

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on September 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Andrews Town Hall 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.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve council minutes for a public meeting held on August 10, 2020, along with an executive session and a special meeting from September 2, 2020. Roger Newsome, Jr. provided a second for the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021 BUDGET

The Public Hearing opened at 6:03 P.M. Council had previously reviewed budget information which Powell had included in their meeting packets. Laura Dillon stated that the State has allowed a 4.2 percent increase in the property tax levy over every taxing unit in the State of Indiana. There were a handful of small necessary increases, but no cuts were made so Dillon feels the budget is in good shape. There were no questions from the council or public at this time. Printouts are available in the Clerk's office as requested. The 2021 budget is up for adoption at the next regular council meeting on September 28th. Clerk-Treasurer Powell reminded everyone the Town's finances are available for viewing at the Indiana Gateway website. The Public Hearing closed at 6:06 P.M.

ERIC WOODMANSEE

Eric Woodmansee, with AME Consulting, said that he held a pre-construction meeting for the CCMG 2020-1 project and DC Construction should begin work early next week with substantial work completed by the end of October. Woodmansee also noted that CCMG 2020-2 will be opening on September 25th and closing October 23rd. He will schedule a meeting with Council once project plans are finalized. He will then start the application process.

PUBLIC HEARING-421 S CLIFTON ST

The Public Hearing opened at 6:09 P.M. Current residents, Daniel and Natasha Wicker, were present and claimed to have no knowledge of issues with the property prompting the public hearing. They recently acquired the property from Mrs. Wicker's father. Jessica Beal, Huntington DCD, reviewed a copy of the Order of Enforcement which was mailed to the previous owner. The issue is the poor and unsafe condition of the garage. Council will work with the Wickers to allow them time to demolish the garage. Laura Dillon made a motion to give the Wickers 90 days to remove the garage. Then the progress will be revisited. Roger Newsome seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0. The Public Hearing closed at 6:20 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

Austin Bullock stated the 353 S Clifton St. issue has been resolved. Bids were not opened.

Dollar General Ordinance 2020-7 was presented by Kim Hostetler with Huntington DCD. She reported the Andrews Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to approve the rezoning of the DG property from Agriculture to General Business. Harshbarger read the synopsis and asked for council action. Laura Dillon made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-7 on first reading. Roger Newsome seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0. John Harshbarger suggested council entertain a motion to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance 2020-7 for a second reading at this time.

Dillon next made a motion to suspend the rules and do a second reading of the ordinance. Newsome provided a second, and motion carried 3-0.

Harshbarger read the synopsis again. Ordinance 2020-7, An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Andrews, Indiana, Reclassification of Zoning from "A" Agriculture to "GB" General Business. Laura Dillon made a motion to pass on second reading Ordinance 2020-7. Roger Newsome seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

The homeowner of 63 E. McKeever St stated he has purchased all supplies except shingles, which will be acquired when additional monies are received. Wheeler stated a local roofer has agreed to assist him with the roof repairs. Council agreed to give Richard Wheeler an additional 30 days to bring the roof into compliance.

NEW BUSINESS-

Nancy Disbro, Librarian of the Andrews-Dallas Township Public Library, and Carla Miller, representing Friends of the Library, requested funds to help purchase a new digital sign that would be retrofitted into the existing sign structure on Main St. The retrofit option increased the price for the sign to approximately \$10,000.00, including installation. The Library has \$7,500 raised and/or pledged, while fund raiser events are ongoing. Dillon recused herself from discussion and vote, stating she is a board member of the library. It was pointed out the Town did not sponsor bands for the Summer Festival this year so funds were available for a donation. Roger Newsome made a motion to donate \$2,200 to the Andrews-Dallas Township Public Library for purchase of a new sign. John Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock again mentioned that the issue at 353 S Clifton St has been resolved. Bullock stated he spoke with the resident at 957 N Main St about a semi-tractor trailer she placed on her property. According to the Town Ordinance, this may only be used for temporary storage for up to 20 days. Austin also announced his department was awarded a NS Railroad Safety Grant in the amount \$2500, which he plans to offset the purchase of 3 body armor vests. A new printer has been ordered for the reserve squad car after it quit working.

