

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on February 10, 2025, 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 motioned to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held on January 27, 2025, and an Executive Session on January 31, 2025. Dean Young seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

TWN Water Tower Lease Request: Council President Dillon announced that the council is moving forward with the process to allow leasing of space atop of the water tower. Discussion ensued amongst council members with all agreeing to the following details to be included in a Resolution and Notice of Request for Proposals.

- Lease term of five years with biannual payments.
- Option for up to four additional renewal terms of five years each.
- C-T Laury Powell, will be the point of contact, referring to Bullock or Dillon as needed to answer any questions she cannot answer.

Dillon asked Powell to inform Attorney Halverstadt of this evening's consensus so he can finalize the documents required to proceed.

United With Love Mobile Food Pantry: Newsome reported that Stoffel Brothers plans to pour a short walkway to the new building with leftover concrete mix this Spring, all at no expense to the town. They see this as an enhancement to the appearance of their work and functionality of the new building.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion ensued over a utility customer's phone call and refusal to pay a January late-fee, claiming he never pays late. Powell provided council with multiple years of account history showing otherwise. His request to have the late fee removed was denied.

Andrews Hometown Endowment: The Huntington County Community Foundation recently announced the creation of the Andrews Hometown Endowment, with Tim and Donna Deal recognized as donors whose generous contribution launched the creation of the fund. Braxton Craft, with the Andrews Community Foundation, a similar but separate program, was present but preferred to let Matt Ditzler present this latest program in-person to the Andrews Town Council. Craft said Ditzler should contact Clerk-Treasurer Powell soon to get on the agenda.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported that the long-time battery drain in the Reserve car has been identified and the issue will be corrected by the local equipment installer. Platt also said both he and Raber will be attending state mandated training soon, and that he is seeking other beneficial courses to take and fulfill the 24 hours of required training this year.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported they have been busy with medical calls, and fire runs, noting a firefighter injury due to a slip and fall on the ice at the scene of a recent house fire. All reports and worker's comp paperwork have been submitted to both the Clerk and insurance company.

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Utility Department: Colin Bullock and council members engaged in discussion with Michael Sarll again concerning a lateral septic line issue at the Karst residence, 31 N Jackson St. Council firmly denied financial assistance on this matter, providing documentation that it is the homeowner's responsibility for all costs and expenses related to the installation and connection of a sewer lateral, along with the maintenance of the sewer lateral. Bullock provided Sarll with additional contractor information for quote comparisons.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reminded council members to review the Employee Handbook in preparation of discussion to update the handbook with Attorney Rick Delaney. She said both the Annual Financial Report at Gateway and SAM renewal are due this month. She also reminded everyone that two vacancies remain to be filled on the Andrews Board of Zoning Appeals. Those interested should contact her or Huntington County DCD for more information.

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

Dean Young asked fellow council members about a timeline on a water rate increase to keep pace with operational expenses. Discussion ensued, with all agreeing the time is now, favoring a 3-year stepped-rate increase. Council President Dillon said she will speak with Attorney Hartburg to get the process started.

In reference to a prior utility department report, Young inquired as to whether the source of a 60,000 gallon water leak in town has been located and repaired. Utility Superintendent Bullock replied yes, except for about 20,000 gallons extra still being pumped daily, and added that most of the problems have been found in the trailer parks due to their poor water infrastructure above and below ground.

With no further business, Young motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m., seconded by Newsome.

Approved this 24th day of February 2025.

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