

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD OCTOBER 12, 2021**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 12, 2021, 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 an executive session held September 24, 2021, and a regular session held September 27, 2021. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Waterworks Project: Eric Woodmansee reported that Mike Kleinpeter is moving forward with the OCRA process, with appraisals planned for late this week. The archaeological report and the environmental review have both come back clear. Eric noted the crops were recently harvested from the proposed site. The OCRA application process will now slow down while waiting on the SRF grant announcement.

Sidewalk Improvement Project: The completed section poured in front of the Sports Bar looks good, but due to an increase in elevation greater than 4 inches a handrail will be required on the handicap ramp. There was some discussion on who would pay for the handrail installment as well as who would do that work since it was not included in the contract agreement. It was also discussed that replacing the original steps in front of Neal Snyder's building were left out of the original proposal. Bolinger sent a revised proposal to Laura Dillon which includes those steps and a curb replacement in that section recommended by Woodmansee for esthetics. Council will review prior email communications and changes in the new agreement and expects to approve the revised contract at the next council meeting.

FEMA Buyout: Disappointment was expressed by council members since this project is basically on hold due to an extended delay of work by the appointed appraisers Buzzard and Capozza. New appraisers are being sought that can come in and appraise all remaining properties at one time. At issue is would the 2015 pre-flood event market values, which were written into the federal grant, be used by new appraisers or not. After discussion, Laura Dillon motioned to appoint Buzzard and Capozza to appraise all remaining properties in the FEMA Buyout Project be done at the same time. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.

Roof Hatch Installation: Raytheon/Stantec has delayed cleaning wells 2 & 3 citing a lack of qualified contractors in the area and then not having ordered the necessary materials for the job. A roof hatch at the water plant is necessary to accommodate the equipment Peerless Midwest would use to rehab the wells. John Harshbarger recently received unacceptable plans from Stantec that did not include a roof hatch, only a patch job to the hole cut in the water plant's roof using a Chicago contractor. He proposed to the other council members having the Town hire a local contractor using readily available supplies in our area, then sending the bill to Stantec for payment. Council agreed to let John get estimates and send to Raytheon/Stantec in order to move forward with this important project.

CCMG 2020-1: Woodmansee stated he is in communication with attorney Mike Hartburg, who is reviewing information and pictures to compile a letter for project contractor DC Construction that would hopefully resolve the dispute over workmanship.



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**NEW BUSINESS**

A synopsis of Ordinance 2021-22, an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the Town of Andrews, Indiana, From and After December 27, 2021, Through the Pay Period Ending December 25, 2022, was read aloud by John Harshbarger. With no further discussion, Laura Dillon made a motion to pass the ordinance, with a second from Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried unanimously. There was no motion to suspend the rules for a second reading at this meeting. This ordinance will be read again at the October 25<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Marshal Austin Bullock reported he was informed by County IT that the laptop in his police car should be replaced soon due to its age. Also, the radios he ordered earlier this year are still on backorder because of the semiconductor chip shortage. Bullock said there is enough money in the Police Machine & Equipment Appropriation to pay for both items. Council approved Bullock's request to hire a part-time officer currently working full-time in Wells County.

Fire Department: There was no representative in attendance to report to Council.

Utility Department: Superintendent Colin Bullock stated the new sewer inspection camera is working well. Work is underway to create their own custom trailer-mounted system using a trailer the Town already owns. Bullock also reported he met with INDOT personnel recently and that they will not require a work permit for cutting trees in the right-of-way along North Main Street. The Town's utility employees will be responsible for the tree removal project. Colin was also told that INDOT plans to repair a sinkhole at the intersection of Main & McKeever Streets, and that they will replace storm drain structures on both sides of Main Street near the Ice Cream Vault and Sports Bar. However, no line work will be done with the storm sewer system in this area.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell read an invite for town officials to attend the AIM Roundtable in Middlebury on Wednesday, November 3. She also stated the Boyce-Keystone annual user meetings will be virtual again this year, with the dates of November 5, 12, and 19 scheduled for software programs the Town subscribes to. At the next meeting, Powell will bring to Council an additional appropriation that would allow the Town to spend recently received ARPA money on soft costs related to the waterworks project.

**CLAIMS**

Laura Dillon first questioned Colin Bullock about the frequency and expense of VOC tests for the drinking water. Bullock stated several recent tests were for next year's annual water quality report while IDEM has mandated more frequent VOC tests after the 2020 water emergency. She then made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ray Tackett, 420 N Market St, said his granddaughter bought a trailer on lot 15 at Antioch MHP, which is a complete disaster on the interior. He claims to only have a note from the owner acknowledging a purchase but no other paperwork. Town Marshal Bullock informed Tackett the park owner is required to provide a title with a sale.

Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main St, still has concerns with the new storm water system on McKeever St. Eric Woodmansee explained the design will allow up to 4 inches of water to stand in the roadway during a



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heavy rain event. However, it is eventually carried away leaving no standing water after the heavy rain event is over. The importance of clearing debris and leaves from storm drains was emphasized.

Karen Houlihan, 240 Columbia St, questioned if consumer water rates would go down should the Town receive money from the lawsuit against Raytheon. She explained the higher rates required to build a new water plant and relocate the wells would be an extreme hardship for those on fixed budgets. Harshbarger said he cannot answer that question at this time but would expect any settlement money received would first pay down the debt on the waterworks project. Water infrastructure needs were also discussed.

Dave Smith, 676 N Colorado St, informed Council of an underground water line leak somewhere between the meter connection and his house. He has already contacted a contractor for a quote, but the contractor stated it may be a couple of weeks before he can begin the repair. Smith asked Council to work with him since he can only afford 4 hours of work as quoted by the contractor and hopes that is enough time to locate and repair the problem. Smith asked Council for a multi-month leak adjustment to his utility bill. His utility account records indicate he has been paying for twice his normal water consumption since early this year. Laura Dillon recommended Clerk-Treasurer Powell do a 6-month leak adjustment for Smith, instead of the 2 months allowed by ordinance. Council agreed with her recommendation.

Roger Newsome, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon. Motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

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