

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on September 22, 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 September 8, 2025. Dean Young seconded the motion, which was approved, 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Utility Planning Grants: Mike Kleinpeter, an OCRA grant writer, distributed several pages of information and spoke with council members about a possible November grant timeline and also explained three community driven events that are required to successfully apply for utility planning grants from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). The Council must engage residents to write letters of support for the Town's application, complete online surveys, and volunteer to serve on a committee with council members to interview engineering applicants. After further discussion, Council members agreed it would be in the Town's best interest to apply for grant funding to study all three utilities. Kleinpeter said the maximum grant amount would be \$90,000 for a three-utility study, with an approximate town match of \$12,500 which Council said would be paid out of the CREDIT fund. The project was tabled until the first quarter of 2026 to allow council members time to properly prepare.

2026 CCMG Application: Lochmueller Group's Anthony Goodnight spoke with council members about the CCMG application summary they discussed at the prior meeting along with recent legislative changes that will affect the CCMG program beginning in 2026 making the process highly competitive. Goodnight also presented an agreement for Lochmueller to provide professional services for the 2026 CCMG application's preparation and submission. Council members were in unison to continue moving forward with the project and signed the Lochmueller Group Agreement this evening. Goodnight also agreed to update the Town's Pavement Asset Management Plan (PAMP) on LTAP by the December 1 deadline.

Water Regionalization Project, Phase 1: Goodnight provided an update on ME Simpson's valve turning work this week. Additionally, he shared that the IFA intends to enter into a new agreement with Lochmueller Group for \$300,000 to further support the application process once the Phase 1 study is complete, as well as an additional \$250,000 to assist the Town in addressing any major issues identified with its water distribution system. This funding would also cover unforeseen emergency situations arising during or after ME Simpson's current project, should any problems result from the Phase I study. Both Goodnight and Kleinpeter said the OCRA three-utility grant plans are a great offer and open up additional funding sources for town improvements.

Second Reading of the 2026 Budget Ordinance: After being first introduced at the September 8 Public Hearing, Council President Laura Dillon presented Ordinance 2025-6, the 2026 Budget Form 4, for its second read. She noted that councilmember Dean Young, due to Indiana Code, must abstain from the vote as a member of the Andrews VFD. After confirming there was no further discussion on the budget, Dillon stated she would accept a motion to pass the ordinance. Roger Newsome motioned to pass and adopt Ordinance 2025-6: Budget 2026 Appropriations & Tax Rates. Dillon seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

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HARTA Bicycle Trailhead: Dillon said today she received confirmation of recent additions to the town's points of interest, for a total of fifteen. She believes the kiosk and map designs are ready to go however the equipment still hasn't been received by HARTA.

NEW BUSINESS

A draft of the 2026 Salary Ordinance was given to council members for review. Powell said it should be considered for approval at the October 27 or November 10 meeting to allow time for her to implement changes in the payroll software.

Council President Dillon read correspondence from the Andrews Elementary PTO and Youth Services Bureau. Council took no action on either request at this time.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: Town Marshal Josh Platt reported that DCD is waiting to hear back from the new owner of the 400 W Monroe St property regarding the vegetation overgrowth and unsafe structure on the premises. He further stated that the owners of 133 S Jackson St have received official notice of violation for their backyard. Should the owners fail to comply with town code, the town will soon have authority to access the property for vegetation abatement. Then Platt explained recent problems and repairs made to the Andrews 2 police vehicle. Finally, he said he contacted Norfolk Southern Railroad concerning the high weeds on their property.

Fire Department: Dean Young reported that the department recently did ladder testing and that all equipment passed inspection.

Utility Department: Colin Bullock reported that the nineteen stumps around town are being ground this week. Bullock and crew will also take down the ten-foot remains of a large tree on North Main St. In conclusion, he added that TW Excavating told him they are waiting to get topcoat from a local asphalt company to repair the three street cuts in town and was told the material is limited with select days for availability.

Clerk-Treasurer: Laury Powell reported that she received the new water rate file from Boyce today, and that she has successfully installed and tested the rates for all three meter sizes. She also said the Town's new IN.gov website should go live soon. Finally, Powell reported that Deputy Clerk McNally will remain off work for another three weeks per her doctor's assessment.

CLAIMS

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

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Neal Snyder, 55 N Main St, asked permission to temporarily close the alley next to his building for several days while a new roof is installed. Council granted his request.

Tera Roughly, the new director for the Huntington County Visitors Bureau introduced herself to Council and said she plans to spotlight the Andrews-Dallas Township Library and The Place To Bee soon.

Trey Wuensch, with TW Excavating, arrived late to the meeting and explained they are having supply issues with a local asphalt company and will go to Fort Wayne next week if needed to get topcoat to repair the street cuts they made for septic repairs.

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With no further business, Newsome motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Young.

Approved this 14th day of October 2025.

APPROVED BY Laura A. Dillon as
LAURA A. DILLON COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY Roger Newsome, Jr. as
ROGER NEWSOME, JR. COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY Michael D. Young as
MICHAEL D. YOUNG COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY Laury L. Powell as
LAURY L. POWELL CLERK-TREASURER