

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD MAY 22, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on May 22, 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 May 8, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

237 E Columbia St Unsafe Order of Enforcement: Huntington County DCD's Sarah Brunner conducted a public hearing on the OE, saying all property taxes are now up to date and that an inspection took place since the May 8 meeting. Of immediate concern to the building inspector was that the foundation was failing on both long sides of the modular and that the roof had wind damage that needs repaired. Other issues noted include a missing window, electrical and plumbing work yet to be completed and inspected before any interior remodel work can begin to make the house livable. The Huntington County DCD recommends a 6-month time allowance for all work and inspections to be completed. Land contract buyer Hipolito Hernandez Rodriguez was in attendance, represented by Maggie Chino. Chino stated that since the inspection, the roof has been repaired, and a new window is in hand but has not been installed yet. Much discussion ensued amongst all parties. A 3-step timeline over the span of four months was eventually worked out between council and Rodriguez. Then, Laura Dillon made a motion to have the foundation repaired within 30 days, with all parties to reappear at the June 26 council meeting, 6:00 p.m., for an update. Also, once that timeline is met, Dillon said the plumbing and electrical work should be completed and inspected in the following 60 days, if not earlier, with all parties to return no later than the August 28 council meeting, 6:00 p.m. for an update. The final step is to complete the interior work and any other items on the DCD punch list before a final inspection of the property before the last meeting in September. No debris should be left behind and the house is to be in livable condition. Dillon also stated that if the timeline is not met, demo may be ordered at any time. All parties are to appear before council on September 25 at 6:00 p.m. Roger Newsome, Jr seconded Dillon's motion of the timeline. Motion carried by a vote of 2 to 1. Dillon and Newsome each voted aye, while Council President John Harshbarger voted nay.

FEMA Buyout Project: Clerk-Treasurer Powell reported that the Indiana DHS will not reimburse county taxes. A request for 75% reimbursement of \$8,322.44 paid to Huntington County for spring and fall property taxes, in the amount of \$6,241.83, was rejected by the state. For council's information moving forward, Powell distributed a section of the original FEMA HMGP agreement that explains compatible property uses and allowable land structures or improvements for the acquired FEMA Buyout properties.

Eric Woodmansee, AME Consulting: Eric updated Council on recent discussions with Burt Blee and the Bond Company, asking for specific dates on when DC Construction last did work on the CCMG 2020-1 punch list in 2021. Any further claims the Town has paid to repair damage caused by the contractor should be forwarded to the attorneys quickly as the two-year deadline approaches to file a lawsuit. In addition, Eric reported that INDOT inspected the Main Street sidewalks poured in the fall of 2021 that now have surface damage in certain areas. Slopes, measurements, etc. all met ADA requirements, pitting was noted but not an issue per INDOT. Making a claim on the Performance Bond is the last resort to get \$40,000.00 to fully tear out and replace the pitted concrete panels. Council asked Woodmansee to clarify with INDOT one more time to confirm if the pitting is enough to deem the project as unsatisfactory and have them pull the bond.

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NEW BUSINESS

Council approved a request Powell brought to them from Scott Wallace at 117 W McKeever St, asking to have water service at 167 W McKeever St where he recently demolished a trailer. He wishes to have a water only billing account to allow him to tend to a large garden and an additional area planted with grass seed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock said the 2015 Ford reserve police car sold for \$9,800.00 on GovDeals while the new police vehicle is not in service yet since the light installation is not finished. The last of the high grass and weed ordinance violations were mailed out today. Ongoing, state mandated training is still happening throughout the early summer. Marshal Bullock next asked council for permission to bump up the payrate for part-time police to \$25.00 per hour. The budget appropriation would not be affected; however, the increase would make the job more appealing to prospective candidates. Council members unanimously agreed to the request and asked Powell to bring to council for consideration an amendment to the 2023 salary ordinance.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported the old fire truck sold on GovDeals for \$12,700.00. The money will be applied to the principal on the fire truck purchased in late 2021. It was also said that the tenderloin dinner fundraiser was a success, and that the department is sponsoring the Culpepper Merriweather Circus on June 11. Tickets are available now.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said he has contracted with Merrell Brothers for sludge removal at the wastewater plant, so a structure is no longer needed to cover the sludge bio-bags.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said she will virtually attend the AIM e-Budget Workshop tomorrow and Clerk-Treasurer School all day Wednesday. Also, the SBOA pre-audit forms are nearing completion.

CLAIMS

After questioning Utility Superintendent Bullock on a USA Bluebook invoice for wastewater plant supplies, 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 asked Utility Superintendent Bullock if he could get fill dirt from the town to patch up his parent's yard on State Street after recent septic line repairs. This was agreeable with Bullock and Council.

Laura Dillon brought up a request she received for the Town to consider making a dog park on the newly acquired FEMA Buyout ground. Brief discussion ensued and all agreed more research was required before committing to a specific and allowable use of the property.

With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.


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Approved this 12th day of June 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