

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD MAY 8, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on May 8, 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 April 24, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Buyout Project: Clerk-Treasurer Powell reported that demolition for both 498 and 237 W McKeever St properties should be wrapped up today while noting a possible delay with the 237-property due to recent heavy rains. She also said that on May 3 the Town received \$55,294.06 in reimbursement money from the state for FEMA Buyout expenditures.

237 E Columbia St Unsafe Order of Enforcement: Huntington County DCD's Sarah Brunner conducted a public hearing on the OE, continuing discussion began on March 27. Hipolito Hernandez Rodriguez was in attendance, and Maggie Chino, an accountant and interpreter, representing Mr. Rodriguez. Brunner reported work has been done to the exterior of the structure, however no access has been granted for an interior inspection of mold, electrical, plumbing, and other possible structural issues. The DCD recommends giving Rodriguez one week to comply with the inspection, another week for the DCD to write up an assessment, and then all reappear at the May 22 council meeting. Before and after pictures of the exterior, estimates for electrical and plumbing were all presented to Council. Much discussion ensued between Rodriguez, Chino, and council members. Neal Snyder, 55 N Main St, and Jay Rhoads, 183 E McKeever St, spoke in favor of council working with the new land contract buyer, Rodriguez. Roger Newsome eventually stated Council should follow DCD's recommendations, to which Dillon and Harshbarger agreed. Chino and Rodriguez confirmed they would schedule an inspection within the next week. Council asked all parties to return for the May 22nd meeting at 6:00 p.m. for an update. Finally, John Harshbarger read portions of the Unsafe Order of Enforcement to document for the record that the deeded owner, 237 Columbia Street Land Trust, has not taken any action on the property in years, has also cost the Town money in attorney fees, and most recently failed to notify the Town of a land contract buyer. Ultimately, the Land Trust company, being the deeded owner, is responsible for this property's rehabilitation.

Powell informed council members that Eric Woodmansee would not be in attendance this evening. Regarding the 2021 Sidewalk Improvement Project, Council President Harshbarger reported that legal counsel answered back stating that contractor insurance does not cover defective work/materials, only negligent design. After brief discussion, Council asked Powell to look further into what the INDOT Performance Bond offers to help resolve the quality issues of certain sidewalk panels poured in November 2021.

John Harshbarger gave a brief update on the DNR septic proposal, saying there have been drastic changes since the last discussion with the IFA in 2022. After hearing the USDA's proposal in a recent meeting, John said the Andrews taxpayers will not be paying to hook up the reservoir to the town's wastewater plant and there would be no further discussion along those lines.

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NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-7, To Transfer Certain Unimproved Real Property to a Political Subdivision was read by Council President John Harshbarger. A brief explanation followed on the role the vacant lot east of 237 W McKeever St will play when the county replaces the bridge on W McKeever St. Laura Dillon motioned to accept and pass Resolution 2023-7. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

John relayed a conversation he and Powell had with The Zacher Company in Fort Wayne, regarding the former Kunkle Foundry property on the east side of town. After brief discussion, council unanimously agreed there was no interest or benefit to the town in acquiring the property even if it was given to the town at no expense. Powell was instructed to decline the offer should the real estate company call back.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock reported Isaac Brown has been hired for a part-time police position. In addition, the new police vehicle is here, currently at the shop for decal and equipment installation, and the 2015 Ford is listed for sale online. Bullock plans to write high grass and weed ordinance violations May 9 and junk/debris violations next week after the spring cleanup.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported all fire hoses have been tested and several replacement hoses were ordered. Jay Rhoads reminded everyone of the tenderloin fundraiser dinner on May 20.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock reported the summer mowing season is underway. The department also continues to camera sewer lines in town and plans to repair a couple of leaking water hydrants on Main Street. Finally, Bullock discussed a quote for \$62,530.00 from Peerless MidWest to replace the filter media at the water plant. The filter being out of service for two weeks was a concern as well as the expense. Council took no action on the proposal since the Town is awaiting news on the SRF application for regionalized water service from the City of Huntington.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said she received an engagement notice from the State Board of Accounts. There is no date set for the 4-year audit at this time. She reminded everyone that summer sprinkling credit forms are available at the office and issued a reminder to review the rules for the town-wide spring cleanup scheduled for Friday, May 12.

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

Laury Powell said she was contacted this afternoon by Dave Williams with the Culpepper Merriweather Circus, looking for a sponsor in Andrews on June 11, 2023, to fill an opening in their schedule while in this part of Indiana. Special incentives are being offered due to the short notice of their request. Dean Young said the volunteer fire department may be interested in the fundraising opportunity and said he would speak with the fire chief and contact Williams tomorrow to learn more details.

Jay Rhoads, 183 E McKeever St, made a complaint on a slow sewer and questioned if this problem may be related to the problematic CCMG 2020-1 project with damage caused by DC Construction in the area. Colin Bullock said he will investigate the matter.

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With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 22nd day of May 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