

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD MARCH 24, 2014

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on Monday March 24, 2014 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 March 10, 2014 and the special meeting conducted on March 21, 2014. The approved minutes were signed.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Council reviewed the blight program that is being offered by the state through a federal program. After a brief discussion, Council decided that the bureaucracy involved was not worth the effort to try to acquire funding.

Council President Rohler expressed his desire that the Town continue to address the problem areas in the Town in the manner that it has taken over the last several years. Michael Vieau, 344 N Main Street, asked if the Town would consider selling the properties once they have been acquired. He stated that it would be in the Towns best interest to encourage individuals to build on the demolished properties or purchase the homes on the other properties. Council President Rohler indicated that the Town would listen to any offer for the properties, with the procedure for liquidation the same as it would be for any Town asset.

A brief discussion on ideas to generate interest in the Town ensued which centered on the ability to draw people to live in the Town.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Council President Rohler updated Council on the status of the agreement on the remediation efforts on Loon Creek. Rohler stated that all four fire departments have signed the Huntington Township Fire contract with the effective date of April 14, 2014.

Rohler asked the Town Marshall to explain the status of the abandoned vehicle ordinance. The Towns attorney feels that the necessary tools are currently in place to address the situation while the Marshall would like to add some items to the ordinance that would make enforcement more effective. Council President Rohler suggested that he talk with the Towns legal counsel to iron out the differences.

Council, the Town Marshall and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the next step in dealing with the property issue on West McKeever Street.

Council President Rohler updated the Council on the status of both the Library grant and the planning grant.

Council approved a request from the Andrews Community Helpers for a \$100 donation to the Easter Egg event held at the fire station.

Glen Fisher of the Bethesda Baptist Church requested that the Town block off Madison Street for three conferences that they will be hosting this summer. Council not only agreed to block off the street but also provide parking space at the Town municipal parking lot as well. The dates are Saturday April 12, Sunday May 4 and Saturday June 21.

Cathy Johnson, Chairperson of the Summer Festival Committee, updated the Council on the status of the festival. She also had two Town Council members sign a request from the Indiana Department of Transportation to close State Highway 105 during the Town's annual summer festival. Chase Stephan informed the Council of his discussion with the State's Homeland Security Division regarding the stage for the bands during the festival.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Town Marshall Vanover stated that two reserve officers may be leaving for full time positions which will result in the hiring on two new reserve officers. Copies of the resumes of the applicants were provided to Council to review.

Scott Howell informed the Council that the Fire Department will be holding a fundraiser on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Clerk-Treasurer Bill Johnson updated the Council on the status of the properties that the Town will be acquiring through Commissioners certificate.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Town Marshall Vanover expressed his concern over serving in both roles as an ordinance officer and a police officer.

Scott Howell, representing the Volunteer Fire Department, stated that the new air compressor has not arrived yet.

Clerk-Treasurer Bill Johnson informed Council of a budget workshop in Fort Wayne on June 3. Johnson informed members that if they wanted to attend, that he would handle the registration.

Johnson, speaking on behalf of utility superintendent Bullock, highlighted the problems with the water which prompted the boil advisory last Friday. As part of that issue, Bullock wishes to install a new warning system that would have warned all personnel of the issue prior to it becoming critical.

Bullock had a list of vehicles that are currently down for repairs. He also wanted Council to know that cold patch has been ordered. Council member Tackett expressed concern that cold patch is a short term solution to street repair. Tackett stated that it is past time to start paving

streets. Bullock would also like Council to consider raising his discretionary spending level from \$500 to \$2500.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Council declined a request to donate to the High School post prom ceremonies.

**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 7:28 p.m.

APPROVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ as  
MICHAEL ROHLER                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ as  
JOHN HARSHBARGER                      COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ as  
RAYMOND TACKETT                      COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY \_\_\_\_\_ as  
WILLIAM K. JOHNSON                      CLERK-TREASURER