

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AUGUST 26, 2013

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on Monday August 26, 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 meeting on August 12, 2013 and two executive session conducted on August 16, 2013 and August 23, 2013 without any amendments or changes by unanimous vote. Minutes signed.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Chuck Miller, 21 N. Main Street, updated the Council on the status of his business at that address. Miller explained that on the recommendation of a structural engineer, he had decided to vacate the building which not only housed his business but his and other residents' apartments. Mr. Miller asked Council to consider assisting him as he faces the task of possibly removing the building. Miller stated that he does not have the funds to remove the building and would need assistance to remove it if that is the recommendation of the structural engineer's final report. Council President Harshbarger stated that he has asked the street department to close the street until the engineer's report is completed. The Council and Clerk-Treasurer stated that they would seek out the Town's options over the next several days. Several residents spoke on behalf of Miller by testifying to his contribution to several community organizations and groups.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main Street, gave the Council an update on the present status of the Festival Committee. She stated that a group had met on Tuesday August 20, 2013 to begin preparing for next year's festival. Johnson stated that she had been appointed chairperson of the group with Karen Rice, Tami Clift, Laura Dillon and Chase Stephan serving on the steering committee. Johnson received permission to use the Community Building for the groups meetings. Johnson stated that the group will most likely move the festival back a week due to a desire to book a particular band and to coincide with the Fire Departments mud event. Johnson also stated that the committee will relocate the main part of the festival downtown with the Park and Terrell Street properties as possible satellite locations. Johnson stated that the group intends to hold a fund raiser in November.

Council reviewed the applications of reserve police officer candidates along with Marshall VanOver. The Council identified five potential candidates that they would like to review further.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

Fire Chief Wuensch asked Council for permission to use the property at the end of Terrell Street for next year's mud boggs. Council approved the request. Wuensch asked about the timetable for the completion of the Library project. The Clerk-Treasurer responded that construction should begin next week with an estimated completion date of mid-March. The Fire Chief updated the Council on the status of the tornado siren and the problems that they have encountered dealing with that system. Currently, the siren must be manually operated due to a relay that is not functioning. Council and the Chief discussed the future of the siren with several options discussed to provide proper coverage. The discussion centered around the possibility of acquiring generator backup for Town Hall and the siren system. Council member Rohler asked the Clerk-Treasurer to check on insurance coverage on the relay since it was damaged by a lightning strike. Wuensch informed the Council that INDOT has requested the use of land near the fire station to set a construction trailer for the new bridge project.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson explained a new payroll docket that the Council will be reviewing to comply with State Board of Accounts requirement. Johnson also highlighted a recent seminar he attended on abandoned properties. Johnson and Deputy Clerk Diana Gray discussed a situation with a utility account that had two large leaks. The leaks have occurred during two different billing cycles. According to ordinance, a resident may only have one adjustment in a twelve month period. Council noted that the resident had paid several hundred dollars in fees for the last several months and instructed the Clerk to recalculate the billing for the second leak.

Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock updated Council on the status of the water wells and presented the Council with a bid to purchase a new saw for use in removing trees and stumps. Council approved the request by unanimous voice vote. He also updated the Council on the status of the new Town barn.

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 7:28 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