Fire Department: Dean Young spoke on behalf of the fire department. Three members recently resigned from the department, and the three new recruits are 30 hours into their mandatory training.

Utility Superintendent: Colin Bullock stated his department has been chasing water leaks and doing spot repairs in town. To correct a large leaker and to avoid cutting into the paved alley along the railroad tracks, a new water distribution line will come in from Snowden St. through the grassy lot where the community building used to be, in order to service the Sports Bar. Star St. water service lines are still a priority issue. Unsafe trees are also being taken down now that the weather has cooled.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell discussed the COVID-19 payment agreement contract and accompanying letter, which was delivered last month to 32 residential accounts in Andrews. All signed contracts and the first payment are due tomorrow, September 15th, at 4:00 P.M. Two accounts were discussed where the resident disputed the amount charged on their utility bill. Data Loggers were done and show a leak was the culprit for the larger than normal bill. Tony Cicatko, 90 S Snowden St., refused to speak with the Clerk's office and has yet to fill out a leak adjustment form. Mr. Cicatko was not in attendance to plead his case to Council. His situation was tabled at this time. The Clerk's office will send a representative to attend a dispute trial on September 23rd, which is in regards to an Affidavit of Debt filed in 2014. Powell will soon have a COVID-19 reimbursement claim ready to send to IFA. The Town

Council and Powell also agreed to reopen the town hall to the public this week. An additional supply of disposable masks will be ordered.

CLAIMS

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the August 24th claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cheryl Chopson, Kim Hostetler, and Marshal Bullock discussed 237 E Columbia St. with Council. The Order of Enforcement was upheld earlier this month to enforce the final cleanup of the property. Nothing has been done over the last two weeks. Council agreed to give the homeowners an additional 30 days to clean up the pile of fencing and other debris from the yard. The DCD will send another letter to the Marras.

Ed Asher informed Council of his plans to erect an 18 X 21 foot metal carport over the concrete pad to shade picnic tables for his Ice Cream Shop customers. Council had no issue with his plan as long as the structure is attractive and sturdy. Asher will next apply for a permit with the DCD. Asher asked about the sidewalk replacement plan the Town offers. Dillon stated there is a 50/50 program which the Town offers, but the CEDIT Advisory Board may have a better plan for business owners. Council would like several quotes to replace sidewalks in front of Asher's Ice Cream Shop, the Sports Bar, and Kermit's Food Shop. Dillon stated she would present the quotes to the Advisory Board. Work would likely take place next year should it be approved.

Cathy Johnson requested an additional reimbursement for unexpected costs incurred during their recent 50/50 sidewalk replacement project. Council directed Powell to pay \$225.00 to the Johnsons after reviewing the final bill which showed a \$450.00 charge for extra work to remove fence posts and large tree roots in order to level the sidewalks. She also inquired when the fence row along Main St will be cleaned up. It has been discussed several times over the past year, but efforts must be coordinated with the owner who farms the field. Colin Bullock thought work would begin once the crops are out of the field this fall.

Brant Ricker informed Council that the July drinking water samples are still delayed at the State Lab due to the influx of COVID-19 tests they are processing.

Sonda Young asked Council to consider setting Halloween Trick or Treating Hours. Council tabled action at this time to allow time to assess what other communities would be doing or what the State recommends.


With the agreement of Council, Laura Dillon will contact Steve Brock and ask him to appear at the September 28th meeting to provide information to the Town.

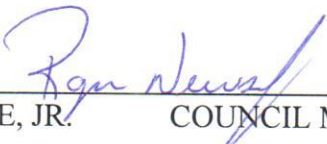
Cathy Johnson asked for new information on the water crisis. A court date is now scheduled for November 9, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. The hearing should have been in Huntington Superior Court, but now the mycase.IN.gov website states Adams Circuit Court. Dillon summarized what Council discussed at the September 2nd Special Meeting. Those minutes were approved this evening and will be posted to the town's website tomorrow, she said. It was suggested residents should follow the Town's Preliminary Injunction at the My Case website as final notices, motions, and responses are filed ahead of the hearing date.


Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M., which was seconded by Roger Newsome.

Approved this 28th 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