

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD APRIL 14, 2025**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on April 14, 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 at this meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Roger Newsome made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held on March 24, 2025. Dean Young seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Amended Resolution 2025-2 Regarding Disposition of Real Estate was presented so to replace the version of the resolution passed on March 24, due to an error with a date in the document. Young motioned to approve the Amended Resolution 2025-2, as presented this evening. Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0.

HARTA Bicycle Trailhead Update: Dillon shared that the Andrews-Dallas Township Library Board is willing to donate their bike rack, which is never used by children at the library even after being told what it is and how to use it. Council members unanimously agreed to accept the donation from the library which will be installed at the bicycle trailhead.

Next, Council President Dillon said that it has become necessary to do an operational raise to the town's existing water rates, as the cost of business continues to rise while the rates have not increased in a number of years. After discussion amongst council members, all three agreed to a \$10.00 flat rate increase to water consumption, with no changes to the Hydrant fee. CT Powell was asked to contact attorney Mike Hartburg about their decision to move forward. CT Powell did ask for clarification on the \$10 flat rate increase instead of a three-phase rate increase draft ordinance emailed to her by Attorney Hartburg. Council confirmed they wish to do the \$10 flat rate increase. Dillon added that nothing would change until after a new rate ordinance is introduced and public hearings are held.

NEW BUSINESS

Dillon shared that Huntington County was accepted into the OCRA RED program, with a kick-off planned for May 6th and 7th that she plans to attend as part of a team of county-wide leaders who will participate in the development of 5-15 actionable projects focused on improving quality of life in Huntington County. In response to a request from Erik Long, Elevate Huntington County, all three council members agreed to donate \$250.00 towards venue and catering costs of the 2-day program kickoff at the Forks of The Wabash.

A Recently awarded Huntington County Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grant from OCRA was discussed. For those interested, Clerk-Treasurer Powell had printed information to hand out.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Platt reported he is currently issuing junk & debris cleanup and high grass & weed warnings to properties in violation of town code. Platt then asked Council to consider giving Deputy Marshal Charlie Raber 3 additional vacation days, and 2 personal days, pro-rata time that should have been requested during Raber's first year of employment in 2024, but didn't happen. Precedence was set more than once under the previous town marshal for his deputies. Discussion ensued, with Young eventually motioning to grant the request for three vacation days and two personal

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days to Raber. Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0. Platt also asked for permission to begin training a new Reserve officer, Austin Oswalt, which was given by Council.

Fire Department: Dean Young said a tenderloin dinner will be held on May 10 from 4:00 to 7:00 at the fire station. Also, the department is holding a photography fundraiser May 18 at the station.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock presented a proposal for a water tower inspection in the amount of \$1,275.00, stating that the last inspection was done in 2017. Council was in unison with Bullock moving forward with the water tower inspection. Bullock also reported that the mowing season has begun and that the water department is still identifying and mapping lead/copper service lines in town.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said she attended a federal webinar in preparation for the SLFRF Annual Report, however, since then she has been unable to log on to the compliance reporting website due to the high volume of access and use at this time.

CLAIMS

Dean Young made a motion to approve the claims as presented, which was seconded by Roger Newsome. The Motion was approved unanimously, 3-0.


OTHER BUSINESS

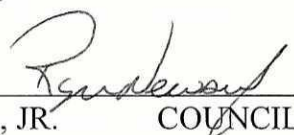
Phil Bitzer, Andrews Lions Club, told Council that an anonymous donor wishes to make a monetary gift to the town to beautify Main Street, or possibly the town park, with trees. Dillon suggested this could go towards filling the downtown planters with flowers for the season. Should the donor agree to buying plants for the planters, the Town Clerk will submit receipts to Bitzer for reimbursement of those expenses. He next asked what can be done to spruce up the appearance of the trailer parks in Andrews. Discussion ensued on state laws limiting what the town and county can and cannot enforce on the park owners.

Cathy Johnson, 215 S Main St, made an inquiry on fire hydrant maintenance in town. Dean Young, on behalf of the AVFD, and Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock both answered her question explaining flow checks are done twice a year and that an outside entity may be called as needed for certain repairs.

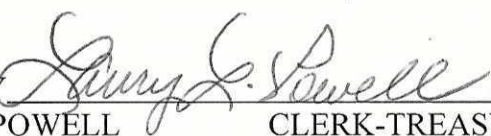
With no further business, Newsome motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m., seconded by Young.

Approved this 28th day of April 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