

Town of Andrews

Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2022 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Invocation was rendered by Chaplain 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 Amy Flagler

Council Member Robert Stamper

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Amy Flagler to approve the Thursday, September 22, 2022 Town Council Meeting minutes. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

Mayor's Comments

Mayor McClary announced that several meetings will be held November 1-3, 2022 to discuss the preliminary ideas for a vision plan for the Town of Andrews. The time and location for the meetings will be announced at a later time. The Town of Andrews, streets and sanitation department will host a fall clean-up on November 18-19, 2022 to pick up small yard debris. Mayor McClary presented Felitcha Pinckney with the Town of Andrews Shining Star Award in appreciation for her dedication and hard work in securing funds and leading the Andrew High School Alumni campaign that raised \$21,000.00 to purchase two yellow jackets mascots that were displayed on the grounds of the school. Andrews High School Varsity Football player She'fon Boyd was also presented with a Town of Andrews Shining Star Award in honor of his outstanding accomplishments on the football field. Mr. Boyd was the only player from Andrews High School selected for the North-South All Star Team. Quandre Green, an honor graduate of the University of South Carolina and Elizabeth State University currently holds the position as the parent facilitator for Andrews High School. Mr. Green came before the Andrews Town Council to introduce himself and to inform the citizens of his responsibilities as school parent facilitator. His goal is to bridge the gap between the school, parents and the community in an effort to promote the shared mission to provide the best education possible for students with the involvement of the community. He stated that the school will host monthly community meetings on the first Tuesday and second Wednesday of each month at 6p.m.; FAFSA Night; Curriculum Night; Title One Night and Technology classes in an effort to get

Town of Andrews
Town Council Meeting minutes
October 20, 2022
Page 2

parents involved and to participate in their children's education. He also mentioned that he is responsible for publishing the Andrew High School monthly newsletter.

Mayor McClary spoke to the citizens about a newly established gun violence prevention program that he and several concerned citizens have coordinated to implement in an effort to address the gun violence issues that is on the rise all across America. The mission of the organization is to educate the public on gun violence safety, to promote gun violence awareness, to provide training to those who have traveled down the wrong road in life, and educate them on how to return to society and become productive and outstanding citizens

Mayor McClary addressed the water bill issues by informing the citizens that if there is an issue with their water bill, they are to contact the front office at Town Hall so that the concern is documented and investigated. The staff has the ability to perform a data study on water meters to obtain a 30 day history, indicating the gallons of water used hour by hour that can be compared to the latest reading pulled from the meter. This information is helpful in determining the accuracy or inaccuracy in meter readings. He further stated that during this process no late penalties will be assessed nor any disconnections of services will occur until the entire water meter reading process is back on schedule.

Mayor McClary introduced Dr. Maria Whitehead of the Open Space Institute and Erin Pate, a consultant of the Open Space Institute. These two ladies provided an update to Andrews Town Council on the Black River State Park and the Town of Andrews involvement as it relates to the development of the vision/economic development plan for the Town. This park network includes a new state park, private, state and county parks along the way. It expands from Kingstree along seventy miles of the Black River all the way to Rocky Point Forest in Georgia. They shared the details and a copy of the master plan for this project with Town Council. The land has been acquired, the plan designed and it's time to get the Town of Andrews involved. The Town will host community engagement meetings November 1-3, 2022, to receive input from the citizens on their desires or interest as it pertains to economic growth and the development of a vision plan for the Town.

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 three months ended September 30, 2022. Council Member Robert Stamper questioned the approval of line-item number 7003 on page 166 of the report that stated the Town paid GMK \$500,000.00 for amount owed to subcontractor which worked on the Municipal Complex. Mrs. Jackson explained that the payment was made out of the Town's fund balance following the Executive Session discussion during the August 18, 2022 Regular Council Meeting regarding the Municipal Complex. Council member Stamper said he remembers the meeting and the discussion but he doesn't recall Town Council voting to approve the \$500,000.00 expenditure. He only recalls Town Council approving the Administration to look for financing options to pay the outstanding

