

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD JANUARY 8, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on January 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Andrews Town Hall in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members Laura Dillon, Roger Newsome, Jr., and Michael Dean Young were in attendance. Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Andrews Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell administered the oath of office to newly appointed officers: Andrews Town Marshal Joshua Platt and Deputy Marshal Charles Raber.

**ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS & APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**

Roger Newsome moved to nominate Laura Dillon as Council President in 2024. Dean Young seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. In addition, Dean Young made a motion to retain Hartburg, Roth, Garrott, Halverstadt, Garrett, LLP as legal counsel for the Town of Andrews. Roger Newsome seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Roger Newsome made a motion to approve council minutes for a Special Meeting held December 27, 2023. Dean Young stated he would abstain from the vote, so Laura Dillon seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dillon discussed the End of Year Checks APV Register she reviewed and approved on December 29, 2023. She made a motion for the 2024 council to formally approve the End of Year Checks APV Register. Newsome seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

Dillon then discussed a PERF Correction APV Register she also reviewed and approved on December 29, 2023. Powell explained that the Key-Pay software had a deduction transfer error sent over to the Key-Fund software, in association with one employee's new job title after 90 days. The books were out of balance between General, Water, and Wastewater although the monetary amount deposited with PERF was correct. She worked with Boyce to track down and correct the problem as she was unable to resolve the discrepancy on her own. Young motioned to approve the PERF Correction APV Register. Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dillon introduced Resolution 2024-1 End of Year Transfers to Balance the 2023 Budget, explaining that the town is required by the state to move money within a fund to cover any appropriations in the red at the end of a year. Young motioned to approve Resolution 2024-1 End of Year Transfers. Newsome seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Next, Dillon announced that council will meet at 11:00 a.m. on January 24 with the USDA in a Special Meeting, open to the public. The Town has not applied for a water project loan so the reason why the USDA asked to set up a meeting with council members is unknown at this time. Dillon reaffirmed her stance against raising water rates to build a new plant and wells outside of Andrews, or piping water in from Huntington, to supply safe clean drinking water to residents. The groundwater and public water wells contamination is a Raytheon issue. She would only support a minimal increase to bring the water rates up to a state minimum that would qualify the Town of Andrews for grants.



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Dillon also said that Dean Young needs to speak with Taft Law regarding the water contamination issue as well as Mike Hartburg on other legal matters. Council will schedule an executive session soon so they all can be apprised of the latest developments.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt said he is working to get Raber set up with log-ins. Also, he is looking to purchase two new ballistic vests, which can run at a minimum of \$800 to \$1,000 each, for himself and Raber. Platt is in the process of applying for a Norfolk Southern safety grant to help cover the expense.

Fire Department: Chief Evan Schenkel reported that several firefighters will have gear measurements next week. The department has recruited 3 new volunteers bringing the total number on the roster to 21. The AVFD is planning their annual auction for March 16 at the Huntington VFW.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said his employees are preparing equipment for winter weather. Project work is now complete for IDEM. He also reported that the leaf vac machine is now garaged.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that she has secured liability insurance for the new leaf vac machine and that the application for title and registration paperwork has been mailed to the state. She also said employee HSA money has been deposited at the bank. Quarterly reports are complete, and she is now working on annual reports in preparation for rolling the 2023 year over later this month. In addition, W2s were distributed to employees today. She then announced that the last garage loan payment was made on January 1, 2024.

**CLAIMS**

Roger Newsome, Jr. made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Dean Young. The Motion was approved 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mailed correspondence from several organizations was shared next, including Region 3-A, the Dan Quayle Center, the Town of Markle, and information on conserving Hoosier wetlands. Dillon explained past problems the Town had working with Region 3-A that resulted in lost money and the inability to have grant projects approved three separate times. Young said he recommends a pass on the offer to appoint a council member to the Region 3-A Board.

Cheryl Chopson, 212 E Columbia St, reported that H&H Disposal is breaking her tree limbs with the new lift arm trucks now in use. Ray Tackett, 420 N Market St, then reported that his trash tote lid was destroyed by H&H recently and that the town brought him a replacement after the company did not empty his tote set out with the broken lid. Discussion ensued amongst residents and elected officials. Newsome said he would contact Dan Stoffel over concerns discussed this evening.

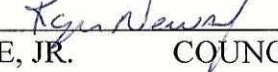
With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., which was seconded by Dean Young.


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Approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2024.

APPROVED BY  as  
LAURA A DILLON COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY  as  
ROGER NEWSOME, JR. COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY  as  
MICHAEL D. YOUNG COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY  as  
LAURY L POWELL CLERK-TREASURER