

Town of Andrews

Town of Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, August 17, 2023 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510

Town Council Meeting

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

The invocation was rendered by Evangelist Degoris Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone.

Town Officials Present:

Mayor Frank McClary

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee

Council Member Angela Anderson

Council Member Robert Ulrich

Council Member Amy Flagler

Council Member Robert Stamper

Council Member James Altman

Agenda Amendment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to amend the agenda to move item 9A Presentations: Recognition of the “Belles”, The 2023 Dixie Softball State Champion to the first order of business to accommodate the teams schedule of events. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert. Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Presentations

Town Administrator Mauretta Wilson recognized the 2023 State Champion Dixie softball team “The Belles”, along with their coaching coordinators. The Dixie Belles represented the State of South Carolina in the World Series. To acknowledge their accomplishment the team members and coaching coordinators were presented with a plaque, a large key to the Town of Andrews, and each team member received a Town of Andrews Shining Star Award in addition to other tokens. Mayor McClary offered words of encouragement to the team members, he thanked all the team supporters and the Andrews Community for the love extended to the team and for the financial support that afforded them the opportunity to travel to Alexandria Louisiana to compete in the World Series. Mayor McClary stated that this accomplishment is now a part of the town’s history and the plaque that was presented to the team will be on display in a noticeable place in Andrews Town Hall for all to see. The team and their coaches took a moment to pose for a picture with Mayor Frank McClary and the other members of the Andrews Town Council before leaving to attend their next event.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the minutes for the Monday, July 24, 2023, Town Council Meeting. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Monthly Bank Statements

The monthly financial statements were included in the Council's packet for informational purposes only.

Financial Report

Brenda Jackson, CPA for the Town of Andrews presented Town Council members with a review of the Town of Andrews Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual report for the month ended July 31, 2023.

Mayor's Comment's

Mayor McClary highlighted a few items in each of the department's reports. The public works department responded to 11 sewer backups, 13 leak repairs, serviced 15 potholes, conducted a 15-mile smoke test of the town's sewer line to include manholes and pipes as required by the DHEC consent order to confirm if there is any infiltration into the system. The smoke testing was conducted by SC Rural Water Association with the assistance of town employees. Thirty eight of the town's manholes were inspected during the month of July. The police department responded to 44 emergency calls to include a high number of burglaries and assaults, vandalism and a shooting. It was reported that the Municipal Court will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 9:00 am. The fire department participated in a community event at Spirit Filled Ambassadors for Christ Church during the month. The department was recognized for their heroic actions during the fire at Ashley Salvage store. The department responded to 51 calls during the month of July of which 26 calls were in the Georgetown County service area, 4 were in Williamsburg County, the remainder were in the Town of Andrews. Thirty of the fifty-one calls were medical calls. Most of the calls that the department responded to were medical related in nature, which emphasizes the need for EMS services to be stationed in the Town of Andrews.

Mayor McClary stated that SC DOT has identified five roads in the town for resurfacing: Martin Luther King Drive, Cherry Street, Butternut Street, Buckthorn Street and Ten Acre Road. A Rural Long Range Transportation Plan meeting is scheduled to be held August 28, 2023, at the Waccamaw Regional Council of Government Office, for the purpose of identifying additional roads to resurface. This will be the first time the town has been invited to the table for this type of discussion and input. Construction work at the site of the Beech Avenue Waterline Improvement Project is still on schedule. Mayor McClary cautioned citizens to travel Beech Avenue very cautiously or to avoid it if possible. He also mentioned that the town has been approved to move to the next level towards obtaining a feasibility study, to assess the cleanup of the abandoned Barrineau Station at the corner of Ashland Avenue and Morgan Avenue, however the town must obtain permission from the property owner to move forward with seeking funding for the project which will require the property owners' consent, but if the owner doesn't comply, then he or she will be solely responsible for the clean-up project.

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Mayor McClary mentioned that since the recent mailing of water bills the town has collected over \$153,000.00. In addition, the Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council has offered financial assistance to customers that qualify. In closing, Mayor McClary stated that the next two presentations listed on the agenda will be presented at a later date and time.