Town of Andrews
Town Council Meeting minutes
October 20, 2022
Page 3

balance owed to the subcontractors and to inform Town Council of their findings for their consideration. Town Administrator Mauretta Wilson stated that Town Council voted to pay the outstanding invoices in the amount of \$500,000.00 out of the Town's fund balance and to seek other financing options for the remaining balance owed. Council Member Anderson stated that she agrees with the statement made by Council Member Robert Stamper that Town Council voted and it was approved for the Administration to look for financing options and update Town Council of the findings for their consideration. The discussion was in Executive Session and the motion voted on during the regular meeting was to allow the Administration to seek financing options and update Town Council of the findings. Mayor McClary informed the Town Clerk to pull the recording from the August 18, 2022 Regular Town Council meeting and if necessary, a Call meeting will be scheduled to further discuss this matter.

Old Business

Second Reading of Town of Andrews Zoning Ordinance No. 2022-05; Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angel Anderson to approve the second reading of the Town of Andrews Zoning Ordinance Number 2022-05; an ordinance to reclassify 1.60 acres located at 104 Eltaw Street known as TMS 06-0017-001-00-00, 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 Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

Addy Bydric resident of 413 South Beech Avenue: Ms. Bydric stood before Town Council and expressed concerns about her water bill being extremely high.

Allison Newton of 502 South Beech Avenue: Ms. Newton came before Town Council voicing her opinion that the citizens of the Town of Andrews need a safer environment in which to live and a sustainable water and sewer system. She added that she recently received a \$38,000.00 water bill that included inadequate reading dates. She asked for an update on the process of hiring a police chief. Mayor McClary reminded Ms. Newton that she already reported her water bills issue to the water department and that the concerns are currently being reviewed. The new police chief has been selected and will be reporting for duty on tomorrow. Ms. Newton also spoke about the safety of all citizens and police officers are in jeopardy due to the fact that only one officer is assigned to a shift. Mayor McClary acknowledged that there is a staff shortage in the APD; however the process of recruiting and hiring additional officers is ongoing and of the Andrews Police Department is receiving assistance from the county and state agencies.

Jerry Price of 202 North Morgan Avenue: Mr. Price came before Town Council voicing concerns about his water bill and his inability to get someone from the water department to answer specific questions regarding the computation of his bill. Mayor McClary told Mr. Price that he will schedule a meeting with him on tomorrow to further discuss his concerns.

Town of Andrews
Town Council Meeting minutes
October 20, 2022
Page 4

Samuel Marsh of 606 South Poplar Avenue: Mr. Marsh stood before Town Council and encouraged the citizens and the elected officials to work together to resolve the many challenges within the Town. Nothing good will ever come from fighting and bickering with each other. He praised the Mayor and Town Council members for doing an outstanding job running the Town, which is not an easy job.

Teressa Glisson of 103 South Rosemary Avenue: Ms. Glisson spoke to Town Council and said good things about the Town. She spoke about the road work that the Town recently performed near her home. She recognized Jody Bouchette and Mayor McClary for the excellent job that they are doing to improve the quality of life in the Town for the citizens. She realizes that it is not an easy job running the Town and everything that is broken can't be fixed overnight. She encouraged all to keep up the good work and to work together to make one difference at a time.

Abe Thietten of 304 North Farr Avenue: Mr. Thietten came before Town Council and asked if there are any lawsuits pending against the Town. Mayor McClary stated that there are law suits in litigation against the Town. Mr. Thietten inquired about the next court date and the status of the Town obtaining a street sweeper. Mayor McClary stated that the next court date is scheduled for October 31, 2022 and regarding the street sweeper, he has been waiting for a response from Mr. Thietten concerning an agreement with Georgetown County providing this service which he indicated during the last Town Council meeting. Lastly, he stated that he and his wife are interested in joining the committee against gun violence and they recently placed a work order with the water department to receive a new trash cart and wanted an update on the length of time it takes to receive a new trash cart. Mayor McClary explained that new carts are only issued after an assessment of the damages to the home owners existing trash cart has determined that the sustained damages are non repairable.

