improve the community and keep residents in town such as new sidewalks to the school, current paving projects, new boat ramp, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

The temporary agreement with Joseph S. and Lynne U. Northrop was presented to council. This is an easement to west side of the wastewater treatment plant in anticipation of construction to the plant. The contract is for \$200.00 per year for the years of 2017 and 2018. There is also a clause in the contract for 2019 if needed. William Johnson made a motion to accept the agreement, seconded by Bonnie Walker motion passed unanimously.

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Harshbarger announced the Public Hearing on October 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. for the OCRA grant.

A quote for cleaning the floors in the Town Hall from Jason Allen was presented. His price of \$400.00 was for labor. Extra expenses for the rental of two different floor machines and cleaning supplies would be paid by the town. Allen’s quote included cleaning the floors, bathrooms and closets. Council decided to wait until after the winter months are over and table until the spring.

Council set Halloween trick or treat hours between 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31, 2016.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Matthew Farthing, Deputy Marshall asked council to move forward with getting payment for the dog violation given to Kaitlyn Ashbaugh, 737 Colorado Street. He announced the Huntington Sheriff Department is having a Heroin Awareness meeting at Huntington North High school on October 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Firefighter Dean Young announced the Fire Department applied and received a \$2,500.00 grant from REMC for first responder’s bags. Young also announced the Halloween party at the Fire Department will be on October 29, 2016 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and the fish fry on November 19, 2016 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock reported IDEM inspected the water plant. They would like to see the water tower inspection on our books in the next three years. Colin gave council a quote for the water leaks of \$4,300.00. We are waiting on quotes for the Jefferson Street lift station repair. These repairs go along with the reply to the agreed order fine of \$18,375.00. The water main has been finished on the Main Street Project and Bullock estimates there was 20,000 gallons of water being lost at that project before the repair. Tom Guhl would like to rework the Christmas lights that are on the light poles at the cost of \$100.00 per light. Council agreed. Bullock is gathering quotes for a new utility vehicle.

Dillon announced the leak letter will go out to residents on the leak list. Residents are asking if they can cut the wood collected at the town brush pile. Council instructed Dillon to call the insurance company for guidance.

Bonnie Walker made a motion to approved accounts payable claims, seconded by William Johnson. Motion passes with a unanimous voice vote.

Bonnie Walker told council that Elizabeth “Mae” Bigelow, 28 N Chestnut Street, Andrews has a complaint as to the water running onto her property. Both Harshbarger and Johnson have talked with Mrs. Bigelow over the years and the water is not an issue that can be solved by the Town Council. This is a civil matter for her to address with her neighbors.

APPROVED BY _____ as
JOHN HARSHBARGER COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY _____ as
BONNIE WALKER COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY _____ as
WILLIAM K JOHNSON COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY _____ as
LAURA A DILLON CLERK-TREASURER