

## **ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AUGUST 10, 2020**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on August 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Andrews Volunteer Fire Department in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

First, Deputy Town Marshal M. Dean Young was congratulated by Council and all in attendance on his recent graduation from the Indiana Law Academy.

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the council minutes for regular session meeting on July 13, 2020 and executive session meeting on July 30, 2020. Roger Newsome, Jr. provided a second for the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **KIM HOSTETLER, DCD**

Kim Hostetler, Huntington County DCD, gave an update on the FEMA buyouts, setting out a schedule for the process. A list of priority properties was given to Council. The demolition quote was included with the original application and Hostetler will soon order appraisals, using an average of two for each property. The Town will pay those expenses up front. Hostetler will then submit the Town's expense to FEMA for reimbursement. The plan is to do two properties at a time, or as the Town budget allows. Hostetler expects most of the FEMA buyout project to be complete within 24 months. However, she noted the properties just west of the McKeever St Bridge would be the last to go, working in conjunction with Huntington County and the bridge replacement project. The bridge project may take the County 5 to 6 years to complete, thus delaying a portion of the FEMA project.

### **SOLAR ORDINANCE**

Kim Hostetler, DCD, asked if Council had questions about the Solar Ordinance, which had been included in the council packets. The ordinance primarily relates to commercial/industrial use and likely would not affect the Town of Andrews. Laura Dillon made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-4, Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. Roger Newsome seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Laura Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and do a second reading of Ordinance 2020-4 at the same meeting. Roger Newsome seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. John Harshbarger read a synopsis of the Solar Ordinance. Laura Dillon then made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-4, Solar Energy Systems, on its second read. Roger Newsome seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 in the affirmative.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Marla Stambazze, DCD, requested a release of order of enforcement at 237 Columbia Street. The Marra family was not in appearance. Marla stated much of the outside was cleaned up per the order, but the hole in the shed was not repaired yet. Austin Bullock did say the Marras had been working on the interior but said they have not moved in yet. A neighbor, Cheryl Chopson, commented on the property's condition, and claimed a For Sale sign had been placed in the yard recently. The privacy fencing was down, but remained stacked in the backyard with trees and weeds growing out of it. Nothing unsafe was noted about the property; it was just deemed unsightly. After further discussion, it was decided to change the order of enforcement to a minimum housing violation.



Marla Stambazze, DCD, also discussed a minimum housing violation at 353 Clifton St. There is a shed with living quarters, a dilapidated camper and an inoperable vehicle behind the house. Promised work on the property, from a discussion in July, has not been done. Council said they would like Marla to move forward in obtaining bids for removal of the unsightly items and present that information at the next meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Council and others in attendance wished Marla well as she announced her retirement from the County DCD on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **ERIC WOODMANSEE**

Eric Woodmansee, of AME Consulting, said the P.O. for CCMG 2020-1 came in and John has signed the Notice of Award. These documents have been sent to the contractor, DC Construction. Eric next discussed the Notice to Proceed, along with a fee agreement for the second round of CCMG work planned for later this year. John Harshbarger, as Council President, was asked to sign the Notice to Proceed in order for work to begin as soon as possible. Dillon and Newsome agreed for Council President John Harshbarger to sign the Notice to Proceed and all necessary documents to allow CCMG 2020-1 construction to begin and finish before November weather arrives. Woodmansee noted that CCMG 2020-2 work has been delayed, pending funding, according to INDOT. Woodmansee stated the professional service agreement presented this evening is good for this year's second round of CCMG work, whether it happens in late 2020 or early 2021. He then gave a wrap-up of the McKeever Street OCRA Storm Water Project and how the upcoming CCMG projects interface with it.

Laura Dillon made a motion to accept the professional service agreement with Eric Woodmansee of AME Consulting. Motion was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously. Eric also said AME Consulting is now certified to do water loss audits.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Brant Ricker of the Huntington County Health Department spoke in regards to an outstanding order of enforcement at 63 E McKeever St. The owner was not present. The original deadline was in January to fix the roof. The order was on hiatus during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The roof still has not been repaired and has a temporary covering on it. Council ordered Brant to move forward with the order and report to Council on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Council considered the resumption of a normal meeting schedule. Roger Newsome made a motion to resume meetings twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays at 6 P.M. beginning in September. Laura Dillon followed with a second. Motion carried 3-0 in the affirmative.

Laura Dillon explained the water distribution was coming to an end soon due to the lack of volunteers and donations, as well as cold weather and freezing conditions in the storage warehouse. What money remains in the water donation fund will not be spent at this time, but will be held for use in the event the air stripper breaks down prompting another water emergency. The Town is also awaiting a \$5,000.00 donation from the County to guarantee sufficient funds to purchase the initial supply of water required when such an emergency is called for. Harshbarger stated that the Town is in negotiations with IDEM, Raytheon and Stantec to find technical solutions to the water dilemma while waiting on a court date for the preliminary injunction to be heard.

Harshbarger said the survey done for the Northrup property line dispute proves the Town did not trespass while installing the Dollar General septic line. To avoid future conflicts, the Town would like to gain a right-of-way in that area so the main could easily be serviced when needed. Northrups were to consider this request and get back with the Town on a decision. Harshbarger recommended Council table this discussion for now.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought before Council.



## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock congratulated Deputy Marshal Dean Young again on his graduation from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Bullock reported that his car was having mechanical issues and was in for service. Bullock also reminded everyone about the process for a Temporary Housing Permit one should apply for if there is a need to live in a camper next to one's house because of remodeling, etc. He has written several ordinance violation tickets this summer.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Tom Wuensch asked permission to buy a couple more radios for his department since 3 went down recently. The Kenwood radios he wants to buy cost \$2,800.00 each, while the Motorola radios associated with a grant program the County has applied for run \$5,200.00. Money may need to be moved from the fire department's gear budget to the radio budget in order to cover the cost of the radios if the grant come through later this year. The Town would be liable for half the expense for the AVFD radios since it is a 50/50 grant. The power briefly went out as a severe thunderstorm approached from the west.

Utility Superintendent: Colin Bullock stated Stantec had been in Town all day working on the air stripper and will be sampling monitoring wells all week. Colin's department will finish up work on the streets and will next start on alleys.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell informed Council she has been working on the 2021 budget. The process has been difficult due to the many technical glitches with recent updates at the Gateway website. She has scheduled a Public Hearing for the budget on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Budget adoption is slated for September 28<sup>th</sup>. Forms were given to Council to show current and newly proposed budget figures.

## **CLAIMS**


Laura Dillon stated she reviewed the claims for July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup> and they looked good to her. Dillon made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried 3-0.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

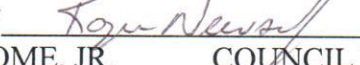
Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main St, reported a property with high grass and weeds. She also inquired who is responsible for repairing her yard between the sidewalk and street now that the storm water project has been finished. Harshbarger explained Watson Excavating should return to do the landscaping after McKeever Street is milled and paved towards the end of the upcoming CCMG project.


With the wind increasing due to the approaching severe thunderstorm, Roger Newsome, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon.

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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