Lisa Kennedy of 2 East Conifer Street: Ms. Kennedy stood before Town Council and stated that all individuals holding an official position should be addressed by their title as a sign of respect for example Mayor Frank McClary should always be referred to as "Mayor Frank McClary and not as "Frank". She spoke about the goals of the committee against gun violence. The committee will work to help take back the streets from all of the ongoing gun violence and work towards making the streets safe again. She encouraged the citizens of Andrews to come together and work to resolve many of the challenges within the Town of Andrews. She recommended that citizens come together, respect one another and form committees to address the concerns of the citizens and to find solutions to the issues.

Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator thanked everyone who supported the Andrews Heritage Festival. She also expressed her thankfulness for the staff members for a job well done and helping to make the festival a success. Brooklyn Hibberts and Jerney Dixon were recognized for their outstanding and dedicated work expressed during the festival. It was announced that the Andrews Christmas parade will be take place on Sunday, December 11, 2022 starting at 3:00 p.m. Applications for the parade were distributed during the meeting. The Administrator stated that she attended the MASC Manager's Forum on October 7, 2022. Hiring and recruiting law enforcement officers was a topic of discussion during the forum and it was stated that hiring and recruiting qualified officers across the state is becoming more and more difficult. As a

Town of Andrews
Town Council Meeting minutes
October 20, 2022
Page 5

result, the South Carolina Criminal Academy has made several enhancements to the process of screening applicants. Lastly, she reminded the elected officials that the MASC offers educational training courses throughout the year that will provide them direct access to valuable information to better equip them with the knowledge to fulfill their required duties and responsibilities. Elected Officials who don't take advantage of those educational opportunities are doing a disservice to the citizens who elected them into office.

Council Reports

Council Member Robert Stamper asked if he could be provided with the annual expense of the Andrews Police Department for 800 megahertz radios. He shared that he sent a text message to the Town Council members with information about Aquatech, a company that specializes in seeking and applying for grants that would fund improvement projects for small towns with aging water and sewer infrastructure, for their review. The company handles the entire procurement process if a grant is awarded. He thanked Brooklyn Hibberts for assisting the AFD with a recent late evening house fire. The ISO Audit for the fire department has been completed and the results should become available within 90 to 120 days. Mr. Stamper asked if the Town could look into a solution to secure the back side of the fire engine parked at Town Hall.

Council Member Amy Flagler thanked Ms. Wilson for organizing the 2022 Andrews Heritage Festival. She talked about the good time she had attending the festival events. Councilwoman Flagler thanked the citizens for attending and taking an active part in the meeting tonight. She stressed how important it is for the citizens to come together and not be divided.

Council Member Angela Anderson stated that the Town has a communication problem. Everyone is not on Facebook and the Town needs a more efficient and effective way of communicating with the public. She believes the more knowledgeable citizens are about events taking place within the Town participation from the community would be greater. She also encouraged the citizens to come together and work to make the Town of Andrews a better place to live for all people. She extended words of appreciation to the Town employees and thanked them for the service they render for the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee explained that his report consists of documentation of positive things that the Town is doing to improve the quality of life for its citizens so he encouraged all to help create a positive image of the Town. He mentioned that after the recent storm on September 30, 2022 there were trees down all over the Town. He recalls that Mayor McClary responded to most of the locations before he did and that's a very difficult thing to do. He added that him and the mayor have a great working relationship and he can't recall ever referring to him as "Frank". He always respects him in his position and refers to him as Mayor Frank McClary. Mr. Lee reported that he not only assisted with the removal of the down trees following the storm but he also assisted a citizen at 3 South Magnolia Avenue to get a new water meter. He assisted the owner of Colonial Inn Motel with debris removal. He assisted home owner at 610 north Morgan Avenue who had insufficient water flow. He assisted the water department repair a collapsed sewer line in front of McKnight Fraser Funeral Home. These were just a few of the items he listed in his report. Mr. Lee is always working to improve the quality of life for those who live in the Town of Andrews.

Town of Andrews
Town Council Meeting minutes
October 20, 2022
Page 6

Mayor McClary encouraged all to attend the Town of Andrews Visioning Plan meeting on November 1, 2022. The community will be able to provide input in to decisions that will affect the economic growth of the Town. He thanked all of the Town Council members and the citizens for coming out and actively participating in the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.