

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD JANUARY 13, 2025**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on January 13, 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS & APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Dean Young moved to retain Laura Dillon as Council President in 2025. Roger Newsome seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Young also moved to make Roger Newsome Vice President for the Andrews Town Council. Dillon seconded his motion, and it was approved unanimously. Next, Roger Newsome made a motion to retain Hartburg, Roth, Garrott, Halverstadt, Garrett, LLP as legal counsel for the Town of Andrews this year. Young seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Contracting and Nepotism Forms were also reviewed and signed for the clerk's files.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Roger Newsome, Jr made a blanket motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held December 09, 2024; a Special Session held December 16, 2024; and an Executive Session held January 9, 2025. Dean Young seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

TWN Water Tower Lease Request: Powell relayed information from Attorney Adrian Halverstadt on the process involved to lease town property and distributed draft copies of necessary documents for their review. Powell still needs to have an additional phone conversation with Halverstadt to learn further details prior to the start of this process and plans to have more information by the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 TRECS Contract: Powell reviewed how the program functions and that the renewal of this contract would allow Client Services, who already handle small claims court cases, to work on behalf of the Town. Last year the Town recovered \$887.07 by participating in TRECS. Young motioned to accept the 2025 TRECS Participation Contract. Newsome seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

Dillon introduced Resolution 2025-1 End of Year Transfers to Balance the 2024 Budget, explaining that the town is required by the state to move money within a fund to cover any appropriations in the red at the end of a year. Young motioned to approve Resolution 2025-1 End of Year Transfers to Balance the 2024 Budget. Newsome seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt recapped 2024 by sharing there has been a 15% increase in calls for service over the past year. Also, Deputy Marshal Raber has started a department Facebook page, similar to the Huntington County Sheriff's page, to post local safety information, such as travel advisories and road closures, along with weekly call recaps. Nobody can post except Josh and Charlie, and comments are allowed for now but may be discontinued at any time should inappropriate comments become a problem.

Fire Department: Dean Young said the fire department is planning an auction to be held at the Huntington VFW on March 22. Plans include a tenderloin dinner and a live band at the fundraiser. He also reported that Truck 203 has been in for repairs.

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Utility Department: Colin Bullock said even though the media filter change is complete, there are still reports of discolored water which is caused by iron deposits and sediment. The extra cold weather has become an issue preventing hydrant flushing. Doing so now would jeopardize freezing the hydrants and also leave water on the streets and in yards to freeze. He recommends letting the water run for a moment and it should clear up.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that after receiving INDOT's notice of inspection and approval for the downtown sidewalk construction, she had the ROW Bond cancelled, which resulted in a \$179.00 insurance reimbursement. She said \$2,545.63 in Special Assessment Collections were received for liens associated with unpaid mowing abatement billings. She also discussed her concern over a resident's inability to keep up with their utility bill in a timely manner due to unfortunate circumstances. She has referred this family to the township trustee and other county agencies for assistance only to learn they don't qualify since they don't have the children's birth certificates and social security cards. Personal health issues, finances, along with technological issues, have impeded progress in working with Social Security Administration and the county health department to obtain the missing documents. Powell said she has provided information for St Peter's Church, Huntington, in advance of an appointment the family has to be considered for a charitable donation. Also, a plumbing issue with an older toilet in this family's house needs to be resolved. She will update council on this matter at the next meeting.

CLAIMS

After Laura Dillon noted she previously reviewed and approved of the December 23rd and End of the Year claims, Dean Young made a blanket motion to approve three sets of claims for December 23, 2024; End of the Year December 31, 2024; and January 13, 2025. Roger Newsome seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dillon announced there will be a WHARMM meeting at the town hall, Wednesday, January 22, at 6:00 p.m. In addition, the Community Foundation of Huntington County is planning to hold a class for the county leadership program here in Andrews on Wednesday, April 9.

Michael Sarll with the Treaty Church of Christ discussed an extremely slow-draining sewer line issue at the Karst residence, 31 N Jackson St, that has plagued the homeowner since he recently purchased the property. The church is assisting Karst in identifying and resolving this issue. A contractor plans to jet and camera the line this Friday if the extreme cold weather breaks, thus allowing the equipment to operate properly. Bullock said he will meet the contractor and work together to determine if the blockage is under the road, requiring a cut and repair to the pavement, as thought by Sarll, or in the homeowner's yard near the side of the road as Bullock believes that tree roots are involved.

Newsome stated that electrical work is ongoing in the new storage building set up for UWL's mobile food pantry use.

Young asked Bullock if the town's wastewater plant is running tests for other entities at the town's expense. Bullock answered no and that he has been working with Dylan Wilkinson on quality testing training, involving paperwork not only from Andrews but also from other entities so to provide a variety of situations to evaluate. Dylan is currently waiting on a date to take the wastewater operator's certification exam. Young also asked Bullock about hours worked and timesheet documentation, and if he performs work elsewhere while on the clock for the Town. Discussion ensued over town policies, employee guidelines, PTO, and contract employment. Powell stated that Bullock does turn in signed timesheets to her and that he does not use all of his annual PTO. She also stated that he was using vacation time the last two weeks

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of December, 2024. She reminded council members that they will be working with Attorney Rick Delaney this year to update the employee handbook and any concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding town policy should be brought to Delaney's attention.

With no further business, Newsome motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Young.

Approved this 27th day of January 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