

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD MAY 12, 2014

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on Monday May 12, 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 April 28, 2014. The approved minutes were signed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Council President Rohler initiated a discussion on the status of the Town's proposed planning grant. Council has received a draft of the cost estimate from Strand Associates. The next step is to review the draft to determine what services can be amended, deleted or deferred to align the project cost with available funding. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson suggested that Council review the document and set a special meeting to decide. After the special meeting, Council will send the company an amended proposal with new cost estimates. Johnson will contact attorney, Mike Hartburg, to arrange a notice and date for the special meeting.

Council decided to remove a section from the Notice to Bidders relating to the new Town Utility Building. Due to that change, the bid submission special meeting and pre-bid meeting dates will need to be changed. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated that he would work with the Town's legal counsel to reset the dates and rework the Notice to Bidders.

Cathy Johnson, representing the Andrews Summer Festival, informed Council that Culpepper and Merriweather Circus will be coming to Town on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Johnson stated that she had personally paid the \$290 deposit for the initial booking, printing of tickets and posters to be distributed. If the Summer Festival Committee sells 200 adult tickets, then the original deposit will be reimbursed. Council instructed the Clerk-Treasurer to reimburse Ms. Johnson for the deposit expense. Again, it was discussed to initiate a mass media campaign in order to sell as many pre-sale tickets as possible. The posters will be distributed to the area as soon as the committee has tickets in hand. The circus is in charge of handling press releases and doing telemarketing. Ms. Johnson asked Council about contacting Indiana Dig 811 for locates so the tent can be placed the day of the circus. Colin Bullock, Superintendent of Utilities, will make sure that he works with committee members so water, trash bins or dumpsters and other miscellaneous supplies can be provided for the circus. Ed Asher has agreed to donate two porta-pottys for the event. Johnson also asked about a festival event permit from the Town of Andrews. Council Member Rohler questioned if Johnson has contacted other communities who have had this circus in their community and if they needed anything special for the event that we might be overlooking. Council Member Harshbarger, with help from the Clerk-Treasurer's

Office will check with the Homeland Security and the State Fire Marshal on the lay out, parking and any inspections required for the event. Locations for ticket sales are listed on the Andrews Summer Festival Facebook page. Johnson asked if the basketball court at the park could be prepared for a three on three basketball tourney as well as constructing four or five benches for the carnival area. The stage is being equipped for the event with the help of Mike Burton and others. There were questions as to the ownership of the stage, whether it is owned by the Town or by the Western Days Committee. Fire Chief Wuensch was not available for comment. Cathy asked Dean Young, representative from the Fire Department, if the streets could be washed down on Wednesday evening before the festival. Johnson also announced the committee has collected over \$3,400 in donations for the summer event.

Rohler discussed on to the property that the Town is considering transferring to the Huntington County Community School Corporation. There is a stand pipe on the property that Bullock and his staff will remove by the end of the week. Council can then notify the Town's Attorney to move the transfer along.

Council Member Ray Tackett made a proposal on the Town community building. Tackett suggested a 12 x 16 foot addition to the original building, five new windows, renovate the old building with tile floors, new dry wall on the walls, upgrade the electrical system, redo the handicap ramp, and a 16 foot counter top and a new kitchen. Mr. Tackett welcomed any suggestions to the building.

Mr. Tackett also brought up the June 26' 2014 public hearing for the Andrews US Postal Service. He proposed everyone receiving letters from the postal service to be at that meeting to protest the closing of the Town Post Office. He also asked what would be done with the building upon closing and if there would be some kind of satellite office for Town people.

Council President Michael Rohler asked about the Harris property on Colorado Street. The Clerk-Treasurer's Office has filed the lien on the property which will be added to the tax roll, if property taxes are not paid, will go up for tax sale then to County Commissioners sale. Questions were asked by residents if the Town would mow the property this summer. The Town will mow after the proper notices and citations have been issued.

