

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD OCTOBER 23, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 23, 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 10, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Buyout Project Update: Attorney Adrian Halverstadt brought in FEMA documents for the closeout process, specifically the new preferred form requiring John Harshbarger's signature after the sellers signed off. The last legal invoice of the project was submitted this afternoon for payment. The claim will be submitted to Indiana DHS for reimbursement.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Salary Ordinance 2023-7 was introduced with John Harshbarger reading the synopsis. After some discussion council members said they will review and double check the figures for accuracy before the next meeting. Laura Dillon motioned to pass Ordinance 2023-7 on the first read. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0. A second read of the ordinance is scheduled for the November 13 meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock gave Council a sentencing report regarding an individual charged with a Level 6 Felony possession of drugs. The Axon body cam equipment is now being set up, starting with new IT cables being run between all police offices at the town hall. Coordinating dash cams will follow along later. The police department will also be training via Axon webinars,

Fire Department: Dean Young reminded everyone of the November 4 fish fry at the fire station. The fire department has also begun to inventory their gear. Young then announced the AVFD is looking for new volunteers as their roster numbers are down.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said all utility department employees attended the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Annual Fall Conference in Fort Wayne last week. This week, plans are to begin leaf pickup and tree trimming in town.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said training continues with plans to read meters this week in preparation of the November billing statement. Delinquent account collections are going well with two on a weekly payment plan.

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.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Ray Tackett, 420 N Market St, had questions for Clerk-Treasurer Powell and Council regarding his rental property at 373 N Market receiving a shut off tag for non-payment that he will not pay. He said the tenant has moved out. Powell acknowledged her office was notified late this afternoon by that tenant saying she moved out recently and the bill will be forwarded to her. Tackett then initiated discussion concerning a resident's postal delivery issues at 331 N Market St. Much discussion ensued with Powell saying she no longer works for the postal service and cannot assist with this problem. A quick check of the Huntington County GIS website revealed the address is in their database, excluding that as the source of the resident's problem. Powell said from her prior work experience with the USPS, this resident must contact the Huntington Postmaster to resolve his delivery issue.

Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main St, had questions regarding the status of several matters Council has been working on. Council gave a quick update of where several issues currently stand, including the downtown sidewalk dispute, the E McKeever Storm Water & Paving Project dispute, and recent Notice of Ordinance Violations issued by Town Marshal Bullock. It was noted that the county health department is behind schedule conducting physical inspections.

Council member Newsome asked CT Powell when her office would reopen to the public on Fridays. Powell said she has no plans to reopen on Fridays citing staffing issues and observed low walk-in traffic. She also said her office hours are clearly posted along with the various methods available for customers to make payments on their utility bills. Her opinion is that most residents have adjusted to the new normal of 4 days per week, 8:30 – 4:00, and reminded everyone that many clerk and utility offices have gone to limited hours while others are not open at all to the public. The Police and Utility Departments both work Fridays while Powell uses Friday as a flex-day to work on reports and admin duties without interruption.

Dillon asked other council members if they should start the process for a water rate increase to bring it up to the state minimum requirement for grants or if they should let the new 2024 council tackle this matter. After some discussion, no action was taken by this council as they are hopeful of an agreement between the State IFA and Raytheon next year.

The new owners of the storage warehouse and associated properties at 136 N Snowden St were recognized by council, Robert Fate and Tony Alfrey, Jr.

With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.


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Approved this 13th 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