

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD OCTOBER 28, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 28, 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.

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL STATEMENT

Council President Dillon issued a statement concerning a matter seen on social media and the local news channels. A hard copy was distributed to all in attendance. There was no discussion on the matter.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Roger Newsome, Jr made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held October 15, 2024. Laura Dillon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 2-0. Young abstained from the vote since he didn't attend the meeting.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY DCD, KIM HOSTETLER

Hostetler explained several text amendment changes to be made in the HC Unified Development Ordinance which pertain to splitting a piece of land, involving the exemption clause definition and several subdivision control provisions within the Town of Andrews. The proposed text amendment received a favorable and unanimous recommendation from the Andrews Plan Commission. Council reviewed and discussed the proposed language changes with Kim. She then presented Ordinance 2024-7 Huntington County UDO / Andrews Subdivision Amendment to Council for approval. Young motioned to pass Ordinance 2024-7 to Amend Huntington County UDO Andrews Subdivision Provisions. Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved and passed unanimously on its first read.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Fire Protection Contract: Dallas Township Trustee Kay Schwob appeared with the new fire contract proposal that her advisory board recently approved and signed. She explained the document was changed from a 3-year to a 2-year term, January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. The total annual sum of \$39,000.00 will be paid in two separate but equal installments of \$19,500.00 in June and December each year. Newsome motioned to accept and approve the fire contract as presented. Laura Dillon seconded the motion, while Young, a volunteer firefighter, abstained from the voting process. The motion was approved 2-0.

United With Love Mobile Food Pantry: Roger Newsome updated the other council members on the two quotes received for the storage building to house the UWL Food Pantry operations in Andrews. The first was from Sunrise Structures for a wooden 12' x 24' wooden barn, with a door and no windows, for \$9,206.28. The second was from Wall Trailer Sales for an enclosed 12' x 24' steel carport, fully insulated with a roll-up door and no windows, for \$7,874.39. Quotes on base materials for the building were also discussed. Packed stone, which the town may already have enough on hand, would run \$1,500-\$1,800 while Newsome had a quote from David Stoffel, Inc. to pour a concrete base (required for the steel building) for \$5,328.00. Pros and cons for each building and base type were discussed. Newsome made a motion to approve both the Wall Trailer Sales and David Stoffel, Inc. quotes. Young seconded the motion. Newsome and Dillon voted yea, in favor of the motion. Young voted nay, not in favor of the motion. The motion carried 2-1.

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Clerk-Treasurer Powell asked for clarification, concerning details in the David Stoffel concrete quote, noting that both a bicycle pad and a base for the building were itemized together in one line for \$5,328.00. Council agreed with Powell's observation, so Newsome will ask Stoffel to separate the two different project quotes, and he will share the updated figures at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Salary Ordinance 2024-5: Discussion was held on salary ordinances in general, focusing on longevity pay, bonuses, and certification pay. It was decided that any restructuring of the Andrews salary ordinance needs to be made early next year for the 2026 salary ordinance, prior to the start of the budget season in May. Dean Young motioned to approve the 2025 Salary Ordinance 2024-5. Newsome seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Dillon announced the ordinance passed on its first read and that it would have a second read at the next meeting before approval.

Integrity RV: Robert Fate, co-owner of the business at 136 N Snowden St, presented to Council a Huntington County CEDIT Advisory Fund Grant Application, asking for their support of his request for assistance in funding a digital sign to be placed on Main St. He was advised to check in with the HC Development of Community Development first for approval, and then gather all maps, plans, and quotes for the project, before Powell could up a meeting with the county's CEDIT Advisory Board. All three council members were in support of the request, and they asked Powell to write a letter of support to accompany Fate's application to the county.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt said he recently placed an ammunition order and that he plans to issue new notices for ordinance violations this week. Platt reported that both he and Raber will work Halloween evening during trick-or-treat hours, handing out candy that was donated by a resident.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported that the Halloween Party was well attended, and he gave a reminder that the Fish Fry fundraiser is scheduled for November 9 at the fire station.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock said his crew will be working leaves for the next two weeks, or as needed in between other daily responsibilities. Council member Young initiated discussion on the lead service line reporting with Bullock. Colin replied that Ziptility completed and submitted those reports.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that she successfully claimed Wastewater money from the Indiana Unclaimed website related to an old AT&T account internet line credit. Today she was approved for electronic access at the Bank of New York website for quick access to the Wastewater SRF B&I and Debt Service Reserve account statements each month. She also said the November billing process began today, a new payroll begins tomorrow, and a quick review of last week's webinar topics were relayed to Council.

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

Cheryl Chopson, 212 E Columbia St, inquired about the early vote center held on October 25 at the town hall. Powell said she was told 302 voters came in that day.


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Braxton Craft, 87 E McKeever St, announced the first and second place winners of the Halloween Decorating Contest as the Abbotts at 578 E McKeever St and the Millers at 237 E Columbia St, respectively. Judging was done by Deputy Marshal Charlie Raber.


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

Approved this 12th day of November 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

The Town of Andrews Is Committed to Safe Water. We will negotiate, but we will not compromise or politicize health and safety.

This latest proposal from Raytheon is not complete and raises more questions than answers:

- We don't know if tying into Huntington's water is even feasible because the engineering study has not yet been done. As of now, the taxpayers – not Raytheon – are paying for this study.
- Raytheon says their \$5.8 million "contribution" will cover the costs, but a \$16 million dollar funding gap in the proposal could mean our water bills in Andrews increase significantly.

The Town's number one priority is the safety of our residents, and clean drinking water is foundational to safety and quality of life.

The Town's wellfield was contaminated by Raytheon's chemicals and remains contaminated. The Town has repeatedly requested that Raytheon move the Town's wells to an uncontaminated wellfield but so far Raytheon has refused.

Raytheon is pushing a proposal that involves the taxpayers funding part of the solution, such as the current proposal to tie into Huntington's own water supply.

The Town and its counsel are reviewing the latest proposal from Raytheon.

FACTS

- In 1992, Raytheon's corporate predecessor learned that its chemicals had migrated from its United Technologies Automotive plant in Andrews all the way to the Town's only public water supply.
- The primary chemical spilled and dumped by Raytheon was trichloroethylene, a very dangerous cancer-causing solvent.
- RTX asked for the Town's permission to TEMPORARILY install an "air stripper" machine that was supposed to remove the chemicals on a temporary basis, while Raytheon worked to clean up the groundwater. The air stripper is still being used because Raytheon has not cleaned up its contamination.
- The contamination is beneath dozens of homes in Andrews and has caused contaminated vapors to enter homes and the sewers in Andrews.
- The Town wants its own clean water – free of Raytheon's contamination.

The current Raytheon proposal fails to address five critical issues:

1. Does tying into the Huntington water supply pass an engineering study?
2. What will happen to the Town's water utility?
3. What rates will Andrews residents be forced to pay for their water, and who will set those rates?
4. Who will cover the cost of any repairs needed for the Town's water pipes?
5. If the Town's contaminated wellfield no longer supplies the Town's drinking water, will Raytheon agree to stop using those wells as part of its remediation system? **By pulling the contamination across Town toward and into the public wells, Raytheon continues to expose homes to the risk of contaminated vapors entering their homes.**