Council President Rohler also questioned the status on the Miller's Pub property. Johnson replied that progress was being made on the title search and warranty deed with the assistance of attorney Hartburg.

Rohler questions the Grodrian property on Market Street. Alabama Street was vacated last year in order to construct a new building and no progress has been made. Johnson told Council that Mr. Grodrian is moving forward with the building this summer.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Debra Braummuller, the new High School Equivalence or Adult Education Director spoke on behalf of the former GED program from the Huntington County Community School Corporation. She is requesting placement of an 8 foot by 4 foot doubled sided banner with information about the equivalence testing (former GED) and an 800 number to call for

information. Ms. Braunmuller indicated the sign could be placed in the next couple weeks in a site determined by Council.

Steve Davis, 18 W. McKeever Street has concerns about his neighbor, Tim Conrad at 117 W. McKeever Street and the continuing existence of junk on the property. Davis indicated he has had his property surveyed and has cleaned up on the side of the driveway. There is a semi which half is sitting on Mr. Davis's property according to him. Mr. Davis wants to put a fence up that will go half way down the neighbor's driveway. Davis complained he has been complaining before Council for two years. The ordinance procedure, through certified mail notification has been activated. Marshal Van Over indicated that progress has been made to clean up the property, but Davis states he is the one who has been doing all the clean up visible from the road. Van Over stated this is a civil matter and Mr. Davis needs to contact an attorney regarding the easement of the driveway before he puts up a fence.

Glen Wallace addressed Council regarding violations to the same property at 117 W. McKeever Street. Complaining of the variance to put a 40 foot trailer and that Mr. Conrad put in an 80 foot trailer, a clear violation. Mr. Wallace had numerous pictures he took yesterday, May 11, 2014 of the property showing cars, trash, tires and appliances. Wallace states Conrad starts fires that are hazardous and is making a formal complaint. Council President Rohler informed both Davis and Wallace to call the nonemergency dispatch number so there will be a record of the fires at dispatch and to note their personal records. Council indicated Mr. Conrad has been served with violation papers and the Town has proceeded with a title search on the property. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson indicated that the Town of Andrews will spend thousands of dollars in fees and an unbelievable amount of time to get this problem resolved properly. Council Member Tackett stated he has been dealing with this issue for six years.

Chase Stephan speaking for Ted Newsome, 255 W. Jefferson Street complained of trash, drywall, insulation and appliances in the yard at 217 W. Jefferson Street owned by Steve and Sherri Shenefield. Council and the Clerk-Treasurer's Office will check on the violation.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Town Marshal Van Over had nothing further to discuss with Council.

Utility Superintendent Bullock had nothing further to discuss with Council.

Firefighter Dean Young updated Council on the success of the tenderloin supper the Fire Department held on May 3, 2014.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson told Council of new updates to the Town website. He also brought the proper paper work before Council on the large water bill for William Mongold at 423 N. Market Street as discussed at Council's last meeting. Council approved the adjustments over a three month period. Johnson reminded Council of the upcoming budget conference on June 3, 2014 in Fort Wayne. Also, there is an IACT Medical Trust meeting on Friday, May 16, 2014 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Harshbarger will attend the meeting. Johnson is meet with the insurance agent to looking at options for health insurance options, such as self-funding, IACT Medical Trust or extend the current policy.

Laura Dillon told Council the old record books that had been damaged were taken to the Huntington Public Library genealogy department to have the records digitalized. Approximately thirty books were taken to the Huntington Library. Council would like to have the records put on an external hard drive as well as a flash drive.

Bill Jeffers, Bryant Street, addressed Council on the stray cat problem in his neighborhood. Mr. Jeffers stated that he only has two cats, which have recently disappeared. The other cats are strays that eat the food he provides for his two cats. He is working on finding homes for the extra cats. Laurie Van Over, Animal Control Officer, has been monitoring the situation as well.

**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 8:02 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