

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD MAY 23, 2022**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on May 23, 2022, 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 regular session held May 23, 2022. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DAVE METTLER

On behalf of Mettler Insurance, Dave distributed handouts and gave a presentation on insurance for the Town. Renewal items discussed included vehicle and inland marine minimum deductibles and blanket coverage for police equipment. Mettler will bring updated quotes to the July 11 meeting prior to the renewal of the Town's liability insurance policy. Also discussed was a comparison of the Fire Department's current VFIS Accident Sickness Insurance Policy to a plan offered by Provident, which offers more benefits at a comparable cost. After reviewing a handout and further discussion, Council agreed to switch insurance coverage to Provident.

Mettler also said the Town's liability policy includes coverage for one motorized sport annually and a demolition derby would have liability coverage as backup to the event sponsor's insurance. He told Council the Andrews VFD is good to go with holding this event.

ERIC WOODMANSEE

Eric reported he is wrapping up the public portion of the DWSRF submission for the Waterworks Project. After conferring with the Town's attorney, Woodmansee said they both agreed any discovered septic damage and related sewer issues should run through the Town's insurance company. Serious issues have become evident with the work performed by DC Construction during the East McKeever Street Storm Water Project.

Sidewalk Project: Woodmansee reported the State has inspected the deteriorating sidewalk surface. Speedway Concrete has yet to inspect, and they will need to discuss plans with Bolinger Concrete to make repairs to the recent sidewalk improvements downtown.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Buyout: Clerk-Treasurer Powell relayed DCD's Kim Hostetler reports that remediation is now complete, and she now awaits guidance on demolition requirements and an approved form requesting demolition proposals from Attorney Halverstadt. Since she has not received County CREDIT money yet, Powell stated she followed up on her disbursement request letter to the County Commissioners for the remaining \$55,755.00 of their contractual obligation to the Town's CREDIT FEMA Buyout Project. She learned this request will be submitted for payment after the next Commissioner meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Norwood Regional Water Sewer District: Andrews representative Gary Rice has resigned from the NRWSD Board, effective immediately. This board meets once a month, and the Town now seeks a volunteer to fill the position and can contact Clerk-Treasurer Powell if interested.

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Utility Receipts Tax: Clerk-Treasurer Powell informed Council that a new law, HB 1002, repeals the "utility receipt tax" that is built into the Town's water rate structure. The bill requires the Town to remove this tax from its current rates effective July 1, 2022. The August 1, 2022 billing statement will be the first affected by the new law since the Town bills in arrears. The deadline will be challenging timewise to meet and also expensive. Powell said the Town will need to hire a rate consultant, Steve Brock, to prepare a new rate tariff and draft a new rate ordinance. His fee is \$2,000.00 for this service. The Town's attorney will then write an ordinance amendment and draft a legal statement as required under the new law. The new ordinance will require publication of a legal advertisement. Boyce-Keystone will finally implement the new water rate tariff into the billing software. Council questioned if a small step-up in water rates could also be included at the same time Brock removes the URT. Council directed Powell to set up a phone conference this week with Laura Dillon, Eric Woodmansee, and Steve Brock to learn if this is feasible.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Marshal Austin Bullock reported he is researching and seeking quotes for a new in-car radio for his police car. Also, firearms training is complete.

Fire Department: Firefighter Josh Young presented a drawing of the proposed demolition derby layout using Town property at the end of Terrel Street. Discussion ensued and Young explained that Fire Chief Tom's excavation company will take on the task of moving dirt around and leveling the ground to accommodate the event. Considering Mettler's statement about liability insurance coverage for a motorized event, and that the derby sponsor comes fully insured to hold the event, Council agreed to let the AVFD move forward with their plans to hold a demolition derby.

Utility Department: Superintendent Colin Bullock said he is looking to get rid of an old generator that remains in storage at the remaining portion of the old barn. In addition, vandalism was reported on town property in the vicinity of Wabash and Terrel Streets.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported a productive workday on May 19 with Larry Tippin on the capital assets project. She also said the recent Clerk-Treasurer School covered several timely and interesting topics. Powell said she is contacting other businesses to obtain quotes on doing the bank reconciliations since the current vendor continues to fall behind schedule due to health issues.

CLAIMS

Laura Dillon 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, asked Council if they were aware of three test wells drilled on Anson property years ago. John Harshbarger said yes and that the test site was not favorable. Tackett also addressed Council about the stray cat nuisance in his neighborhood.

Cheryl Chopson, 212 Columbia St, asked for an update on 237 Columbia Street.


Neal Snyder, 55 N Main St, inquired if the broken basketball goal will be replaced at the park. Roger Newsome said it will be replaced however the Town is searching for a suitable option to withstand abuse by vandals.

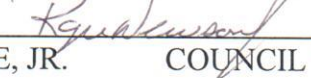
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Roger Newsome, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon.

Approved this 13th day of June 2022.

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