

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 28, 2022**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on November 28, 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 November 14, 2022. Laura Dillon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**HUNTINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mark Wickersham presented the 2023 service contract proposal after summarizing HCED's accomplishments in 2022 and explaining how they benefit the Andrews community. Discussion ensued on the 2023 proposal including a new clause anticipating a new contract being executed with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. That commitment would be over and above the routine compensation for all other operations listed in HCED's agreement with the Town, resulting in an additional \$727.00 annually. Laura Dillon made a motion to accept the 2023 HCED Service Contract in the amount of \$3,000.00 and to table the new NEIRP clause for \$727.00. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Unsafe Order of Enforcement at 133 S Jackson St: Sarah Brunner with Huntington DCD presented pictures of the property and stated no progress has been seen with cleaning up the property. The Sands were not in attendance. The DCD recommended Council consider a \$500.00 civil penalty for willful failure to comply with the Order, effective immediately, to which Council agreed. The fine shall be paid within 15 days otherwise it may become a lien on the property. Council wants the property cleaned up by December 12 and asks the owners to appear before Council at the December 12 meeting with an update. Further noncompliance will result in the Town of Andrews doing the cleanup, then charging the property owners for the work performed, which will be an additional lien on the property.

After noting that both opioid ordinances were introduced and discussed at the November 14 meeting, John Harshbarger read the synopsis of Ordinance 2022-11 Establishing Opioid Settlement Fund - Unrestricted. There being no comments, Dillon motioned to approve Ordinance 2022-11 on its second read, which was seconded by Newsome. Motion carried 3-0.

John Harshbarger read the synopsis of Ordinance 2022-12 Establishing Opioid Settlement Fund - Restricted. There being no comments, Dillon motioned to approve Ordinance 2022-12 on its second read, which was seconded by Newsome. Motion carried 3-0.

FEMA Buyout Project: CT Powell updated Council on the demolition status at 520 W McKeever, the situation in acquiring both 280 and 498 W McKeever and a possible closing date of December 9 for 280 W McKeever, as well as the scheduling of remediation abatement at 181 S Berry and 498 W McKeever. In addition, Powell said today she received 3 smaller reimbursements from Indiana DHS totaling \$15,275.25. Outstanding claim reimbursements due to the Town still total over \$80,470.



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**NEW BUSINESS**

2023 Appointments: CT Powell presented the current slate of Town Appointments and noted several upcoming expiration dates heading into the new year. She will be contacting individuals to reup for another term and seeking new volunteers where needed to fill vacancies. The new Fire Chief Evan Schenkel will check with his department to fill a vacancy on the Huntington County EMA Advisory Board.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Marshal Austin Bullock reported the Deputy Marshal car is ready for pickup tomorrow and updated Council with the latest news in his search for a new police vehicle since Ford canceled orders placed at local dealerships. Council gave permission for Bullock to coordinate efforts with other local police departments to acquire new vehicles out of state if necessary. Bullock reported to Council on a parking complaint made in the Clifton Monroe Street area. The property owner has asked the Town to place No Parking signs along Monroe Street, or to put gravel in the right-of-way to prevent the grassy area maintained by the owner from becoming muddy and rutted. An ordinance amendment is needed to place No Parking signs. Wanting more information before making a decision, council tabled the subject for now.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Evan Schenkel and Dean Young presented the 2022 Fire Pay Schedule to Council and CT Powell. Also presented were 2 quotes for head-to-toe turnout gear sets. Dinges Fire Company quoted \$4,305.75 plus shipping per gear set, while Hoosier Fire Equipment Inc. quoted \$4,286.50 plus shipping for each set. Lead time for delivery varied widely, anywhere from 4 to 12 months due to current supply inventories and labor shortages. The quotes are good for 30 days and the fire department is seeking approval to buy 4 sets this year. For budgeting purposes, CT Powell explained she would need an invoice for all 4 gear sets to encumber this year's funds into 2023. Council agreed to have the fire department pursue the best option purchase from the 2 quotes received.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said most of a large tree was taken down on North Main Street recently. He also stated his employees are still repairing equipment and prepping trucks for snow/ice removal this winter.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell asked Council if they have any questions or concerns after reviewing the 1782 Notice from Indiana DLGF. There being none, Powell said she will respond to the state in a timely manner regarding the 2023 budget final documents. She also reminded everyone that the Clerk's Office will close December 1 for year-end training and said she will post notice online and at the Town Hall. She also presented a TRECS 2023 Registration Form for Council's consideration. After a quick summary of the Town's history with the program over the last 3 years, Council agreed to participate again to collect outstanding debt owed to the Town by intercepting individual income tax refunds. Finally, Powell relayed that Eric Woodmansee has submitted the 2023 Pavement Asset Management Plan to LTAP and it has been approved.

**CLAIMS**

Laura Dillon then made a motion to approve the claims, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Neal Snyder, 55 N Main St, reported a leaking fire hydrant at the corner of Main and McKeever Streets.


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Roger Newsome inquired on the status of the \$750 Sports Bar ADA ramp payment to the Town as verbally agreed upon for last year's sidewalk improvements. Powell said it remains unpaid, and after inquiring earlier this year with the town's attorney on a possible course of action, she learned that without a signed agreement with the property owners it may be difficult to collect on, and ultimately more expensive to pursue collection considering attorney fees. Newsome will speak with the town attorney about other available options concerning this matter.

Roger Newsome Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon.

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 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