Old Business

Second Reading: Rezoning Ordinance Number 2023-06. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve Rezoning Ordinance Number 2023-06 an ordinance to reclassify the Zoning Classification of TM # 06-0017-001-01-00, the parcel of land located at 108 Eltaw Street Andrews, South Carolina and owned by Michael Davis, located within the corporate limits of the Town of Andrews, South Carolina from its current zoning of Limited Industrial District, LI to Medium Density Residential District, R-8 and to change the official zoning map of the Town of Andrews to so reflect. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

New Business

First Reading: Rezoning Ordinance Number 2023-07. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve Rezoning Ordinance Number 2023-07 an ordinance to reclassify the Zoning Classification of real property located within the corporate limits at 8061 Carberry Street known as TMS 06-0016-068-00-00, from LI, Limited Industrial to R-8, Medium Density Residential District, and to amend the official zoning map of the Town of Andrews to so reflect. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Establish Early Voting for the Town of Andrews General Election. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to establish early voting for the Town of Andrews General Election. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Mauretta Wilson stated that she attended the MASC Annual meeting that was held in Greenville, SC during the month of July. She elaborated on how she enjoyed the Small City Summit Session. She stated that the MASC now has three field service managers to better serve the needs of the municipalities across the state in the areas of educating, training, and ensuring compliance with state regulations in various areas of local government. She stressed the importance for staff members and elected officials obtaining specialized training to afford them a thorough understanding of their duties and responsibilities which will better equip them to serve their town and citizens to the best of their ability.

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She informed everyone that the results of the lead and copper samples that were taken earlier this year have been released and participants in the study will be receiving the results by mail. She announced that South Carolina Rural Water Association will conduct an assessment and address any lines that contains copper or lead, through a partnership program with DHEC. This partnership will ensure that all individuals who have lead lines are made aware of financial assistance programs that are available to assist with the replacement of such lines. The town will host a mandatory grease trap meeting Wednesday, August 23, 2023, for food operating businesses.

Ms. Wilson elaborated on the shortage of law enforcement officers across the state of South Carolina, it is very difficult to find interested individuals who want to pursue a career in law enforcement. For that reason alone, the Andrews Police Department is not the only entity that is understaffed. Ms. Wilson solicited interested applicants 21 years of age or older to apply for current job openings with the Andrews Police Department.

Ms. Wilson stated that the town is on track with its 7-million-dollar SCIIP Grant. She also provided and updated on the status of the town's website. She explained that the town previously signed a 60-month contract on August 12, 2019, for website services. Unfortunately, Covid 19 occurred and small businesses lost employees, deadlines were missed, just to mention a few setbacks, however the town was still engaged in a legal and binding contract. Therefore, the town could not engage in another contract with any other company because that would be a breach of contract thus putting the town in the position to be sued. The town has started a new process regarding a website and updates will be given throughout the process. Members of Council were made aware of the MASC Wednesday, October 11, 2023 MEO trainings and all interested in attending should notify the Town Clerk by 12 noon Monday, August 21, 2023, to register and to secure hotel accommodations.

Ms. Wilson also mentioned that there were 320 account records that did not transfer during the recent billing process, thus no water bills generated for those accounts. This was a result of a corrupted file which hindered the transfer of data between several pieces of equipment. These account will have to be billed to the same standard as others for the billing periods that were missed. Ms. Wilson explained that nine months of billings were missed throughout this ordeal, but the town is only capturing six months. In closing, Ms. Wilson shared the election report of individuals who signed up for the November 7, 2023, General Election. Eight candidates signed up to run for office: two for mayor and six for council members.

Citizens' Comments

Abe Thietten 304 N. Farr Avenue: Spoke to Council about Tyler Technologies. Tyler Technologies provides software and credit card services to clients across the United States. The company also provides the capability for customers to make of online payments for utility bills, develop websites and maintain the hosting of websites at no cost to the client, If the town chooses to enter into an agreement with Tyler for these services, there would no cost because it's included in the state of South Carolina contract.

