

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on November 27, 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 November 13 and an Executive Session held November 22, 2023. Roger Newsome, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Council President John Harshbarger began with a mention of the November 22 executive session meeting with an attorney representing the Town on the DC Construction matter. He said the discussion is confidential, attorney client privilege, however he would consider a motion to authorize the Burt Blee attorneys to proceed as discussed at the meeting. Laura Dillon motioned to proceed as discussed. Roger Newsome, Jr seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

Council member Laura Dillon then revisited the tabled Ordinance Violation Citation at 443 E McKeever St, stating that she had spoken with the property owner since the last meeting. He has spoken with his attorney on the matter and is prepared to dispute the citation in court, but he told Dillon that in the spring of 2024 he plans to completely remodel the front porch area thus removing all overgrowth from that part of his property. Town Marshal Bullock said he has the town attorney's approval on a path of enforcement including the accumulation of daily fines. After brief discussion, Newsome motioned to table the matter until next year waiting to see if the property owner follows through on promised improvements. Dillon seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Norfolk Southern Railroad Crossing Proposal: Council President Harshbarger informed those in attendance of a recent conversation he had with Alex Ricci of Norfolk Southern Railroad, where the Town was offered \$35,000.00 to close the Snowden Street railroad crossing with the railroad promising an additional one-million-dollar investment in upgrades at the Market Street crossing. Ricci said this is a joint safety initiative between INDOT and NS. Discussion ensued with not one person in the room in favor of the offer, citing it would affect emergency vehicle, school bus, and postal carrier routes. Snowden Street is also the choice path for mobile home trailers coming in and out of the nearby Living Waters MHP. The new owners of the storage warehouse on Snowden St were also not in favor of this proposal. Harshbarger asked for a motion on the matter. Roger Newsome, Jr. motioned to not accept the NS Railroad proposal and to keep the Snowden Street crossing open. Laura Dillon seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Next, Dillon said she was asked if the town council would sponsor the Andrews Christmas Light Fight Contest again this year. After brief discussion, Dillon motioned to approve sponsorship of the contest with \$100.00, \$75.00, and \$50.00 prizes for the top three winners. Roger Newsome seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Austin Bullock said he is taking personal donations in support of “Shop With A Cop” to be held on December 19 and Camp Hero which will be held in July 2024. He also reported that attorney Mike Hartburg confirmed there is a conflict of interest with Dean Young’s 2024 council member position while working for the Town as a police officer. Finally, Bullock said he is receiving applications for the deputy marshal position which are due by December 4.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported that Fire Pay Reimbursement has been submitted to Clerk-Treasurer Powell. Fire Chief Evan Schenkel continues to work on gear inventory.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said his department has been cleaning sewer lines and doing camera work where needed. There has been no response from Sweetser to his voice mail messages inquiring about the leaf machine for sale.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell told Council there are several 2024 board appointments that need to be made for next year and that Nancy Disbro, the Librarian at the Andrews Dallas Township Public Library, recommends Sandra Bowers be reappointed to her position on the library board. Council Members unanimously agreed to do so. Powell also mentioned the SBOA audit in progress and informed Council that Culp CPA has agreed to upload all W2s and 1099s to the appropriate federal government websites for \$12.00 each individual return. She also presented PHP’s 2024 insurance renewal proposal for their review between now and the December 11 meeting where they should consider and approve a plan for the Town’s full-time employees. Dillon asked Powell to schedule a meeting for insurance broker Carrie Rees to meet with town employees before the 11th to answer questions and hear any concerns they may have.

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

Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main St, made a complaint on debris and trash accumulating around certain trailers in the Living Waters Mobile Home Park. She said it makes a bad impression to anyone driving down Wabash St to the recycling bins. Town Marshal Bullock said he will address the trash and debris issue on the property with the owner.

With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

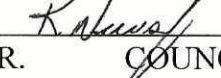
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Approved this 11th day of December 2023.

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