

Town of Andrews

Monthly Town Council Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2016

6:00 pm

Sheriff's Substation

110 N Morgan Ave. Andrews, SC

The Town of Andrews met for their Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation was rendered by Rev. William Stockton.
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

Town Officials Present:

Mayor Frank McClary
Council Member David Tisdale
Council Member Eddie Lee
Council Member Sudha Patel
Council Member Terrance Middleton
Council Member Marva Session
Council Member Mack E. Watford, Sr.

Motion was made by Council Member Marva Session and seconded by Council Member Terrance Middleton to approve the minutes from Monday, December 14, 2015 Town Council Special Called Meeting. **Majority in favor, motion carried.**

Motion was made by Council Member David Tisdale and seconded by Council Member Eddie Lee to approve the minutes from Thursday, December 17, 2015 Town Council Meeting. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Motion was made by Council Member Terrance Middleton and seconded by Council Member Marva Session to accept the minutes from Thursday, January 7, 2016 Town Council Special Called Meeting for informational purposes only. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Motion was made by Council Member Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member David Tisdale to approve the minutes from Monday, January 11, 2016 Town Council Special Called Meeting. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Motion was made by Council Member Sudha Patel and seconded by Council Member Mack E. Watford, Sr. to approve the minutes from Wednesday, January 13, 2016 Town Council Special

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Called Meeting with the correction of adding Council Member Sudha Patel to the names of Town Officials present. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Presentations

Ms. Lucy Woodhouse: Ms. Woodhouse CEO & President of the Black River & Georgetown County United Way came before Council to inform them about additional aide that will be coming to the Town of Andrews to assist qualifying citizens who experienced flood damage during the recent flood in October 2015. The aide will come thru the Long-term Disaster Recovery Group that has been established to serve citizens of Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. The Jerusalem Center in Andrews will be the base location for the Long-term Disaster Recovery Group. Members of this group will consist of partners from County Officials, Local Government Officials, various Nonprofit Organizations such as United Way and Salvation Army. The group will be receiving Federal Funding to assist victims during the Recovery Phase which could last up to 1000 days following the Relief Phase and the group will be responsible for administering and distributing funds. Ms. Woodhouse's purpose tonight was to introduce this project to the Town of Andrews.

Dr. Youlanda Gibbs: Dr. Gibbs introduced herself as the Founder and Executive Director of the Palmetto Palace. The Palmetto Palace provides short-term emergency assistance to families of ICU patients. The nonprofit Palmetto Palace has raised funds to build a \$290,000 mobile hospital unit. The purpose of the mobile unit is to lessen the gap between health care service and access to health care services to citizens in Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties at no cost. The mobile unit will have three departments:

- Human Health Services to assist with the processing of Medicaid and Food Stamps applications etc...
- Dental Care Services
- Primary Care to provide podiatry, endocrinology, ophthalmology and diabetes education services

Dr. Gibbs solicited the support of Andrews and it's citizens in the organization efforts to lessen the gap in health care disparities.

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

Financial Report

Mayor Frank McClary stated that there will be no full detailed financial report presented tonight due to the Town not having a CPA since June 26, 2015. However, the Town has hired a CPA firm to handle the fiancés of the Town. Mr. McClary assured the citizens of Andrews that the Town

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has been meeting its financial obligations thus far and that the Town has been operating under a spending freeze and he has informed the Department Heads that they will have to do more with less. Mr. McClary stated that he will have an auditor from Columbia to review the Town books and to provide some directives to departments on how to gain some efficiency.

Old Business

Decision to Approve/Disapprove proposed changes to the CDBG Water/Sewer & Infrastructural Project: Council Member Terrance Middleton made the motion and it was seconded by Council Member Sudha Patel that Council table taken a vote on this agenda item until they have been provided a financial report on the status of the Town's Finances by the newly hired CPA Firm Kenneth Cobb and Company. This motion was withdrawn by the original maker.

