

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AUGUST 12, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on August 12, 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, Jr made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held July 22, 2024. Dean Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

NICK HANCOCK, HUNTINGTON AREA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Hancock spoke to Council about the need and benefits of locating a HARTA Trailhead for bicyclists on the west side of the county. A map displaying the county's bicycle trail system "Spoke and Wheel" design was shared, along with pictures of a Trailhead at Schenkel Station in downtown Huntington. No electricity is needed, but a concrete slab is required to anchor the Trailhead, preferably somewhere along Main Street in Andrews. Hancock added that access to parking, public restrooms, and refreshments would be beneficial to group ride participants. The Trailhead would consist of a frame displaying a large map of the countywide bike route, along with air and tool stations for the bicycles, all which HARTA maintains. The association is willing to partner with the Town in funding and fundraising efforts in support of erecting a new Trailhead, which comes with an estimated price tag of \$5,000.00 - \$8,000.00 for the structure and workstations. If needed, a concrete pad would be an additional expense. The Town has the option to seek sponsors that would be allowed to place their company name on the trailhead frame. HARTA is a non-profit organization and Hancock encourages people to visit their website to learn more. Council agreed to take this proposal under consideration for future action in 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Budget: Powell distributed Gateway Budget Forms 1 & 2 to council members, while she and Dillon briefly discussed the recent Budget Workshop held with the DLGF. The Form 3 Notice to Taxpayers is now approved, submitted, and advertised on Gateway for public review.

DC Construction Settlement & Mutual Release Agreement: Council President Dillon gave a quick summary of the document that Burt Blee presented to both parties to resolve a dispute over the work performed during the CCMG 2020-1 storm water project. DC Construction has already approved and signed it. Quite simply, the Town repairs the faulty workmanship DC Construction left behind but will retain the \$11,177.79 DC asserted and referenced as outstanding and due to them. There being no further comments or questions on the agreement, Dean Young motioned to accept the DC Construction Settlement & Mutual Release Agreement. Roger Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-4 Establishing a New Unappropriated Expense Line in the Police Fund Budget: Powell and Dillon explained circumstances surrounding the creation of this resolution, which originated during the recent Budget Workshop at the advice of the Town's new DLGF representative. Dillon then read the resolution out loud. Dean Young motioned to pass Resolution 2024-4 To Establish a New Unappropriated Expense Line in the Police Fund Budget. Roger Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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PT Police Wage 2025 Budget: Town Marshal Platt asked Council to consider and approve a \$30/Hr. pay rate for part-time police officers in 2025, explaining it is difficult to compete with private security jobs in the area and fill openings on his department's schedule. All three council members agreed with Platt's request and asked Powell to use \$30/Hr. for part-time police in next year's salary ordinance.

Deputy Marshal Salary Post ILEA Graduation: Town Marshal Platt initiated discussion on an increase to Deputy Marshal Raber's salary after he graduates from ILEA on September 20. Platt advocated for \$55,000.00 annually, as written in this year's salary ordinance, once Raber successfully completes Tier II training at the academy. Discussion ensued, but council tabled the matter for now saying that more thought and research was needed before arriving at a decision on his salary.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported that most all properties are in compliance after he recently issued high grass and weed violations to owners. Platt will follow up with one property owner that has not complied yet.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Evan Schenkel reported his department was called out for 14 runs in July. He also issued a reminder that Andrews Community Day is coming up on August 24.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock reported that asphalt work on E McKeever St is expected to begin next week, prompting concern to be raised with the upcoming Community Day events and a parade scheduled to proceed along that stretch of McKeever St. Bullock will speak with the contractor about the potential conflict. Also, since the last meeting, two lift stations have malfunctioned and required work. Bullock then said he expects to begin work in-house on the town's air stripper this week. Bullock said the new basketball court is lined out, but the outside boundary lines will be marked once the adjoining dirt sides are filled in.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said the town's liability insurance premiums arrived and are now paid. The total came in \$5,504.00 higher (10.6%) than last year, which is higher than what Mettler Insurance anticipated. She next asked council members to review a letter she drafted to the county's CEDIT advisory board, which she has prepared to accompany Mirriah Bigelow's forthcoming request for funding that the council agreed to support. Powell also reported that she has hired a part-time employee, Ardella Moriarity, to work as a part-time billing clerk. She will learn utility accounting basics first and then will perform internal control reviews on banking records and help provide coverage in the deputy-clerk office as needed. Finally, Powell said she and Platt have been working to correct a Comcast/Xfinity service issue that affected the police department's internet service. In addition, she has requested a review of both the Town Hall's and Wastewater Plant's Comcast accounts for plan savings.

CLAIMS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Laura Dillon shared news on several items of interest to town residents. First, the Solid Waste District Board members met today, and it appears the District has no choice but to pull all recycling out of the county once the current contract expires. Other options to recycle cardboard and plastic bottles locally are being explored. Second, the McKeever St Bridge Replacement project has been awarded to the County, with a tentative start date in 2028. Finally, in response to a recent fatal vehicle accident involving Andrews residents, Huntington County and INDOT are fast-tracking a solution to bring more visibility to a dangerous intersection at SR105 and Division Rd south of town.


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Phil Sunderman, speaking for the Lions Club, reported 24 Community Day Parade entrants have registered so far.

With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m., which was seconded by Dean Young.

Approved this 26th day of August 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