

## **ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD MARCH 9, 2020**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on March 9, 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.

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the council minutes from February 25th, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.

### **ERIC WOODMANSEE – UPDATE ON OCRA STORM WATER PROJECT**

The project is moving forward and Eric presented the fund paperwork and 4 copies of the construction agreement and bonds for Council President Harshbarger to sign. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. Eric expects DNR permit approval soon. The INDOT permit is waiting on one last survey. Woodmansee also stated the CCMG Hendricks Street is ready to roll once the asphalt plants open up with warmer weather. There is no word yet on the Town's 2020 Round One CCMG application. John Harshbarger and Colin Bullock will attend the bi-weekly construction meetings once the OCRA project begins.

### **HUNTINGTON MAYOR RICHARD STRICK**

Mayor Strick first thanked all council members for their public service to the community. He then presented information on the Stellar Communities Program and asked Council to consider joining with the rest of the county in order to apply for a ten million dollar grant. This is an 80/20 matching grant, with the 20% coming from the applicant. In order to successfully apply, Mayor Strick feels better cooperation and communication between all communities within Huntington County would be beneficial. As a region, we need to collaborate and work together on a brand and narrative on what it means to be from Huntington County while focusing on our strengths and realizing areas in need of improvement. This program would consist of a 4 year partnership amongst all participants in the Huntington County Region. A letter of intent, from the entire region, is due by April 3. Therefore a planning meeting is scheduled within the next week to gather details from all the participants. A countywide list of projects on how the money would be used is required for submission with the letter of intent. The Town's Comprehensive Plan can be completed at the same time. Laura made a motion to explore the Stellar Community Program, with a second from Roger. With the motion approved, Laura volunteered to attend the Stellar Community planning meetings.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Wheeler property – 63 E. McKeever St. Richard Wheeler stated he is still waiting on his tax refund check before he can move forward with repairs mandated by the Order of Enforcement. He has since incurred additional plumbing issues resulting in a 10,000 gallon water loss and damage to the interior of the house. He cannot work on repairs because of his financial situation. Council stated Brant Ricker will schedule another inspection soon and appear before council to present his findings.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The 2018 Walking Trails and Park Ordinance was revisited since the Huntington County Tab was writing a feature article on the walking trails recently developed on the west side of town. The use of motorized vehicles on the walking trails was discussed. ATVs and golf carts were debated, as well as speed limits. It was decided only golf carts would be allowed with a 5 mile per hour speed limit. No off



road vehicles would be allowed. Hours will be dawn to dusk. The ordinance was tabled until revisions are made and legal counsel reviews it one last time. An old picture was presented showing the Washington Street Park was once named the Millman-Wilson Memorial Park. The history of the park and its former name is currently unknown. A sign for the walking trail property was approved, while a new sign for the Washington Street Park was tabled.

Ed Asher discussed his application for CEDIT funds. The County directed him to start with the Town Council first and to ask for a sponsor match from the Town, before he could appear before the commissioners with his request. Laura Dillon stated the Town's CEDIT money is extremely tight right now due to prior commitments with the storm water project, the FEMA buyout, and the 2 CCMG projects, and that she cannot recommend another commitment at this time. Such actions would also set precedent for additional CEDIT requests, potentially much more expensive than what Asher is asking for. Laura will write a letter of recommendation to Tom Wall and Mark Wickersham explaining the Town's financial situation. She will also state that Asher has already put more than 10% of the request, from his own money, towards the Ice Cream Vault property. Council agreed on this course of action.

Ordinance 2020-2 was introduced, which would approve the annexation of Leedy Lane. This would allow a planned CCMG project to move forward after it was previously denied by the State. A 1997 Ordinance was drawn up wrong, leaving the street out of the annexation and under county ownership. A public hearing was set for March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Trash cleanup day is set for May 8<sup>th</sup>, per email communication from H&H Disposal. John questioned the provided list of items they would pick up. Overall, Council was not happy with the changes H&H made to the Town's poster. It appears to be in violation of the signed trash contract. Roger will call Dan Stoffel, co-owner of H&H to discuss the situation. He will update Council March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Julie Newsome requested the use of a fire truck to transport the Easter Bunny and asked for a donation for the Easter Egg Hunt. Laura motioned to donate \$100 to the Easter Egg Hunt with a second from Roger. Motion was approved. Julie also stated there has been no interest shown by anyone to take over the Andrews Summer Festival Committee.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Austin Bullock, Police Department: Deputy Marshal Dean Young started the academy today, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Marshal Bullock said out of eight recent ordinance violation warnings written for junk and debris, two of the properties have complied. Four are in the process, while two show no activity. John Harshbarger also mentioned 433 N. Market St needs attention after the tenants recently vacated the property. They left junk on the front porch and in the front yard. Bullock will follow up appropriately with each situation. Two long time vacant properties in Town will be inspected by DCD. The structures have deteriorated badly over the years and are an eyesore.

Fire Department: No one was present.

Colin Bullock, Utility Superintendent: Right of Way Permits for the Dollar General Project had to be resubmitted to INDOT since they wanted the lines moved over one foot towards the street. He is still working on a list of items to purchase with the leftover wastewater plant funds. Laura suggested the tablet required to use with the new meter read software could also be included on Colin's list. Powell will include a copy of that expense for our records. Colin made Council aware of damage to picnic tables broken at the park by kids. After reviewing security video, they don't think it was intentional.



Laury Powell, Clerk-Treasurer: Laury informed council that early voting arrangements have been made for Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M., at the Town Hall. She also presented a draft to Council of an Independent Cleaning Contractor Agreement, with Exhibit A attached detailing duties. Once approved by Council, Powell will have legal review it before it is put out to bid. All McKeever St Right of Way sales are final and recorded. Legal's final accounting review of the entire process showed the Vogleman tax proration was off by \$11.51, so a reimbursement check was issued to their Trust. Powell also updated Council on activity at Vernon Manor MHP via an email from the owner. A discussion ensued about benefits certain part time employees may have received in the past that is not allowed for in the current employee handbook. Holiday pay and clothing allowance were mentioned. Powell asked for a recommendation to allow her to continue paying benefits as they had been in the past until such a time the handbook is revised. Powell was ordered to follow the handbook for now and begin immediately to update the Town's Employee Handbook. Suggestions came from several in attendance as to their workplace policies. A new category of employee was discussed, a permanent part time position working at least 30 hours a week. Powell and Dillon will coordinate efforts on a new handbook.

### CLAIMS

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

### OTHER BUSINESS

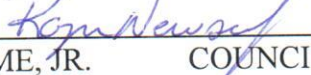
Ed Asher asked council if he could rent or use the Town Hall for a music group to meet and practice on Saturdays. The request was denied since the council chamber room is not available for rent. Roger Newsome, Jr said the group may use his commercial building in Andrews for band practice.

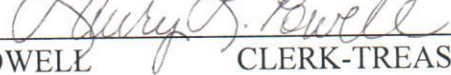
Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29, seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 23rd day of March, 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