

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD OCTOBER 25, 2021**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 25, 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 a special meeting held October 5, 2021, and a regular session held October 12, 2021. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Waterworks Project: Eric Woodmansee announced that SRF did not award the Town of Andrews any grant money for this project. The agency requires more information on the water situation here since regional utility systems are currently preferred over stand-alone plants in small towns. Council expressed disappointment that SRF did not reach out to the Town during the extended application review process to ask about regional options in our area. Harshbarger stated the Town had previously considered regional options for a water source, but it was determined tying into Huntington was not a good fit for the Town because of underlying issues with the water infrastructure and the expense to install lines and pump water to Andrews. It was questionable if Huntington could even supply the additional 39 million gallons of water to Andrews on top of supplying a planned industrial park west of SR9. Directions were laid out at today's working group meeting to keep rolling with the waterworks project in order to reapply next year, but for now everything is delayed. AME Consulting will begin work with Council to address the issue of "regional" with SRF. Water rates will also be looked at to make the Town more competitive with future SWIF and SRF applications, as well as to accumulate the needed funds for water infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

California Street Issue: Harshbarger explained what happened last Thursday near the intersection of California and Colorado Streets where Ed Asher had a contractor digging to attach a sewer line to his building. About two feet above the sewer main, they ran into a dark sludge seeping out of the ground, followed by water that filled the hole which put a stop to the project. IDEM was notified and showed up with Stantec on Friday. Asher's contractor cannot finish the sewer connection because of this complication and it's now a question of how to get this accomplished. An oily sheen was seen floating on top of the water prompting soil and water samples to be taken. The Town's results indicate a high level of contamination in the soil, with lesser amounts in the groundwater. If the sewer line is opened up for a connection, this chemical laden groundwater, standing two feet above the sewer lines, stands a chance of contaminating the sewer main, making its way to the new wastewater treatment plant and possibly killing the bacteria there. The chemicals may also run into the Wabash River should they bypass the plant with liquids. The Town has no good options to get Asher a wastewater tap-in at this point. Ed's project is now at a standstill and there is no word from IDEM, Stantec, or Raytheon on what their proposal is to resolve his problem.

Indiana State Senator Andy Zay was in attendance. When asked for his opinion on matters discussed so far, Zay stated there are things that can be worked on back at his office to help the Town. Council members and several citizens expressed their frustrations with IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program, Stantec, and Raytheon, all of which have allowed the contamination issue to persist for over 25 years as well as have shown a lack of empathy for the wellbeing of the Town's residents.

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Sidewalk Improvement Project: Roger Newsome, Jr. discussed the revised proposal from Bolinger Concrete with other council members. All agreed to not pay an equipment rental charge on an invoice presented for payment since this was not accounted for in the signed contract agreement. However, Council did say this charge could be paid later if Bolinger's total invoicing came in under the contract price of \$46,620.00. Otherwise, the revised proposal was approved by Council. Dillon expressed gratitude that the Huntington County Commissioners agreed to pay \$26,733.75, 75% of the original contract price. Because of INDOT requirements and other changes, the project has nearly doubled in price now, but the Town will still move forward with it and pay the difference. Everyone agreed that the new sidewalk in front of the Sports Bar looks great.

Ordinance 2021-22: Council President Harshbarger read for a second time 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. Laura Dillon motioned to pass the ordinance on its second read. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded her motion, motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2021-9: A resolution to Transfer from CEDIT Street Paving to CEDIT Capital Expense \$20,000.00 for the Sidewalk Improvement Project was read by John Harshbarger. Laura Dillon explained this would give Clerk-Treasurer Powell the ability to pay out of the proper fund for the additional expense in the revised Bolinger Concrete contract, due in part to INDOT requirements, ADA ramps, and the addition of curb and steps. Dillon then made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-9. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded her motion, motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Marshal Austin Bullock reported a new laptop for police car has been ordered and he hopes it is received by the end of the year. A new hire for the part-time officer position will begin work by early December. Marshal Bullock was thanked by Cathy Johnson for being "Principal of the Day" at Andrews Elementary School recently.

