

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD OCTOBER 15, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 15, 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 and Roger Newsome, Jr., were in attendance, while Michael Dean Young was absent from the meeting. 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 September 23, 2024. Laura Dillon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 2-0.

**RESCIND PRIOR MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2024-4, 2025 BUDGET FORM 4**

Council President Dillon apologized for a mistake made at the last meeting where she allowed Dean Young to vote on the town budget. According to state statute he cannot do so, since he is a volunteer fireman. Powell added that she second-guessed herself and did not speak up during the vote, however she informed council members after the meeting of what they had done. She did not allow council to sign the 2025 budget ordinance on October 15, knowing the situation must be officially corrected first. The situation was discussed with the Indiana SBOA. Dillon then asked for a motion to rescind the adoption of Ordinance 2024-4, Budget Form 4 for 2025 Appropriations and Tax Rates. Newsome motioned to rescind Ordinance 2024-4, the 2025 Budget Form 4. Dillon seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2024-4, 2025 BUDGET FORM 4**

With the prior motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-4 rescinded, Dillon asked to have a motion to properly adopt the budget ordinance this evening. Newsome made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-4, Budget Form 4 for 2025 Appropriations and Tax Rates. Dillon seconded the motion, which passed 2-0. Newsome then made a motion to suspend the rules and approve Ordinance 2024-4, the 2025 Budget Form 4 on its second read at the same meeting, which was seconded by Dillon. Motion passed unanimously. Newsome motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-4, Budget Form 4 for 2025 Appropriations and Tax Rates. Dillon seconded the motion, which was approved 2-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

United With Love Mobile Food Pantry: Roger Newsome shared two quotes for 24' x 12' storage barns: Sunrise Structures for a wooden structure at \$9,230.00 and Walls Trailer Sales for an enclosed steel carport at \$7,072.00. Newsome also had a quote for a concrete base from David Stoffel, Inc for \$5,328.00. Discussion ensued over pros and cons of the two types of building construction and whether a concrete or packed stone base would be best suited for the project. Dillon and Newsome both agreed they should wait until Councilmember Young was present at the next meeting before making a decision. The matter was tabled until the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2025 Holiday Schedule: Clerk-Treasurer Powell said the Town's holiday schedule would remain the same for 2025. No change will be made to add Juneteenth to the list since the State of Indiana and most counties and small towns do not formally recognize it with a paid day off. Since federal institutions close for the holiday, the clerk's office will not be able to do banking or have mail service on that day.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lochmueller Group AMP Quote: Dillon explained she felt the initial agreement for \$4,70.00 was excessive for the scope of work to be done, and therefore negotiated with Anthony Goodnight to eventually receive a lower quote of \$3,000.00 for the AMP Update.



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After brief discussion, Newsome motioned to accept the \$3,000.00 Lochmueller Group Agreement to update the town's AMP for LTAP. Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2024-6: Amending Ordinance 2023-7 (2024 Salary): Powell relayed discussions she had recently with the SBOA and attorney Hartburg regarding missed component pay she was eligible for in 2023. The 2023 salary ordinance, that was approved in late 2022, would have required an amendment in 2023 to add a section for the clerk component pay. With the 2024 budget supporting the missed stipend, the SBOA determined that Ordinance 2023-7 (the 2024 salary ordinance) should be amended, adding a separate and clear notation for the inadvertently missed component pay. Dillon agreed with Powell's request, acknowledging the existence of Ordinances 2000-15 and 2010-2 authorizing Clerk-Treasurer component pay with certain requirements that must be met. Newsome motioned to accept Ordinance 2024-6 to Amend Ordinance 2023-7, the 2024 Salary. Dillon seconded the motion, which was approved 2-0. Newsome then motioned to suspend the rules and approve Ordinance 2024-6 to Amend Ordinance 2023-7 for the 2024 Salary on its second read at the same meeting. After the second read, Newsome motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-6 to Amend Ordinance 2023-7 for the 2024 Salary. Dillon seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

TWN Communications: Powell informed council of her recent discussion with a TWN construction foreman where she learned the internet company would like to install equipment on top of the water tower to transmit wireless "fiber optic" internet service to subscribers in town. TWN, a division of Heartland REMC, wishes to provide an alternative to the residents of Andrews but because of a conflict with Duke Energy, TWN cannot run underground fiber optic cabling in the town limits. Council showed interest in the offer, but Dillon said she would prefer to speak with attorney Mike Hartburg before granting permission to TWN to proceed.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported that radar certifications were done last Friday with all inspected and passed. He added that new part-time officer Wills has completed orientation and is ready to work. Also, he plans to purchase ammunition this year while prices are reasonable. Finally, he issued a reminder for all to not or leave keys in their car and to lock their vehicles as there has been an increase countywide with vehicle theft. Dillon then initiated discussion with Platt about ticket reporting and the revenue process from the county clerk's office.

Fire Department: Nobody was present to give a report.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said they have been doing sewer work and mapping for the lawsuit attorneys. Bullock also answered a question concerning an invoice from Mike's Tree Service and said the other quoted tree jobs would be done in November after the leaves fall. Finally, he said the leaf machine has been prepped for use.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that the Andrews Boys & Girls Club passed on the offer of donated playground equipment. The rough wooden boards in the equipment will be replaced by utility employees over the winter and it will then be placed in the town's park next spring. She then distributed a draft copy of the 2025 salary ordinance for council's review before she presents it for adoption at the October 28 meeting. Powell summarized her conversation with Mike Hartburg regarding a Notice of Tort Claim against the Town, and said the Mike Kleinpeter has all requested information from Norwood and Yakes to begin the income survey portion of the OCRA master utility planning grant. She informed council she has three days of ILMCT, AIM, and SBOA webinar training next week. Dillon asked Powell if her office was aware of the social media complaints about Friday closures and claims of lost payments in the drop box. Powell said the office has been closed on Fridays since early 2023 and the hours are



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clearly stated at the town hall's front entrance and on the town's website. Her office has not been contacted regarding a check payment reportedly lost in the drop box and she did not recognize the name Dillon gave her as a utility customer. The only issue Powell noted was on occasion, customers would leave their payment envelope in the outside mailbox instead of dropping it in the clearly marked mail slot to a secure location inside the deputy-clerk's office.

**CLAIMS**

Roger Newsome made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Laura Dillon. The Motion was approved 2-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Laura Dillon relayed information on a WHARMM meeting for all town officials that will be held in Warren next week. She also said the recycling bins are still in town on a month by month basis, while HCSWD attempts to secure recycling partners locally and GFL looks to acquire a Fort Wayne building to set up an in-house sorting and recycling facility.


Eric Coleman, 55 N Maple St, sought council's approval for an out of season pool fill credit as he recently suffered from an unfortunate incident leaving a large tear in the liner which lowered the pool's level to three feet. Dillon and Newsome both agreed to approve Coleman's request, asking Powell to see that an adjustment is made on his November billing statement.

Neal Snyder, 55 N Main St, filed a complaint on a pickup truck full of garbage at 133 S Jackson St. Marshal Platt will follow up on this along with other known issues at the location.

Braxton Craft, 87 E McKeever St, filed a complaint on a vehicle at 87 S Jackson St that has been left up on jack stands for an extended amount of time, appearing to be in non-operational condition. Marshal Platt will follow up on this.


With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m., which was seconded by Laura Dillon.

Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 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