

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD OCTOBER 26, 2020**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 26, 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 in attendance. 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 October 13, 2020. Roger Newsome, Jr. provided a second for the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**ERIC WOODMANSEE**

Eric Woodmansee, with AME Consulting, was unable to attend the meeting but Council President Harshbarger gave a short update on CCMG 2020-1 project which DC Construction began with less than 2 weeks remaining on the construction contract. Overall, not a good start and the job site requires daily follow-ups by Woodmansee.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jessica Beal, DCD, reported the October 19<sup>th</sup> walk-in inspection at 237 E Columbia St was not attended by either party of interest. Beal and Brant Ricker, also with DCD, walked the perimeter of the home and found the foundation was crumbling away from the back side of the home. While looking thru the windows at the front of the home, it appeared no interior work had been completed since last July. Noting this property has been a recurring problem for years, Council agreed to have Ricker move forward with the condemnation process. Demolition bids will be presented to Council in November.

Brant Ricker, DCD, informed Council that no roof work appears to have been done at 63 E McKeever St, Richard Wheeler's property. A tarp still covers the east portion of the home's roof. Wheeler's sister Patty stated she misunderstood when the deadline was and thought she had 2 more weeks to complete the repair. She relayed some deck work had been done in the damaged area before rain halted the work. Roger Newsome gave Patty Wheeler 2 additional weeks, until November 9<sup>th</sup>, to finish the project. Ricker requested an inspection of the roof and interior of the home once the repair is complete. Laura Dillon stated if the roof still is not repaired by the 9th, Council will move forward with taking bids for demolition.

167 W. McKeever St was next discussed. No one appeared at the meeting to represent this property. A plan to clean up the property, presented by owner Tim Conrad and contract buyers James and Amber Wiist to Council last May, has not been completed. An old RV and semi-truck trailer on the property needs to be removed. An ordinance violation will be written up and Marshall Bullock will follow up by contacting the parties.

Council confirmed that the Halloween Trick or Treat Hours will be 5-7 P.M on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Clerk-Treasurer Powell has checked into liability insurance for the proposed Bluegrass Festival. If the Town is not the sponsor, then the Town cannot insure the event. The organizer, Ed Asher, will need to insure the event. Marshal Austin Bullock will contact Ed Asher to learn how Asher plans to map out the festival site on the Town's property. Discussion was held relating to RVs, parking, fire pits, number of participants and campers, and power. Council will table the matter for now.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2020-6: An Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees in 2021 was read by President Harshbarger. Laura Dillon made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-6 on first read, motion seconded by Roger Newsome, motion passed unanimously. Laura Dillon next made a motion to suspend the rules and do a second read at the same meeting in order to pass Ordinance 2020-6. Roger Newsome seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Harshbarger again read the synopsis for Ordinance 2020-6 before asking for a motion to adopt. Dillon so motioned for passage, the motion was seconded by Newsome, motion was approved 3-0.

Leaf pickup has started and will continue as time allows. Residents are asked to rake leaves to the roadside.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock reported that Matthew Farthing has resigned to accept a new position in another County. All gear will be returned. Marshal Bullock would like to hire a replacement, to which Council gave permission. Marshal Bullock reported that car number two was struck by a drunk driver resulting in minor damage. He has received repair quotes and will be working with insurance to get that vehicle repaired. In addition, vehicle number three needed two new tires; car number two required new sparkplugs; and car number one has had brake issues. To stay ahead of the wear and tear and the possibility of being down a vehicle, he obtained quotes on a replacement vehicle. Bob Thomas Ford Lincoln submitted the best quote plus a \$8,000 trade-in offer for vehicle number 3. Marshal Bullock asked for permission to proceed with ordering a new vehicle. The Council gave Marshal Bullock permission to order it, which will replace vehicle two. Permission was also granted to begin ordering equipment and parts that will be needed for the new vehicle.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported that the fish fry is Saturday, November 7, 2020.

Utility Superintendent: John Harshbarger spoke on behalf of Colin Bullock. He reported on property located at 100 N and S.R. 105. This area was targeted as a potential site for a new drinking water well field after speaking with a Peerless Midwest geologist. Roger Newsome raised concerns about the DeGroot Dairy Farm operations in the area.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that all elected Town Officials will be attending the preliminary injunction court hearing on November 9<sup>th</sup> in Decatur, Adams County, Indiana. Since the next town council meeting is also scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>, she asked if all were agreeable to reset the meeting to November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Council approved the move. Clerk Powell also reported that she received a CARES Act check and that she continues to work on the accounting documentation required. Her next goal is to submit a portion of the Public Safety Payroll for reimbursement. In addition, Clerk Powell relayed she has asked legal counsel to draft an amendment to the wastewater rate ordinance to authorize a \$80 monthly flat rate charge for the Dollar General septic line.

The Board decided to set an Executive Session to discuss a couple of urgent items. The meeting is set for Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.

## **CLAIMS**

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the October 26<sup>th</sup> claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried 3-0.


### OTHER BUSINESS

Daniel and Natasha Wicker, property owners at 421 S Clifton St, asked why a semi-trailer is to be removed along with the garage from their property. They use the semi-trailer for storage. A copy of the ordinance pertaining to their situation will be provided to them. Discussion followed as to whether this instance should be "grandfathered" and allowed to stay at the Wickers property since it has been there for quite a few years. Council will consider this if the semi-trailer is structurally sound and the curb appeal can be improved upon. Town Marshall Austin Bullock will speak with the Wickers and inspect the semi-trailer.

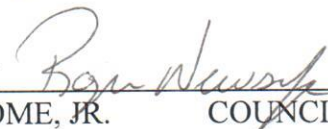
Cheryl Chopson asked for clarification on the search criteria for new wells. Discussion included the pros and cons of various locations surrounding Andrews, what compounds may be present in the test well water requiring pre-treatment, cost estimates, and rights-of-way.

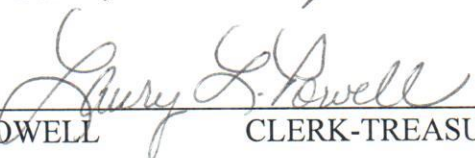
Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M., which was seconded by Laura Dillon.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 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