

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on February 13, 2023, 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 and Laura Dillon were in attendance. Roger Newsome, Jr. called in to the meeting to listen over the phone. Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue. Powell added that Newsome could not vote nor be considered present for “quorum purposes” should the need arise.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held January 23, 2023, an Executive Session January 25, 2023, and Special Meetings held on January 27 and February 7, 2023. John Harshbarger seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 2023-1 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION TO ARPA FUND

The public hearing opened at 6:03 p.m. with John Harshbarger reading the ordinance and explaining the ARPA money has been appropriated for use to make necessary improvements to the town’s water infrastructure. Richard Teusch, 280 S Clifton St, inquired about the condition of the water infrastructure and what improvements are planned. With no further questions, Harshbarger called for a motion to close the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Laura Dillon made that motion to which Harshbarger provided a second. Motion carried 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Unsafe Order of Enforcement 133 S Jackson St: Town Marshal Austin Bullock stated town employees cleaned up the property today since the property owner had not done so. Austin notified the Huntington County DCD and also sent pictures of the yard. Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock will prepare an expense list this week and give it to Clerk-Treasurer Powell so she can prepare and mail a billing letter to the property owner.

FEMA Buyout Project: Harshbarger stated he signed documents to close on 498 W McKeever last Thursday. Clerk-Treasurer Powell added that remediation on that structure, followed by demolition, will take place soon. She told council that 181 S Berry St remediation is complete and that Kim Hostetler is moving forward with demolition proposals now. Powell also told Council she has received all outstanding reimbursement money due from the state and that she asked attorney Halverstadt last week to prepare and mail the offer packet for Dana Howell’s property at 237 W McKeever St.

Waterworks Project: Council President Harshbarger addressed a room full of people on this topic with this being the first regular scheduled meeting since all three council members agreed to explore a regionalization option with the City of Huntington on February 7, 2023. Harshbarger explained the two portions of the project: (1) water distribution from Huntington to Andrews and (2) repair of the underground water infrastructure and remediation of lead pipes. Questions were taken and discussion ensued between residents and council on the waterworks project, various billing scenarios, and going forward what would become of the contaminated drinking water wells in Andrews. Both Dillon and Harshbarger reiterated that the state will not give the town a grant to remain autonomous as the state is pushing regionalization. Huntington has taken the lead on this grant application to expediently meet the tight April 1st deadline. There is no agreement on the table to be signed until engineering, grants, and financials are in place and independent legal reviews are complete.

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NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-02 to Amend Resolution 2021-10 and Confirm Intent to Purchase Real Estate was read by Council President Harshbarger. There was a brief explanation of the county's McKeever St bridge project and the planned use of a vacant lot east of 237 W McKeever St which would be inconsistent with FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program deed restrictions. Huntington County has requested use of this ground to use for right-of-way and staging purposes while constructing the new bridge. According to this amendment, the vacant lot will be excluded from the FEMA HMGP and acquired outside of the scope of the project, while continuing to pursue the improved parcel, commonly known as 237 W McKeever St, within the scope of the project. Laura Dillon motioned to pass Resolution 2023-02. Harshbarger seconded the motion, which was approved 2-0.

Ordinance 2023-1 to Appropriate Additional Funds to the ARPA Fund was again read to those in attendance by John Harshbarger. Laura Dillon motioned to approve Ordinance 2023-1 on its first read. Harshbarger seconded the motion, which was approved 2-0. The second read and final passage of this ordinance will be at the February 27 meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock said Deputy Marshal Platt's online ILEA training is currently underway. Bullock has completed setup of a GovDeal account to list the Reserve police vehicle for sale online. Also, spring ordinance violations will be written soon and mailed to property owners. Finally, Austin will be working with other Huntington police agencies to assist and participate in tactical and active shooter training in the near future.

Fire Department: Evan Schenkel and Dean Young both reported for the department, saying that some of the new gear ordered in 2022 is finally being delivered. In addition, Braxton Craft has completed training and is now on the road responding to calls. It was also announced that the annual VFW auction and tenderloin dinner fundraiser will be held on March 18 in Huntington.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said his employees have been inspecting and clearing blocked sewer lines. The pump at the WWTP is still being maintained for operation since he has been unable to secure the purchase and delivery of a new pump yet.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said there are ongoing discussions with H&H Disposal in regards to a contract modification concerning the total number of totes being picked up. She reported that the 2022 Annual Financial Report has been submitted. In addition, Powell announced that due to changing circumstances, the Clerk-Treasurer's office will be closed on Fridays beginning on March 3, 2023. The office will be open to the public Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CLAIMS

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by John Harshbarger. The Motion was approved 2-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before Council.

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Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m., which was seconded by John Harshbarger.

Approved this 27th day of February 2023.

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