

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on February 26, 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.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Roger Newsome made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held February 12, 2024. Dean Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2024-1 Amending Ordinance 2023-7 (2024 Salary Ordinance) was read to the public for a second time by Council President Dillon. The ordinance updates the list of Town positions and compensation to include a Water Litigation Liaison position accepted by former council member and president John Harshbarger at the February 12 meeting. Roger Newsome, Jr. motioned to accept and pass Ordinance 2024-1 Amending Ordinance 2023-7 (2024 Salary Ordinance) on its second read. Dean Young seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Co-owner of H&H Disposal, Dan Stoffel, was present to discuss monthly compensation to his company which is allowed under the current trash contract. Discussion ensued between council members and Stoffel about the residential trash service H&H provides, including issues encountered on a regular basis, with Stoffel concluding that for now he will keep compensation at the current 420 totes. Council agreed with his decision. Stoffel did ask for town residents to bag all trash and tie-off trash bags before placing in totes. In addition, totes should be pulled to the curb with the handlebars away from the street. Vehicles should not be parked in front of or in close proximity to the totes to allow proper space for the garbage truck's auto-arm to operate. Finally, CT Powell announced that May 10 has been selected as a tentative date for the annual spring cleanup. The updated 2024 poster is now under review with H&H Disposal for any changes from last year to the landfill's acceptable items.

The renewal of an existing INDOT Right-of-Way Bond was discussed since it expires on May 11 and will be necessary for any concrete sidewalk repairs made downtown along Main Street. Under consideration is whether to recap pitted concrete panels or if total removal of those panels is recommended, as well as the possibility of litigation against the installing contractor who has refused to work toward a mutual agreement with council. Council members would prefer to have quotes from a couple of local independent contractors before making a decision and Newsome stated he is expecting a quote from Stoffel Brothers soon. Young motioned to table the bond renewal at this time. Newsome seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

Information about Duke Energy's LED Light Upgrade Rebate Program and a budgetary estimate for the streetlights were reviewed by council members. It was noted that the LED upgrade will soon be required, and LED fixtures do offer several benefits for the Town. However, there were questions about the estimate sheet which outlined two available options and costs even though the program claims to have no upfront expense to the Town. CT Powell will contact Duke Energy's business customer specialist to set up a phone conference with Council President Dillon and herself to get clarification.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported his department has been busy with Deputy Marshal Raber's first OWI arrest and a large drug bust. He is also considering an order for body armor vests from a new police uniform and supply store in the Indianapolis area. Platt then shared information on a candidate interested in working as a Reserve Police Officer in Andrews. He is currently employed as a Sergeant at the Huntington County Jail and is a Special Deputy with the Huntington County Sheriff Department. Platt also said he recently inspected town properties and as a result issued several verbal warnings, mostly at the mobile home parks. He plans to make rounds again in March for second inspections. Lee Hampton and Jackie Irwin, 252 W Terrel St, aired their frustrations over conditions seen at the Living Waters MHP, formerly Antioch, just a few short years after the Town forced the prior owner to clean up the property and remove dilapidated trailers. It was discussed that state law enacted several years ago seems to protect MHP owners and have taken away local authority to enforce building codes inside mobile home parks. The Town can and will enforce code on junk and debris. It was recommended that residents contact their state legislators about the situation and express their dismay. Changes to this law are currently being considered at the Statehouse.

Fire Department: Chief Evan Schenkel said helmets and gloves have been received from a recent gear order, but they are still waiting on the coats and pants. He announced upcoming fundraising dates as follows: March 16 Auction at the Huntington VFW, two fish fry dinners on May 11 and November 9, July 20 golf outing, and the Andrews Community Day on August 24. Discussion ensued on town wide garage sales in conjunction with the Community Day event, where all council members agreed to waive the garage sale fee for those holding sales Thursday, August 22 through Saturday, August 24.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock reported he has been working on water loss audits. The utility employees continue to work on mapping lines and tracking down water leaks with an ultrasonic listening device. He added that Dylan Wilkinson will be taking the wastewater certification test again in March.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said the Annual Financial Report was submitted on February 20 and asked council members to sign off on the report after review. Powell also submitted the SAM Entity Registration renewal on February 21 for which approval was received today at 4:00 p.m. Vapor intrusion testing inside the town hall was conducted by Stantec last week. She reported that sealant around the base of one mitigation system pipe was replaced as it had deteriorated, leaving cracks for vapors to seep into the basement. Powell also noted that another pipe in the mitigation system has cracked and crumbling sealant that was not replaced by the Stantec employees. She will now wait for the air sampling report.

**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**

Easter Egg Hunt Donation Request: Laura Dillon shared a donation request from the Andrews Community Helpers, Friends of the Library, and the Andrews-Dallas Township Public Library for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held March 30 at the fire department. Due to a conflict of interest, Dillon recused herself from further discussion and vote. Dean Young motioned to donate \$200.00 to the Friends of the Library Easter Egg Hunt. Roger Newsome seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.


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Request to Vacate Alley: After reviewing Beacon GIS maps for the Olivia Eckert property at 186 S Main St, Council gave permission to vacate the alley with a possible utility right-of-way easement and for the owner to pursue combining two parcels on either side of the alley. Utility Superintendent Bullock will check the alley for utility lines tomorrow morning and report to Clerk-Treasurer Powell with his findings. She will then inform the owner whether a utility easement is required or not.

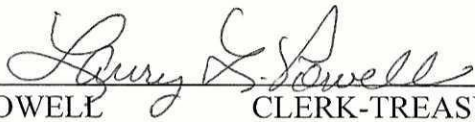
With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m., which was seconded by Dean Young.

Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 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