Council Member David Tisdale made the motion and it was seconded by Council Member Eddie Lee to continue with the original plan as written in the CDBG Grant. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Council Member David Tisdale; Yes, Council Member Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Sudha Patel; Yes, Council Member Terrance Middleton; Yes, Council Member Marva Session; Yes, Council Member Mack E. Watford; Yes, All in favor, motion carried.**

Citizens Comments

Danny Nixon of 111 Clair Street: Mr. Nixon came before Council addressing his concern with the high water bill he recently received. Mr. Nixon proposed the question to Council that if the CDBG Project requires shutting down pump station #14 will that require the other pump stations to work harder? Mayor McClary responded to Mr. Nixon explaining that if the proposed plan was to be enacted thus shutting down pump station number 14 then gravity lines would be in place that would feed waste into a nearby pump station. In regards to the water bill, Mr. McClary stated that for two months the Town's meter reader was unable to physically read meters. Thus, causing the Town to send out estimated bills to all of its customers based on their prior twelve month history and the most current bill sent out was a bill generated after physical readings were performed. The current reading reflects the true usage by customers over the past three months. Some customer's bill may be higher than normal due to their estimated bills were much lower than their actual usage and others may be lower because their estimated bills reflected higher usage than they actually used, thus requiring adjustments to be made to their bills, hereafter the generation of water bills should be back to normal.

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Greg Bennett a representative of American Legion Post 69: Mr. Bennett stated his concerns about the Town of Andrews need for a sanitation truck. He stated that he sent an email to the Mayor of New York City requesting his assistance with helping the Town of Andrews obtain a sanitation truck. In his email Mr. Bennett reminded the Mayor of New York City how the Troops and Fire Fighters from South Carolina came to Ground Zero following 911 to assist his City and that children from South Carolina raised over \$400,000.00 and gave to the City of New York during their Time of Disaster. Mr. Bennett informed Mayor and Council that he received a response from his email requesting that he provide additional information with regards to the type of Sanitation Truck that the Town needs. Mr. Bennett hopes that his efforts will not be in vain. He solicited financial assistance from the citizens of Andrews to help support the American Legions charity Operation Comfort Warriors Organization. This organization offers assistance to wounded soldiers.

Alberta Jackson of 14 S. Poplar Avenue: Mrs. Jackson stated her concerns about the garbage and trash debris pick up in her neighborhood. Mrs. Jackson stated that her garbage and debris has not been picked up for some time now. Mayor McClary responded to Mrs. Jackson's concern by informing her that the Town is currently facing some challenges with personnel, and equipment, however they are working on solutions to solve these issues. Mayor McClary announced that the City of Georgetown has loan the Town a sanitation truck to use for the next four days to collect garbage. Mayor McClary also stated that the Town is currently looking into the possibility of contracting out its garbage collection.

Administrator's Report

Mrs. Dorsey addressed Mr. Nixon's concern about the lift stations by informing him that the Town has 24 lift stations and a town the size of Andrews only needs about 8 to 10 lift stations to operate efficiently. The cost associated with maintaining 24 lift stations has been a problem for Andrews thus causing some of the lift station to go neglected. The Town is trying to eliminate as many lift stations as they can thru grant funding. Mrs. Dorsey made the statement that the need for hiring and retaining qualified employees with the skill set to properly maintain the Towns Water and Sewer system is mandated by SC DHEC. Mrs. Dorsey also spoke about possible water and sewer rate increases as a requirement by USDA in order for the Town of Andrews to apply for grant funding to help maintain a system such as the one Andrews has. Mrs. Dorsey stated that on Tuesday of this week she, Mayor McClary, representatives of Lathan Consulting Company and Hanna Engineering meet with the Department of Commerce in Columbia, SC and the Town will be resubmitting an Economic Infrastructural Grant in which the Town will partner with Agru America to assist in the expansion of their facility. This partnership will consist of the Town of Andrews, Williamsburg County and Agru America. In addition to the grant funding that Andrews will receive new jobs will be created. Rural Infrastructural will gives \$10, 000.00 per

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job which will be additional funding for the Town of Andrews to use towards its Infrastructural upgrades. Mrs. Dorsey concluded her report by reminding Members of Council to set up their Town Emails which will be the primary means used to circulate information to them in the near future.

