

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD JULY 22, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on July 22, 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

Dean Young made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held July 8, 2024. Roger Newsome seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

BOB JEFFERS, HUNTINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bob Jeffers introduced the latest draft of the county's multi-hazard mitigation plan, which was last updated in 2018, briefly summarizing the contents within and stating his agency works in conjunction with FEMA. Jeffers then introduced emergency management's deputy director, Thomas Fuller, who presented and read Resolution 2024-3 To Adopt the 2024 Huntington County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Dean Young motioned to pass Resolution 2024-3 Adopting the 2024 Huntington County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Roger Newsome seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Andrews/Huntington Water Regionalization Update: Expecting an announcement by now, no council members, nor CT Powell, have received any news on the latest SRF Grant Application with the IFA for the Huntington Water Regionalization Project, despite ranking #1 on the SFY 2025 Drinking Water Project Priority List.

Fire Protection Contract: Although Powell has not received any correspondence, Dillon reported that Dallas Township Trustee Sandra Bowers did acknowledge council's motion from the July 8 meeting, agreeing to a \$39,000.00 fire protection contract. Bowers is resigning from her position effective July 31 and has not presented a contract to the town for signature. The Town Council and a newly appointed trustee must sign a contract by the end of the year. Powell has included the new revenue figure in the 2025 budget.

New Basketball Court Update: A stenciling kit has been purchased and lines should be painted this week according to Bullock, weather permitting.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget: CT Powell presented reports and initiated discussion with council members and department heads on proposed changes for next year's budget. Powell's DLGF Budget Workshop is scheduled for the morning of August 1.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported that ILEA training for Deputy Marshal Raber is going well. Also, Platt plans to issue another round of high grass and weed violations in Andrews this week, citing a specific complaint for conditions at 175 N Snowden St. Finally, the first of three new security cameras has been installed at the town park and is performing well.

Fire Department: On behalf of the AVFD, Dean Young reported that the golf outing fundraiser went well. Also, the AVFD First Responders were on duty at the 4H Fair last night. Dillon and Newsome both agreed the town would sponsor the band "Unwound" for \$600.00, along with a children's bouncy house rental from Juergen's Hardware for \$538.00, at the upcoming Andrews Community Day.

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Utility Department: As requested at prior meetings, Colin Bullock presented several quotes to Council.

- Maple Street tree removal: 1- Tyler Hunt \$5,250.00 and 2 – Mike's Tree Service \$1,800.00, which gets the job. Council said to obtain additional quotes from Mike's to trim or take down other large, dangerous trees that are on Bullock's list to address.
- American Pump & Repair Service \$7,718.00 for a new submersible Solids Handling Pump at the Jefferson St Lift Station, which has quit working. Council approved this purchase.
- Peerless Midwest: \$88,711.00 RE: Rebuilding the Existing Filter at the Water Plant, which Bullock described as critical maintenance. After discussion, Dean Young motioned to accept the quote, payable out of the ARPA Fund. Roger Newsome seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
- Peerless Midwest: \$69,622.00 RE: High Service Pump Replacement at the Water Plant, which Bullock also described as critical maintenance. After discussion, Roger Newsome motioned to accept the quote, payable out of the ARPA Fund. Dean Young seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Peerless Midwest: \$44,628.00 RE: Refurbishing the Aerator at the Water Plant, which Bullock described as a necessary repair. After discussion, Council agreed to let Bullock pursue acquiring and/or fabricating the necessary parts and materials, completing the repair in-house in a more economical fashion.

Bullock expects a second quote for milling and paving a portion of E McKeever St tomorrow. He currently has one in hand from Sommers for \$36,300.00.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that delinquent account payments are coming in quickly after shut-off tags were issued last week. She also reported on a recent conversation with Dave Mettler as to why the town's liability insurance has not been renewed yet. It expired July 21, 2024, according to Powell. He explained to her that the underwriters are running behind and that there will be no penalties or lapse in coverage for the town because of the insurance company's delay. Mettler will forward the invoice to Powell as soon as he receives it. Finally, Powell added that she is scouting for a new part-time billing clerk.

CLAIMS

After questioning an Amazon Music Charge to Bullock's town credit card and receiving confirmation that Bullock is looking into how this happened and will repay the town if no credit is issued by Amazon, Dean Young made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome. The Motion was approved 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jason Oppy, 291 E McKeever St, discussed his utility account with council, for which the balance has been impacted by frequent readings of high water consumption. The cause of the unusually high usage, with constant to intermittent flags seen on the data logger graphs, is unknown to Oppy, who stated he has no leaks inside the house and that he replaced the service line to the house several years ago. Roger Newsome suggested Colin Bullock install a new water meter at this address to see if the erratic high consumption stops. Council also asked Powell to adjust Oppy's excessively high May billing back to an average.

Mirriah Bigelow, owner of The Place To Bee at 63 N Main St, shared with council obstacles she has encountered since opening her business earlier this summer. Equipment that came with the restaurant has either quit or is failing, causing a financial burden on the newly opened business. Bigelow asked council if they would support her endeavor to request a grant from Huntington County's CEDIT Fund to purchase new equipment and make needed improvements to the building.


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Noting The Place To Bee has been well received in the community and is bringing people to downtown Andrews, council members agreed to support Bigelow with her request, although at this time they could not guarantee a monetary commitment from the town itself considering other project commitments this year. Powell will assist Bigelow with contacting HCUED and acquiring the application paperwork.

With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m., which was seconded by Dean Young.

Approved this 12th 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