

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on November 14, 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

Roger Newsome, Jr. made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held October 24, 2022. Laura Dillon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FEMA BUYOUT PROJECT: Demolition Bids for 520 W McKeever St were presented to Council. John Harshbarger opened and read the bids aloud as follows.

- Dirt Excavating - \$13,250.0
- Columbia City Iron & Metal - \$11,950.00

Discussion ensued on the low bid being too vague with job details. Council asked Powell to notify Huntington DCD's Kim Hostetler of the winning bid, however the award is contingent on having CC Iron & Metal clarify their bid, making it responsive to Hostetler's specifications for the job. Dillon motioned to accept the low bid of \$11,950.00 from CC Iron & Metal, contingent on its clarification regarding job details. Roger Newsome seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DR. MATT PFLIEGER, HUNTINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Dr. Pflieger approached Council with a proposal regarding the Opioid Settlement Funds expected by year-end. His vision is to create a joint fund with Huntington County Community Foundation to award grants to local entities in accordance with the state's list of opioid remediation uses. Ideally this would be a county-wide effort headed up by a 5-person committee. Discussion ensued after which Council tabled the matter until more information is available, specifically the agreement with HCCF and the names of the five committee members. Council President John Harshbarger asked to meet with Dr. Pflieger at a later date concerning the water contamination situation in Andrews.

ERIC WOODMANSEE, AME CONSULTING

An end of the year update on various projects was presented to Council by Woodmansee. He briefly spoke on the following topics: the status of discussions and negotiations to resolve both CCMG 2020-1 and Sidewalk Improvement Project performance issues, the ADA/Title VI Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, LTAP, and how the Water Works Project application may need tweaked to meet new SRF focus and thresholds for 2023. Finally, Woodmansee presented for future consideration a new on-call contract for 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

2023 Salary Ordinance 2022-10: After commenting this ordinance was first introduced and read at the October 24th meeting, Council President Harshbarger read the synopsis for Ordinance 2022-10 for the second time. Laura Dillon motioned to pass and adopt the 2023 Salary Ordinance on its second read, which was seconded by Roger Newsome. Motion carried 3-0.

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NEW BUSINESS

John Harshbarger introduced Ordinance 2022-11 Establishing Opioid Settlement Fund - Unrestricted with a first read of the synopsis. Dillon motioned to pass Ordinance 2022-11 on its first read, seconded by Newsome. Motion carried 3-0. The Ordinance will be considered for approval after its second read at the November 28th meeting.

John Harshbarger introduced Ordinance 2022-12 Establishing Opioid Settlement Fund - Restricted with a first read of the synopsis. Dillon motioned to pass Ordinance 2022-12 on its first read, seconded by Newsome. Motion carried 3-0. The Ordinance will be considered for approval after its second read at the November 28th meeting.

Council initiated discussion on the 2023 Holiday Schedule CT Powell included in a recent meeting packet. It was decided that a new federal holiday, Juneteenth, would only be recognized but not celebrated with a paid day off. Council's decision was based on using the State of Indiana's Holiday Schedule as a model, and the fact that portions of the employee handbook and salary ordinance would need revised prior to allowing an additional paid holiday off work.

John Harshbarger said the Town will close on another FEMA Buyout property tomorrow afternoon, 181 S Berry Street.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Marshal Austin Bullock reported the Deputy Marshal car is done except for decals and push bumper installation and that he hopes to pick it up by the end of the week. Bullock also relayed there is no work progress seen at 133 S Jackson St and he has been unsuccessful in contacting the owners. He also informed Council of another court sentencing of four years on a habitual traffic offender.

Fire Department: Dean Young introduced newly elected Fire Chief Evan Schenkel, who has twenty years of experience as a volunteer firefighter and joined the AVFD in 2014. Dean Young is the new assistant fire chief and treasurer for the department. Schenkel and Young relayed they are making a list of needs for the next two years for budget purposes, with the replacement of the oldest turn-out gear a priority. It was reported that two new volunteers are currently in training.

Tom Wuensch made a prior request to Councilmember Newsome to have his turn-out gear presented to him upon his retirement as Fire Chief. Council discussed and agreed to donate Wuensch's turn-out gear. Newsome relayed Wuensch stated there has been no interest from potential buyers for Truck 201, which has been in storage since it was taken out of service a year ago. The AVFD seeks permission to donate the old fire truck and plans to contact FEMA since they will know of other volunteer fire departments in need of a truck. Council was in favor of this action and Harshbarger asked Council be notified of where Truck 201 goes.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said his employees have been working leaves, trees, and repairing broken equipment over the last two weeks.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell discussed the PHP Health Insurance Renewal Proposal for 2023. There will be an 8.44% increase with the current plan in 2023 and Powell stated she planned for a 10% increase. Discussion ensued on several options to lower the premium and Powell stated that agent Carrie Rees is available for an informational meeting if requested. Noting the increase is covered by the budget, Dillon motioned to keep the existing plan for another year and accept the Renewal Proposal for 2023. Newsome seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

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CLAIMS


There was no discussion on the claims other than Harshbarger questioning Colin Bullock on recurring charges from Linde Welding Gas & Equipment for acetylene tank rental. Bullock stated he will inquire into the charges. Laura Dillon then made a motion to approve the claims, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS


No other business came before Council this evening.


Roger Newsome Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon.

Approved this 28th day of November 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