

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD APRIL 10, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on April 10, 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, 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 March 27, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FEMA BUYOUT PROJECT

Demolition Bids for 237 W McKeever St were presented to Council. Laura Dillon opened the envelopes and John Harshbarger read the bids aloud as follows.

- TW Excavating - \$9,450.00
- Dirt, Inc. - \$10,875.00
- Amor Excavating - \$8,940.00
- Zahm Excavating - \$11,110.00

Council announced Amor Excavating submitted the lowest bid. Dillon motioned to accept the low bid of \$8,940.00 from Amor Excavating. Roger Newsome seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Powell will notify Huntington DCD's Kim Hostetler of the winning bid.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Buyout Project: Clerk-Treasurer Powell reported that demolition work at 498 W McKeever St should begin by April 18. She also said Andrews has not received any reimbursement money for the 2023 expenditures yet.

Powell informed Council that Eric Woodmansee was unable to attend the meeting, but she shared an update from him regarding closing out the CCMG 2020-1 (DC Construction) grant with INDOT. She also shared that AME Consulting is in the process of finalizing the sidewalk inventory for the ADA transition plan.

Speaking on behalf of Huntington DCD's Sarah Brunner, Powell relayed there would be no update this evening on the Unsafe OE at 75 S Main St. Property owner Elmira Castillo is unable to attend and she reported to Sarah that an engineering company has not yet inspected the building and interior design plans. Two firms were contacted but they were no shows for the appointments. Castillo hopes to have results with a third architectural engineering company later this month. The DCD will monitor the situation and recommends no action at this time. Council agreed to table the matter for now.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell presented council members with a list of five closed utility account balances she would like to write off in order to clear the uncollectible balances from the books. Each of the remaining balances are below a threshold where it is not cost effective to pursue collection efforts. Laura Dillon motioned to allow Powell to write off the 5 utility accounts as presented, totaling \$179.58. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock announced that tomorrow he will begin to write up and personally deliver notices on junk and debris violations in Andrews. Bullock then asked permission to hire a new part-time officer to fill a vacancy on the department roster, which was granted.

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He also shared news that Deputy Marshal Platt recently scored 100% on his physical tactics exam at the academy.

Fire Department: Treasurer Dean Young explained an invoice on the claims docket that is for a paging system used on their tablets and personal cell phones while responding to calls. In prior years, Huntington County Commissioners paid for the app but will no longer do so, passing along the expense to all the fire departments in the county. He also stated that Truck 201 has been in the shop for electrical issues and air brake problems. The AVFD will now focus on planning for the next Andrews Community Day to be held on August 19. Anyone interested in assisting should contact a member of the fire department.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock was not in attendance. John Harshbarger shared that locates have been called in along E McKeever St so the Town can make repairs with the septic main, possibly requiring assistance from a subcontractor to work as a neutral party independent of the litigation, and to expedite the process thereby minimizing the length of time needed for road closure.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said she has posted notice of a public hearing to be held April 24 for an additional appropriation to the LRS Bridge Matching Grant Fund. Money associated with CCMG 2020-1 has not been appropriated since 2021 yet has remained within the fund while the Town has sought resolution to the job performance conflict with DC Construction. Now that this situation has moved into litigation, INDOT has gathered the required information to close out CCMG 2020-1 and will soon invoice the Town for the unused portion of the grant money. Powell also shared quarterly reports are complete and she will begin the ARPA report this week.

CLAIMS

Laura Dillon made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. The Motion was approved 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Young, 450 Terrel St, stated his parents had recent septic issues at their home on State St and asked if this problem might be connected to the situation Harshbarger mentioned in the utility department report. After discussion, Council determined there is a likely connection to the damage discovered at E McKeever and State Streets which was caused by DC Construction in the CCMG 2020-1 Stormwater & Paving Project. Harshbarger said Andrews cannot wait for a lawsuit settlement and must now make repairs in that area. The Town will stay in touch with Young and asked him to save receipts associated with attempted septic repairs at 251 State Street.

Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main St, inquired on when to expect the sidewalk project repairs to begin. Council answered that the area would be inspected in May with a test repair on one section of concrete to follow sometime afterwards.

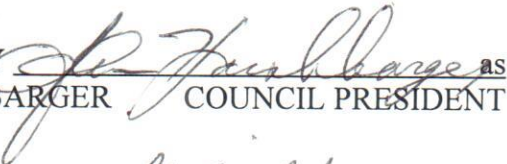
Neal Snyder, 55 N Main St, asked if the town gets paid to mow railroad property north of the tracks between Main and Market Streets. Council President Harshbarger explained the town prefers to keep that area looking nice versus what it would look like if left for the railroad to maintain, and that it doesn't take much time to mow. CT Powell added the town does not receive compensation from Norfolk Southern for this maintenance.

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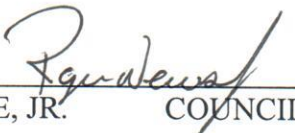
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With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 24th day of April 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