

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD APRIL 28, 2025**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on April 28, 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 made a motion to approve council minutes for a Regular Session held on April 14, 2025. Dean Young seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, 3-0.

**DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE PROPOSALS**

One proposal was received, which was from TWN Communications stating the following terms:

- Initial period of 5 years, with four additional terms of 5-year renewals.
- Annual payments of \$3,000.00 (\$15,000 for the initial 5-year term).
- Payment escalator 10% per renewal term.
- TWN does not require exclusive use, however they do request that there is no interference from any Tenant equipment after the lease is signed.

Council discussed as to whether this proposal is negotiable, asking CT Powell to inquire about that possibility with attorney Halverstadt. Young made a motion to take the TWN proposal under advisement at this time. Newsome seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Clerk-Treasurer Powell asked Council to revisit the water rate increase again, to clarify the terms of the increase as there may have been some miscommunication on the matter at the previous council meeting. It was determined that a \$10 flat rate increase would not be sufficient for the Water Operating Fund, so attorney Mike Hartburg's three-phase draft ordinance was reconsidered. The minimum monthly rate would increase by a grand total of \$16.60 for a 5/8" to 3/4" size meter over the next three years, with the metered consumption rates also increasing by a grand total of \$6.68 for the first 2,500 gallons of water used per monthly billing period, over the next three years. The Council agreed to implement the water rate increase as drafted by attorney Hartburg. They also asked Powell to check with Hartburg as to whether they would have an option to amend phase 2 or 3 as needed in the future.

Livestream Update: Powell said Ryan Smith finally contacted her and unfortunately, he is unable to work on this project for the town at this time. However, Powell plans to speak to Rick Elwell this week, with Stylus Technologies in Bluffton, who came recommended by the town's new Comcast government account executive.

HARTA Bicycle Trailhead Update: Newsome asked for two more weeks to allow time to receive a second quote for the concrete pad, adding that he has been in contact with Nick Hancock on the project. Powell said she composed and submitted a signed letter of support from the Town for the trailhead project, which was submitted along with a grant application by Jodi Coblentz to the Andrews Hometown Endowment Fund.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Young initiated a brief discussion as to whether a new trash contract should be pursued later this year; and possibly opting out of the last year of the H&H Disposal contract in 2026 with a more ideal proposal. All council members were open to this prospect but felt it would be prudent to review the details of the existing contract first. No action was taken this evening.



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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Department: Town Marshal Platt reported on recent training completed and additional upcoming training for his department. Platt is purchasing a new laptop for the police vehicle he plans to purchase next year before the prices go up. He next reported on a meeting with TextMyGov, who offers smart texting technology for local governments to communicate with its citizens. After discussion, council members concluded that the \$2,500 annual fee, plus a \$1,000 setup fee in the first year, is not justified by the estimated usage and the number of residents who sign up for the service.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported that department training is ongoing.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock reported that mowing is keeping his department busy and that they are still identifying and mapping lead/copper service lines in town, even finding a few leaks to fix. He also mentioned the new storage building, which is currently used by United With Love for their food pantry, is in need of rain gutters.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell said the 2025 SLFRF/ARPA Report is complete and submitted. This report will need to be annually until the Feds officially close out the grant. Her office is slowly destroying outdated records from the basement according to State guidance and retention schedules for the distinct types of documents. She also announced that she is seeking a part-time employee to fill in while her deputy clerk, Denise, is out on medical leave 6 to 8 weeks. This employee will also serve as a billing clerk when required to cover the office for vacations, training, and other occasions. She stated she already has 8 training webinars scheduled in April and May. Finally, Powell added that TRECS money continues to trickle in.

**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**

Edie Whitacre, 165 N Jackson St, expressed her frustration with the number of cars and delivery trucks using her driveway as a turn around on her dead end street, despite a sign being posted at the Washington St intersection. Her driveway recently developed a sinkhole that had to be filled. Whitacre asked the Town to help her, by placing a dead end sign on her property before the driveway. Young recommended posting a No Trespass sign at her driveway entrance on Jackson St. to enable police enforcement if issues persist.


Dean Young discussed vacant buildings whose owners neither maintain nor sell them when approached by investors. To motivate action at specific properties, citing unsafe building violations was suggested. The council agreed their goal is to see these properties repaired and occupied, enhancing the appearance and quality of life in Andrews.


With no further business, Newsome motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., seconded by Young.


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Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 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 I. POWELL CLERK-TREASURER