Fire Department: Deputy Marshal Dean Young said 30 kids attended the fire department's Halloween Party recently. He also said the last fundraiser of the year, a fish fry, will be held on Saturday, November 6. Jay Curtis Rhoads reported the new fire truck will have a Cardinal decal applied. New equipment is being installed and department training with the new truck is underway.

Utility Department: Superintendent Colin Bullock stated he will begin removing dead trees from the right-of-way along N Main St. He also asked Andy Zay to back the Town up in its quest for clean drinking water.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said Crossroads Bank scheduled a meeting with her to discuss banking. She invited Laura Dillon to attend the presentation as well. Powell reported that Dave Smith completed his service line repair last week and today her office completed the recommended leak adjustment to his utility account. She updated the FEMA Buyout project reporting that DCD's Kim Hostetler has had no response from appraisers outside Huntington County. Recent phone calls and emails to Buzzard and Capozza still go unanswered which leaves her and council members disappointed and frustrated with the lack of action. Powell informed Hostetler that Council moved to appoint Buzzard and Capozza as appraisers for all remaining parcels in the buyout. Tomorrow, Attorney Halverstadt will be asked to prepare resolutions stating intent to purchase on each remaining property. Once those are approved by Council, the goal is to have Buzzard and Capozza complete all the appraisals at one time, with a single trip to Andrews.

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CLAIMS

Powell reminded Council that she deducted \$680.00 off the Bolinger Concrete invoice total per Council President Harshbarger's recommendation. The charge was for equipment rental fees not included in the signed contract agreement. All Council Members agreed to the adjusted payment but added the \$680.00 may be paid later if Bolinger does not invoice for the entire contract amount of \$46,620.00. Dillon and Powell also discussed why the Water Improvement Fund paid for the archaeological study in the amount of \$2,550.00, and not the ARPA Fund. Due to the State's requirements with the advertisement of Public Notices and the Huntington Herald-Press only publishing a newspaper on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the ARPA money cannot be spent until after the Additional Appropriation is approved at the November 8th meeting and then filed with the State Board of Accounts. With no further questions from Council, Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ed Asher, owner of the Ice Cream Vault at 63 N Main St, asked about the status of the roof hatch installation at the water plant to allow cleaning of the 2 wells. John Harshbarger recapped the council's discussion and decision made at the October 12 meeting. He has since acquired local estimates and emailed the information to John Barron with Raytheon at Susan Hall's (Stantec) request. John has no reply yet. Colin Bullock stated his concern of beginning this process late in the year as temperatures drop below freezing at night. The Town would be in trouble should something freeze up at the plant. Dillon recommends another meeting with town officials, IDEM, Stantec, and Raytheon to come up with new dates for this process.

After listening to all discussed in the meeting, State Senator Zay acknowledged the difficult situation the Town is. The contamination issue is multi-faceted, but he is willing to help as best he can at the state level. He can write a reference of support for future grant applications related to the waterworks project, ask questions of those reviewing the applications, but reminded everyone state agencies are hard to influence. Should the drinking water issue be resolved, the source of the problem remains underground affecting residents and businesses. He would like to help create a future for Andrews, by cleaning up the old factory site, and acquiring a clean water source for the Town. Council President Harshbarger again expressed his displeasure with IDEM and their VRP program, Stantec, and Raytheon. Other citizens aired their frustrations with the situation, questioning why the State has not enforced action to clean up the contamination over the last 25 years. Nobody seems to take responsibility or is held accountable for the contamination left behind in Andrews. Harshbarger did say forward strides have been made that likely would not have happened had the Town not gone down the current path of litigation.

Roger Newsome, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon. Motion carried 3-0.


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Approved this 8th day of November 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