

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

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on November 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, 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 October 23, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2024 Salary Ordinance 2023-7: After commenting this ordinance was first introduced and read at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Council President Harshbarger read the synopsis of Ordinance 2023-7 for a second time and asked if there were any questions or discussion on the salary ordinance. With none raised, Laura Dillon motioned to pass and adopt the 2024 Salary Ordinance on its second read, which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance Violations: Town Marshal Bullock updated council members on the recent violations cited at 756 N Market St and 443 E McKeever St. He reported that since the owner at 756 N Market St has not complied with his citation, the town's utility employees will need to clean up the property to bring it into compliance with town code. The owner will then be invoiced for the job and if not paid it will be filed as a lien against the property. The property owner at 443 E McKeever St still refuses to comply with his citation, nor has he appeared before council to dispute the order to cut back vegetation overgrowth from the front of his house and is now in jeopardy of being fined daily. He also told Bullock he has contacted an attorney on the matter. Bullock asked Council if and how he should pursue further action at this time. Laura Dillon said the matter should be tabled until the next meeting allowing time for the town attorney to review the entire process. The other two members agreed with her so the issue will be revisited at December 11 meeting..

**NEW BUSINESS**

Decorative Fence Request at 482 E Jefferson St was discussed by Council while referring to information received from the Huntington County DCD. It was unanimously agreed upon that to allow fencing in the town's utility right-of-way on this corner lot, across the street from Andrews Elementary School's busy entrance/exit, was not a good idea. Council denied the request. CT Powell will contact the DCD.

Eric Woodmansee updated Council on several matters that AME Consulting has been working on this past year, including the status of the Main Street sidewalk project dispute and resolution, the DC Construction work performance dispute along East McKeever Street, the ADA/Title VI transition plans, the Comprehensive Plan, completing the Asset Management Plan for LTAP, and a discussion he held with Mike Kleinpeter regarding a possible OCRA grant for sewer pipe replacement plans proposed by Colin Bullock.

John Harshbarger congratulated Dean Young on his election to the 2024 Andrews Town Council. Harshbarger then informed council that he recently learned the Town of Sweetser has a leaf pickup machine for sale and that Colin Bullock has previously stated it would be nice to acquire one for the town to save wear and tear on the septic vac truck. Dillon and Newsome expressed interest in learning more on the machine's condition and price so Harshbarger will follow up on his lead in Sweetser.



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Harshbarger next read a resignation letter from Town Marshal Austin Bullock, effective December 31, 2023, as he is taking a job with the Huntington County Sheriff Department. Discussion ensued, and then Harshbarger asked Austin Bullock if he had any recommendations for the position he will soon vacate. Bullock replied that he recommends Deputy Marshal Josh Platt, who is willing to accept the Town Marshal position in Andrews if asked. Platt was in attendance and affirmed Bullock's statement. Both Harshbarger and Dillon spoke in favor of promoting within, especially since the Town has invested in Platt's training and he has experience here. Laura Dillon made a motion to promote Josh Platt to the Town Marshal position beginning January 1, 2024. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 3-0. Next Council gave Austin Bullock permission to seek applications for the Deputy Marshal job. Bullock will begin admin training with Platt and will confer with town attorney Mike Hartburg on a possible conflict of interest for Dean Young who is interested in resuming the Deputy Marshal position in January but has also been elected to the 2024 town council.

Next, and according to town code, Clerk-Treasurer Powell presented several year-end utility account adjustments to Council for approval. One, a write-off of \$143.08 where the debtor has died and there is no known estate or guarantor. A second write-off of \$49.15 where it has been determined that it is not cost effective to begin collection efforts. Then an adjustment to the utility books for \$156.16 where the debt was documented as being collected through a property lien by a Huntington County ACH payment in December 2021. Finally, a refund is due to Charles Dobson where Powell found and documented that money was applied in error to his closed West McKeever Street account. Dillon motioned to accept and approve the list of utility account adjustments as presented by Powell. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Police Department:** Town Marshal Austin Bullock reported that the new body cams are in use for which Huntington County paid for. There is no delivery date at this time on the new dash cams. He also added that the Huntington County Health Department still as not inspected the two properties in town he contacted them about.

**Fire Department:** Dean Young said the fish fry had a good turnout. He also shared that Fire Chief Evan Schenkel is getting quotes on needed gear, so all volunteer firefighters use the same type.

**Utility Department:** Colin Bullock was not in attendance but had previously informed Council President Harshbarger that his crew is still trimming trees and picking up leaves across town.

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Laury Powell informed Council of a Boyce Software Agreement Addendum that would replace the current process with an autorenewal structure. The license and maintenance services will automatically renew for successive one-year renewal terms unless the agreement is terminated in advance by either party. Council agreed with Powell that this would streamline the process and gave Powell permission to sign the addendum agreement. She also said that her office staff will be attending online training with Boyce Systems in the office Friday, November 17. Powell reported that she and Laura Dillon attended an audit entrance conference today, and that at the conclusion of the audit all three council members will be asked to attend the exit conference together as prescribed in the state code. In addition, she shared that the SBOA plans to contact various elected officials and employees with a routine and confidential fraud risk questionnaire this week. Finally, she relayed that she has contacted Culp CPA to assist her with uploading W2 Copy A's and 1099s to the federal government in response to recent regulatory changes made that will not allow her to mail the documents in January 2024. The threshold of total returns decreased from 250 to 10 and the Town of Andrews typically mails 15-20 total returns each year.



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The Town's Login.Gov account will not allow access to the SSA Business Services Administration website or IRS Fire to electronically upload W2 Copy A's, while it does allow access to other Federal websites Powell works in.

**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.

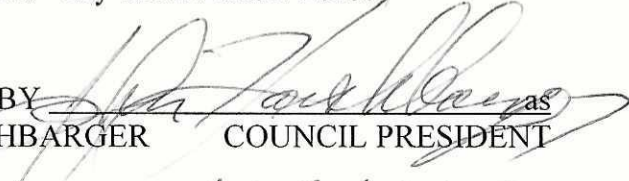
**OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick McCoart, 161 S Jackson St, approached council about a large water bill. He also shared a data logger he received from the Clerk's office that day indicating a cyclical pattern of a continuous leak at his residence, as well as his displeasure with the utility bill total. He claims to have no leaks or water softener in his home. After much discussion, council members agreed that Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock should inspect the town's equipment to rule that out as a possible cause and then speak with McCoart.

Finally, Council President John Harshbarger made a statement, saying that the Andrews News Page is a private Facebook page not authorized by the Town of Andrews or town officials. He said recent online discussions were censored with the administrator removing opposing viewpoints to what the Facebook group posted for public consumption.


With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 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