

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on September 23, 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 September 9, 2024. Dean Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2024-4: BUDGET 2025 APPROPRIATIONS & TAX RATES

After noting that the 2025 budget was introduced with its first reading at the September 9 public hearing, Council President Laura Dillon read a synopsis of the ordinance and said she would accept a motion to pass the 2025 budget ordinance if there was no further discussion. Council member Dean Young made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-4, 2025 Budget Form 4, on its second read, which was seconded by council member Roger Newsome, Jr. Motion passed unanimously 3-0. Roger Newsome next motioned to suspend the rules and approve the ordinance at the same meeting. Young seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Finally, Young motioned to pass and adopt Ordinance 2024-4: Budget 2025 Appropriations & Tax Rates. Newsome seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Fire Protection Contract: Dallas Township Trustee Kay Schwob brought in a signed 2025-2027 Fire Protection Contract for the Andrews Town Council to sign. Discussion ensued on the prior negotiations leading up to the contract presentation this evening. Dillon, with the backing of the other two council members, said that while they have agreed to a lower than requested amount the Town would prefer to have a 2-year contract with an annual sum of \$39,000.00 over the 3-year contract brought in for signature. Schwob, along with former Trustee Julie Newsome, understood Council's point of view and will return with a revised contract for two years, 2025-2026.

United With Love Mobile Food Pantry: Roger Newsome again asked to have this matter tabled as he only has one estimate in hand and is still waiting for Tom Wall's quote on a barn / shed. It was also discussed that Wall should sign a Conflict of Interest form should his quote come in the lowest for consideration. All agreed that tables should be purchased after the building is bought, and the working space is known.

NEW BUSINESS

Braxton Craft announced that Matt Ditzler and the Huntington County Community Foundation (HCCF) have approved the local group's request for accreditation as a community foundation organization under the HCCF umbrella. Banking discussions begin next week for the newly formed "Andrews Hometown Endowment Fund" while the grant process begins in May 2025 with the first \$5K in seed money from the HCCF, who will also be matching personal donations given to the Andrews Hometown Endowment Fund. Craft said the local community foundation group is looking for one or two more people to join the board as members and are taking suggestions for "public use" of the funds in creating projects that would benefit the quality of life in Andrews.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported on a Bowen Center meeting he attended announcing a new program for people in crisis situations. He also said the Comcast issue was hopefully resolved today.

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Finally, Platt shared that Deputy Marshal Raber has successfully completed Tier II training and graduated from the Academy on September 20. Platt asked Council to compensate Raber with the advertised wage of \$55K going forward now that he is fully accredited. Young motioned to increase Raber's wage to \$55,000.00. Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0

Fire Department: Jay Rhoads announced that the AVFD Youth Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. They also have a fish fry planned for Saturday, November 2. He also said firefighters are glad to see some rain recently as the Fire Chief Association, along with Huntington County, recommends not burning anything outside currently due to the extremely dry conditions.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said the E McKeever St dirt and stonework is complete. He added it would be nice to restore that stretch of sidewalk leading towards the school from Main St. Discussion ensued on the use of CCMG funds next year to help fund such work, with Powell saying to be eligible for 2025 CCMG grants, the service of an engineer is needed now to review and write up data for the Pavement Asset Management Plan which needs to be filed with LTAP by December 1, 2024. In past years, AME Consulting has provided this service for no charge while under contract with the Town of Andrews. Dillon said she will contact Anthony Goodnight with Lochmueller Group for a quote. Dillon also added that the \$1.5M agreement between Lochmueller and the IFA is now signed. Finally, Dillon asked Bullock for his opinion on whether the Town should include all three utilities in an OCRA Master Utility Planning Grant or exclude the water because of the possible water regionalization. Kleinpeter Consulting Group indicated to her they are ready to move forward with the income survey portion of the grant process. Colin said he recommends Council do all utilities including water.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported mowing abatement letters were mailed today. She initiated discussion as to whether her office should observe Juneteenth as a holiday since the banks are closed. The matter was tabled for now while more research is being done to confirm 2025 Indiana and Huntington County holiday schedules. Two unimproved N Market St lots were discussed as it appears they will be offered up at next spring's commissioner sale after not selling at last week's tax sale. Finally, discussion ensued over a wood playground structure a local church is offering to donate to the Town. Council said yes, agreeing it would be a nice addition at the park, but asked Powell to first check with Karen Rice, as to whether the new Andrews Boys & Girls Club, in partnership with the local Lions Club, would be interested in having it at their location.

CLAIMS

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

Braxton Craft, 87 E McKeever St, asked the Town to help sponsor prizes for a Halloween Décor contest he is helping organize in Andrews, specifically first and second place with \$100 and \$50 respectively. Third place will be sponsored by the gas station with a large 1-topping pizza. Council members all agreed to support the town activity with prize money as requested by Craft.

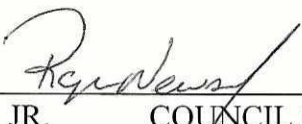
Laura Dillon said she purchased mums and placed them in the downtown planters for the fall season. Roger Newsome motioned to reimburse Dillon \$100.00 for this expense. Dean Young seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., which was seconded by Dean Young.

Approved this 15th 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