

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD JANUARY 13, 2020**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on January 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Andrews Municipal Building in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Laura Dillon, John Harshbarger and Roger Newsome, Jr were present. Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Laura Dillon opened the floor for nomination for the office of council president. After brief discussion, Laura Dillon made a motion to nominate John Harshbarger as president, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR 2020

Laura Dillon recommended Mike Hartburg be retained as the town attorney. With all members in agreement, Laura Dillon made a motion to appoint Mike Hartburg, of the firm Hartburg Roth Garrett Halverstadt & Garrett, LLP, as the town's legal counsel. A second came from Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the council minutes with corrections made for the public meeting on December 30, 2019, seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – 237 E COLUMBIA ST

Marla Stambazze, of the Huntington County DCD, presented a slideshow while speaking on the exterior condition of this property. The land contract buyers, Tiffany and John Marra, were in attendance and discussed their plans with the house. John Marra has worked on the house as time and money allowed. He stated they plan to make the house their residence in the near future and wish to bring the property into compliance. Council members agreed they would like to see the house occupied and therefore allowed the Marras time to make necessary improvements. The DCD will re-inspect the property on February 18, 2020. The hearing was closed.

BID OPENING – ANTIOCH MHP

Marla Stambazze presented bids to council for mobile home demolition on lots 19, 20 and 22, which remained as of December 30, 2019. Antioch MHP owner Brian Salerno was in attendance tonight. He stated he would like to refurbish lot 20, but Marla said he must comply with county code and strict HUD regulations to do so. Mr. Salerno stated the home on lot 22 was removed late last week, as well as the decking on lot 12. A general cleanup of debris in the park was completed on Saturday, January 11th. After Salerno reviewed the HUD requirements, he opted to have it removed by his contractor as well. Salerno asked council to not open bids and extend the deadline to give his contractor time to remove the last 2 homes. Discussion ensued, yet council was not in agreement with Salerno and the bids were opened. To remove all 3 homes and the decking on lot 12, DIRT Inc. bid \$16, 996; Amor Excavating bid individually totaling \$10,380; Geiger Excavating \$82,700; Zahm's Excavating \$7,220. The bids were properly bid at the time but since lot 22 is now empty, and only one bid was broken down by individual lot numbers, council felt it only fair to have the project rebid on an individual basis. The bids will be opened at the January 27th meeting, allowing Salerno 2 weeks to have his contractor complete the job and avoid paying the town's bid price. Discussion on how to prevent this from happening again concluded with Salerno wanting to bring in newer homes to fill the empty spaces and requiring homeowners to maintain aesthetics of their homes and lots.

DEPT OF HEALTH – 63 E MCKEEVER ST

Brant Ricker reviewed his October 30th, 2019 Order of Enforcement on this property. At the January 6th re-inspection, Ricker noted that the broken windows had not been replaced, the staircase appears to not have been replaced, and the roof now has a temporary repair in place to stop the leaks. The owner, Richard Wheeler, was in attendance and explained his difficulties complying with the Order due to a car accident. He is waiting on his tax check to complete the required work on the roof and staircase. It was agreed by council and Ricker that the temporary roof repair was sufficient for now and cannot be completed until the winter weather breaks, so the Order of Enforcement should not be released. It was also noted a hot tub and debris in the back yard must be cleaned up now. Laura Dillon made a motion to extend the time for Wheeler to complete the interior repairs, remove the hot tub and debris, and to revisit the subject again at the March 9, 2020 council meeting, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.

H&H DISPOSAL

At the request of Council, a representative of H&H Disposal was to be in attendance at tonight's meeting to address multiple complaints on trash pickup service made by town residents. Dan Stoffel, owner and representative, was in attendance to answer questions and address concerns. Roger Newsome, Jr relayed a recent experience he experienced. Stoffel was not aware of that incident, and explained the difficulties H&H has had working in the town. Stoffel and Council agreed that town residents should abide by the contract terms. For customers routinely with excessive trash, recycling is an option as well as paying for a second trash tote. In light of the monthly contract payments for 415 customers, when 383 were recently billed, the Council feels H&H should pick up the occasional extra trash residents set out within reasonable limits. Discussion to possibly add a tag program to the contract was productive, with a proposed plan to utilize the Town Police Department, in conjunction with the Deputy-Clerk, to sell tags for large items to be picked up by H&H during regular collections. Spring Clean Up Day was also discussed for possible improvements. The Clerk's office will contact Dan Stoffel after researching the tag process.

OLD BUSINESS

Laura updated council with the schedule for the OCRA McKeever Street Storm Water Project. The last day for contractor questions before bids are submitted is Monday January 20th. Bids are to be opened in a special meeting on Thursday, January 23rd at 3:00. Eric Woodmansee will then be at the regular council meeting on January 27th with a letter of recommendation for the bids. He should also have prepared an application for the CCMG paving project from Jackson to State Streets, which is to be submitted by January 31, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

John Harshbarger reported on the Dollar General project. A couple of issues must be addressed before the project can move forward. First, a commitment letter from the Town of Andrews stating we will supply a wastewater line to the facility. Second and most importantly, we have been unable to get a company to quote on that job. Nobody wants to bore under the Wabash River due to liabilities when encountering large boulders and limestone. The company must also deal with the DNR's regulations to bore under the river. The only other option is to hang a wastewater line on the bridge with INDOT approval. A septic system was denied since the land will not perc at the proposed building site. Dollar General is serious about the project. Their developer has the following dates scheduled for this year: February 20th, Final Review; March 1st, Groundbreaking; July 11th, Building Completion-Ready for Occupancy. Unfortunately, if the Town cannot solve this dilemma soon, Dollar General may walk away. John Harshbarger and Colin Bullock continue their work on this project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Marshal Austin Bullock reported his department has been busy and active the last 2 weeks.

Dean Young, for The Fire Department, reported they had their flood gear out recently but did not need to use it.

Colin Bullock, Utility Superintendent, reported that vehicle and truck maintenance was underway.

Laury Powell, Clerk-Treasurer, presented a contract for the Town to renew services with PEN Innovative Consulting. The company reconciles the monthly bank statements which keeps us in compliance with internal control standards. All council members were in agreement to retain the service. In addition, the December 2019 Utility Account Billing Adjustment list was reviewed and approved by council, with no questions asked.

CLAIMS

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.


OTHER BUSINESS


Cathy Johnson inquired about the status of the FEMA Buyout. The Town had no recent news to report. She also pointed out that a farm's fence row, along North Main Street, had not been cleaned out yet. Johnson recalls the farmer agreed to do so last fall, when asked by the Town. Colin Bullock will call and follow up.


Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25, seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 27th day of January, 2020.

APPROVED BY  as
JOHN HARSHBARGER COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY  as
LAURA A DILLON COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY  as
ROGER NEWSOME, JR. COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY  as
LAURY L POWELL CLERK-TREASURER