

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on September 11, 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 August 28, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING 2024 BUDGET FORM 4

Council President John Harshbarger opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. and read a synopsis of the new budget ordinance. Powell stated there were several inflationary adjustments, especially with insurance, but the most noticeable change was incorporating the Fire Fund under the General Fund umbrella. With no comments or questions from the public, Harshbarger closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Laura Dillon motioned to accept the 2024 Budget Form 4 on its first read. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The 2024 Budget Form 4 Ordinance will have its final read and adoption at the September 25 council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Buyout: Powell gave an update stating that she received the last two outstanding reimbursements for the project totaling \$6,927.00. Another legal invoice is expected for attorney Halverstadt's time closing out the project.

Sidewalk Project Update: Harshbarger said recap negotiations are at an impasse with Bolinger Concrete as the contractor is not willing to provide any form of a warranty of the proposed repairs to the pitted sidewalk panels. Council wants a 1-year workmanship warranty from Bolinger on the repair to accompany the manufacturer's 1-year material warranty.

DC Construction CCMG 2020-1 Update: Harshbarger said the town is still waiting on DC Construction to provide an agreeable meeting date with a minimum of 48 to 72 hours lead time so Clerk-Treasurer Powell can post public notice of an executive meeting. This would allow all three council members to walk the East McKeever St job site with project engineer Eric Woodmansee, utility superintendent Colin Bullock, attorney Jared Baker, and representatives of DC Construction and their surety under the performance bond. The construction company's workmanship on storm water installation and road paving will be inspected and evaluated to ascertain what could be done to work towards a resolution on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Violations: Town Marshal Austin Bullock discussed with Council the specifics of two ordinance violations in town, asking for their recommendation in each situation. Council agreed all property owners should be treated equally and asked Bullock to proceed and enforce the town code of ordinance at both locations, 443 E McKeever St and 756 N Market St. Council also asked Bullock to inquire with the homeowner at 85 N Jackson St as to why the ditch is still open where new water lines were installed earlier this summer.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock had nothing more to report other than the ordinance violations discussed under new business.

Fire Department: Dean Young said the festival committee has voted to hold Andrews Community Days on August 24 next year to avoid conflict with other nearby events, and that the Fall fish fry planning is underway. Two reimbursement claims were given to Clerk-Treasurer Powell.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock discussed a Sommers Asphalt quote to refurbish the basketball court area and demolish the other half of the old tennis court at the town park. The quote was for \$14,725.00. No action was taken as the project is not planned until 2024.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said she recently received Certified Municipal Official certification from AIM. A certificate and plaque were displayed. Powell recently hired Denise McNally for the part-time utility billing clerk position on September 5. In addition, Powell received notice from Deputy Clerk Julie Bowers on September 10 that she is resigning. Powell reported that McNally is willing to assume the full-time position after her probationary period is complete.

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

Ray Tackett, 420 N Market St, asked to have documents, quotes, claims, etc. from each meeting's agenda business and department reports be displayed on the big screen in the council chambers. Discussion ensued. Council said images are displayed for certain presentations, when necessary, but all agreed it is not practical or feasible to comply with his request, or even possible since many agenda items are updates pertaining to discussions and communications.

Elmira Castillo, 75 S Main St, approached council for their interpretation of the engineering report she received earlier this year and advice on where to begin in refurbishing the 3-story brick building's interior. For professional assistance, Council referred Ms. Castillo to building inspector Greg Ricker through the Huntington County Department of Community Development.

With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.


[Signature Block Next Page]

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Approved this 25th day of September 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