Kandy Thietten 304 N. Farr Avenue: Came before Council stating that she is not here to blame or accuse the Town Clerk or town employees, they have been very helpful working with what they have and following their instructions. She mentioned that a resident of Andrews decided that she wanted to see

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the town ordinances, the citizen went to Town Hall and was given a FOIA form to complete and was charged \$60.25 for the requested copies. She then passed the copies along to another resident who paid the UPS Store \$148.00 to have the printed copies converted into PDF form. A review of the documents indicated that the final amendment was added in October of 2021. She stated that a section of the code states that an official copy of the code should be filed in the office of the Town Clerk and made available to people desiring to examine the same. It should be the responsibility of the Town Clerk to ensure that all subsequent amendments to the codes are inserted into the codes and distributed to all holders of the code. She stated that she actually came to Town Hall to see if she could get the ordinances and she was given a FOIA form to complete. She stated that she was later contacted by the Town Clerk to schedule an appointment to see the ordinances. However, when she came in, she was able to review the codes, but no amendments were included. She stated that she asked to see the amendments but was told that they were unavailable. She expressed her concern with a governing body expecting its citizens to obey laws that are not made available or known to them. She added that if the town had a website the ordinance could be made available online for all to view. In response Mayor McClary stated that he was not aware of any citizens being charged to receive a copy of the towns ordinances nor is it in our policy or by ordinance that a charge will be imposed for receiving copies of ordinances. He further stated that the citizen that was charged will be reimbursed. Mayor Mclary publicly apologized for that error. He stated that there should never be a charge for receiving copies of information that could be available online.

Jennifer Hunt 207 S. Farr Avenue: Stood before Town Council and requested that Elmwood Street be added to the listing of roads for resurfacing consideration. She added that she's manages the Andrews, SC Facebook page and Andrews SC News. Ms. Hunt is currently working with GAB News and The Post and Courier, Newspaper. Her goal is to report what is going on in Andrews to the people in a civil and unbiased manner. She added that she would like to interview all the candidates for the upcoming general election. All candidates would be provided with the questions prior to the interview. She asked if she could obtain the starting salary for patrol officers within the APD. Mayor McClary stated that the officer's starting pay is \$40,000.00 annually which is a significant increase as compared to that of previous years. Mayor McClary added that pay increases are included in the APD budget, annually.

Leather Palmer 427 E. Cherry Street stood before council and thanked everyone for all they are doing. She stated that when she received her water bill she did not complain because she knew the actual amount of water she was using while not receiving a bill. She congratulated everyone for all that they do under challenging circumstances. In closing, she volunteered her services if they are ever needed.

Council Reports

Council Member Robert stamper inquired if it is a mandate for businesses to have grease traps. Ms. Wilson explained that grease traps are mandated by DHEC. He thanked all the town employees for their hard work and that they let safety be their top priority.

Council Member Amy Flagler, no report.

Council Member Angela Anderson inquired about the qualifications to apply for accommodation tax funding. Ms. Wilson stated that any organization can apply to Georgetown County for accommodation

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tax funds. Ms. Anderson announced that adult education courses will be offered Monday through Thursday for three hours at the Andrews Library starting after Labor Day. She thanked all the Town of Andrews employees for doing a great job.

Council Member James Altman elaborated about the salary for law enforcement officers and how difficult it was in 1993 to recruit and retain officers when he worked in that line of duty. He spoke about the difficulty that agencies are experiencing when it comes to seeking good recruits and retaining them, especially in small towns.

Council Member Robert Ulrich voiced concerns with four fire hydrants he has identified in town that are inoperable. He stressed the importance of the public works staff using a trench box in areas when they are working in spaces at least 4ft deep. He asked if the food trucks that are in town required to have a business license. The Town Administrator responded that all food trucks are required to obtain a business license. If a food truck is identified as operating without a license they are immediately shut down until they are compliant with the town's business license ordinance. He stressed that the town must become creative with ideas to recruit applicants for the police department. He asked if there were any benchmarks in place with the company contracted to design a website for the town. Ms. Wilson replied yes, there were benchmarks set up. He further asked if there was dialog to discuss these issues. Ms. Wilson said there was dialog between both parties.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee reported that he attended the MASC Annual meeting in Greenville, SC during the month of July. He stated that he makes it a priority to attend all the training sessions offered through the MASC. He shared with everyone some highlights from several of the training sessions he attended. When elected officials' actions demonstrate civility and respect it will lead to positive things happening. He stated that he met the Mayor of Edisto Beach, Crawford Moore, whose family owned the B.C Moore's line of stores. In conclusion he highlighted new regulations regarding squat trucks is now being enforced.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to enter executive session Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70 (A) In Accordance with section 30-4-70 (a)(2) Contractual Matter: Discussion pertaining to the Administration Department Contractual Services.

Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson and seconded by Council Member Robert Stamper to come out of executive session, all in favor motion.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson and seconded by Council member Robert Ulrich to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.