

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD JANUARY 24, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on January 24, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the Andrews Town Hall in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Laura Dillon and Roger Newsome, Jr. were in attendance. Michael D. Young was unable to attend due to a work conflict. Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

NEW BUSINESS

USDA Presentation – The USDA State Director for Indiana, Terry Goodin, along with the Northern Indiana Community Development Specialist Sadiq Dahir Edo Abdi, addressed Council, explaining that USDA Rural Development invests in rural areas with loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs, to encourage a strong community and to help drive economic security and prosperity. A wide variety of economic opportunities exist, including community facilities direct loans and grants, water and wastewater loan and grant programs, expanding access to high-speed internet, electric, and transportation infrastructure, and to support business growth, housing, and other community essentials.

Goodin says the time is now to utilize this opportunity and make an investment in Andrews, building on the strong points of our community. “Smart Growth” in areas where we can grow, placing an emphasis on a “regionalization concept.” The USDA designates Andrews as a poverty area, qualifying the town for the highest grant funding possibilities and lowest interest rates.

Council President Laura Dillon gave a synopsis of the town’s plight with the groundwater contamination and resulting unsafe drinking water, including four different grants for clean water that were all denied by the state despite being high on their priority list and the guarantee of substantial amounts of available grant funding from the state. She reiterated that the residents of Andrews should not have to shoulder the expense of bringing clean drinking water into town. The groundwater and public water wells contamination is a Raytheon issue for which the company should be held accountable, not federal and state agencies using taxpayers’ dollars. She only supports a minimal increase to bring the water rates up to a state minimum. It was stated that many residents have expressed their displeasure, and distrust, with IDEM’s stance that the town’s water is safe to drink and use for all purposes.

Terry Goodin said the USDA is aware of the contamination issue, but he is not here to address that situation. “Quality of Life” is his agency’s goal. Andrews is now at a crossroads and the USDA is here to help coordinate assistance from all other “letter agencies.” He would like to help us maintain our autonomy moving forward.

Council thanked Goodin and will take his information under advisement for future consideration.


OTHER BUSINESS

Eric Woodmansee, AME Consulting – Woodmansee informed council members he will be sending an email with ADA/Title VI attachments, in coordination with information on a proposed CCMG Application for Round 2 due in July. He has put together a 10-year program for their review and consideration. Eric is available anytime to meet with council members on an individual basis if needed, and to attend a special meeting or regular session to discuss and decide on a plan to move forward with an application.

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With no further business, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 12th day of February 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