

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on November 25, 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 November 12, 2024, and an Executive Session held November 13, 2024. Roger Newsome, Jr seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

United With Love Mobile Food Pantry: Roger Newsome reported that the concrete pad was poured last Friday. The storage building was ordered on that same day and delivery/setup is expected within two weeks. All electrical supplies and labor for the building will be donated.

AMP/LTAP Update: Clerk-Treasurer Powell informed council that the PASER Ratings were completed on November 19 by Lochmueller. They will input the new 2024 data on the LTAP website detailing the town's asset management plan for streets. Powell expects to have complete files ready to submit no later than November 27.

TWN Over-the-Air Internet: Powell said she spoke with attorney Mike Hartburg about TWN's request to place equipment on the town's water tower. She learned a special process is required to allow this to happen since providing space on town property is considered a form of disposition. Council approved the attorney's recommended action and asked Powell to contact legal and initiate the process.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2019 HC EMS Radio Pager Grant: Fire Chief Evan Schenkel explained he was recently informed of an issue with a grant awarded five years ago to all the volunteer fire departments in Huntington County, including Huntington City. FEMA erroneously awarded \$194,000.00 in excess of a \$1M cap limit. Their mistake was identified during a third audit, and Huntington Fire Chief Tony Johnson has been asked to reimburse FEMA. Andrews's portion of that reimbursement would be \$25,569.58. Johnson has sixty days to challenge FEMA's request and has asked all grant recipients to write a letter in support of his challenge, explaining the financial hardship of making such a large payment that is not included in the 2025 fire department budget, potentially jeopardizing the safety of the firefighters and the community they serve. CT Powell prepared a letter for this purpose, which was reviewed and approved by Chief Schenkel and all three council members. The letter was signed by Dillon, Powell, and Schenkel.

Laura Dillon announced a special meeting of the Andrews Town Council that was called for December 16, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. by Lochmueller Group so to discuss next year's timeline of preliminary engineering activities for the regionalization water main coming from the City of Huntington.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt updated council on the status of several properties in violation of the town's disabled vehicle ordinance. In addition, he reported that all department training hours have been successfully completed for the year.



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Fire Department: Fire Chief Evan Schenkel discussed the 2024 Fire Pay Reimbursement for individual volunteer firefighter stipends, in the amount of \$8,780.00. Council approved his request and Schenkel said a Schedule will be presented soon to Clerk-Treasurer Powell for payment. Schenkel informed council about a new high school program being offered through the Huntington County Community Learning Center. The Fire and Rescue Class will give students the required training to become certified firefighters and first responders. With council's permission, the Andrews VFD would like to sponsor two local students to attend a firefighter convention in Indianapolis this spring for valuable hands-on learning and exposure to real-world firefighting techniques. Council was in approval of this request. Schenkel confirmed that Kirby Jones would reup his appointment to the Huntington County EMA Advisory Board for 2025 with Powell confirming John Harshbarger will serve another term on the HCUED Board as she will do the same on the HC CEDIT Advisory Board next year.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock was not in attendance.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said she scheduled a Storm Water Advisory Board meeting for December 9 immediately following the regular session. In addition, she has been working on the 2024 capital asset files in preparation for the Annual Financial Report due early next year. Also, she spoke with the town attorney regarding an employee handbook update that she plans to do in 2025. Meters were read today to create the December billing files, and payroll also began. Finally, Powell informed council she has been called for jury selection on Monday, December 3, and that she is unsure of her schedule for the rest of that week.

**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 discussed a brochure regarding a Council Member Virtual Seminar presented by AIM to be held on December 17. Interested council members should contact CT Powell to get registered.


With no further business, Roger Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m., which was seconded by Dean Young.

Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 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