Department Head Reports

Police Department: Chief Kaynnera Capers stated that Officer Jason Creson is no longer with the department and Officer Stone is attending training at the academy thus his department is currently down three slots and as a result his department is incurring overtime. His department will be working to enforce trucks to use the truck route when approaching the Town limits as stated in the state statute. Officers will also be more vigilant and checking vendors to insure that they have the proper permit and required licenses from the Town to conduct business within the Town of Andrews. Chief Capers stated that the Jerusalem Association Center has donated a building space to the Town for a sub-station and they also will supply all of the materials needed to set the sub-station up. The sub-station will be a plus to the West side of Town and will provide security to a multitude of people that will be in that area at any given time. Mayor McClary informed Chief Capers that he will need to discuss and present his plan of action to Mayor and Council on how he plans for his department to cover that post while remaining in compliance with the spending freeze and curtailing of overtime hours.

Fire Department: Mr. Robert Stamper stated the Fire Department has been doing their job by responding to wrecks and fires. In fact, they recently responded to a structural fire with great response time and as a result they were able to contain and out the fire with the home owners suffering minimal damage and this was a direct result of their efficient and effective response time.

Council's Report

Council Member Eddie Lee: Mr. Lee stated that in his opinion Mayor McClary is doing a very fine job. He also stated that the contact that he has had thus far with the New Members of Council he believes they have a good team and he looks forward to building a good working relationship with them. Mr. Lee pointed out that he has been working on identifying street lights that are out over the Town and he will be working with the power company to have them repaired and back on.

Council Member Sudha Patel: Ms. Patel extended a warm welcome to the New Members of Council and to Mayor McClary and informed them that she looks forward to working with them. Ms. Patel reminded everyone that during the month of January we recognize and

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commemorate the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the great things he did. Also, Ms. Patel stated that a project that was enacted as a result of the Town Anniversary Celebration to place metal brackets on all of the existing lights poles along Main Street which will be used to hold different flags to represent various occasions or events hosted by the Town. This project was made possible by Three D Metal Works which funded the entire project.

Council Member Mack E. Watford, Sr.: Mr. Watford stated that he and members of the Fire Department and anyone else who would like to assist them will be working to install the metal brackets on the poles along Main Street and removal of the Christmas Lights.

Council Member David Tisdale: Mr. Tisdale expressed his thanks to all of the citizens of Andrews who have shown various acts of kindness to him and his wife Allison who has been hospitalized and is now back home recovering from a period of illness.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Eleazer Carter: Mr. Carter stated that any information that he share with Council in regards to pending Law Suits will have to be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Carter stated that back in 2014 he was instructed to perform some research into the legalities of the contract between the Town and Georgetown County Sewer District as it relates to Town of Andrews Inters. In reference to the City of Georgetown experiencing increase cost and expenses how Andrews gets pull into the equation. The Town of Andrews pays Georgetown a steady rate for the sewer service provided to the Town. The Town of Andrews has an interest where their rates cannot be increase to some astronomical rate for the water and sewer service they are provided. He recommends that the Town of Andrews appoints an individual to sit and participate in meetings of the board that represents the City of Georgetown and the County Water and Sewer District.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McClary stated that during a meeting this week with the County Administrator the agreement between the Town of Andrews and Georgetown County Water and Sewer District and the Andrews By-Pass were topics of discussion. As a result of the meeting Mayor McClary indicated that he was enlighten about all the different avenues to enhance the area. Mayor McClary stressed the importance of the Town of Andrews establishing a good working rapport with individuals of Georgetown County as well as Williamsburg County. Mayor McClary reiterated to the citizens of Andrews that if they have any concerns about phase 2 of the Andrews By-Pass please go to the County's Website and voice your opinions.

Mayor Pro-Temp Selection (By Ballot)

Council Member David Tisdale will serve as Mayor Pro-Temp for the Town of Andrews for the next two years. The record shows the official results of the voting by ballot is as follows: (4) four

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votes for Council Member David Tisdale; (1) one vote for Council Member Sudha Patel; (1) one vote for Council Member Marva Session; (1) one vote for Council Member Terrance Middleton.

Adjournment

Council Member Eddie Lee made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm and was seconded by Council Member Sudha Patel.

Council Meeting minutes submitted by Chaconas Parson, Town Clerk.