

## **Town of Andrews**

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### **Public Hearing and Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510**

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Notification of the Public Hearing was advertised in the June 5, 2024, Georgetown edition of the Post & Courier newspaper and posted at Town Hall as required by law. Additionally, the Regular Monthly Meeting agenda was posted on the Town's website and Facebook page informing citizens who were interested in giving input for the Public Hearing, to email [townhall@townofandrews.sc.gov](mailto:townhall@townofandrews.sc.gov) no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

#### **Public Hearings**

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. until 6:01 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-01, an ordinance authorizing a fee for performing meter data studies. No public comments were made referencing the ordinance.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:01 p.m. until 6:04 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-02, an ordinance to modify the business license fees for the Town of Andrews. No public comments were made referencing the ordinance.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:04 p.m. until 6:06 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-03, an ordinance to modify permit fee schedules for building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical and related work performed in the Town of Andrews. No public comments were made referencing the ordinance.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:02 p.m. until 6:04 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-04, an ordinance to modify water and sewer rates. Ms. Celestine Graham asked whether citizens would receive advance notification of the rate increases prior to the effective date. It was stated that citizens will receive 30 days' notice of the rate increases.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:07 p.m. until 6:09 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-05, an ordinance to modify the fees associated with the Vacant Building ordinance. No public comments were made referencing the ordinance.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:09 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-06, an ordinance to amend the Tall Grass and Weed ordinance. Council Member Flagler asked is there an ordinance mandating how many cars can be parked in a person's yard. Mayor McClary responded, "No. Secondly, Ms. Flagler asked if tree shade mechanics are required to obtain a business license and if so, is this law being enforced. Mayor McClary replied that anyone doing business in the Town is required to obtain a business license and that this law is being enforced.

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A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:15 p.m. until 6:17 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-07, an ordinance to amend the purchase price for a cemetery lot in the Andrews Memorial Cemetery. Ms. Wilma Brown asked who is responsible for the upkeep of the Andrews Memorial cemetery. Mayor McClary replied that the cemetery belongs to the Town and it's the towns responsibility to maintain the upkeep.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:17 p.m. until 6:19 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-08, an ordinance to establish a comprehensive fee schedule for the Town of Andrews. No public comments were made referencing the ordinance.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6:19 p.m. until 6:22 p.m. for proposed ordinance No. 2024-09, an ordinance to approve the FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget ordinance. No public comments were made referencing the ordinance.

**Town Council Meeting**

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:23 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 Amy Flagler

Council Member Robert Stamper, II

Council Member James Altman

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the minutes for the Monday, May 13, 2024, Budget Workshop. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Fagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the minutes for the Thursday, May 16, 2024 Town Council meeting. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Fagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

**Monthly Bank Statements**

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

The record shows that the Town Council was informed and provided with copies of invoices and checks that cleared the bank with only one signature. The checks were processed and mailed on May 20, 2024. Due to an oversight, the checks were mailed before a second authorized signer could sign. However, all of the said payments were authorized payments and the checks were honored by First Citizen Bank.

### **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 eleven months ended May 31, 2024.

### **Old Business**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-01: Proposed Ordinance Authorizing a Fee for Performing Meter Data Studies.** The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee, and it was seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-01, authorizing a fee for performing meter data studies. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Fagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-02: Proposed Ordinance to Modify the Business License Fees for the Town of Andrews.** A motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson, and it was seconded by Council Member Amy Flagler to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-02, an ordinance to modify the business license fees for the Town of Andrews. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Fagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-03: Proposed Ordinance to Revise the Permit Fee Schedules for Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical and Related Work Performed in the Town of Andrews.** The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee, and it was seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-03, an ordinance to revise the permit fee schedules for building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical and related work performed in the Town of Andrews. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-04: Proposed Ordinance Authorizing to Modify the Water and Sewer Rates.** The motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-04, an ordinance to modify the water and sewer rates. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-05: Proposed Ordinance to Amend the Fees Associated with the Vacant Building Ordinance.** A motion was made by Council Member Amy Flagler, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-05, an

ordinance to amend the fees associated with the Vacant Building Ordinance. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-06: Proposed Amended Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance for the Town of Andrews.** The motion was made by Council Member Amy Flagler, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-06, an ordinance to amend the Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-07: Proposed Ordinance to Amend the Purchase Price for a Cemetery Lot in the Andrews Memorial Cemetery.** The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee, and it was seconded by Council Member Robert Stamper to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-07, an ordinance to amend the purchase price for a cemetery lot in the Andrews Memorial Cemetery. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-08: Proposed Ordinance to Establish a Comprehensive Fee Schedule for the Town of Andrews. As per Chapter 2 of section 2.123 of the Andrews Town Code.** The motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-08, an ordinance to establish a comprehensive fee schedule for the Town of Andrews. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Second Reading Ordinance No. 2024-09: Proposed FY2025 Operating Budget Ordinance.** The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee, and it was seconded by Council Member Robert Stamper to approve the second reading of proposed ordinance Number 2024-09, FY2025 Operating Budget Ordinance for the Town of Andrews. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

### **Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens comments.

### **Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator provided an update on the status of the sewer correction action plan for SC DHEC. The public works department is working to get the town's manholes properly categorized and serviced. Unfortunately, DHEC was trying to hold the Town accountable for some incorrect information that was provided by a previous engineering firm as it pertains to manholes. However, the Town has reviewed that information and was able to reduce the erroneous number of manholes significantly. The engineering

firm erroneously listed items as manholes which were clearly not manholes and billed the Town for that service. However, the Town has sixty-nine manholes that are listed as severe and will have to be corrected. The Town hopes to fund that project with funds from the SCIIP Grant. The Town is scheduled to provide an update on its corrective action plan to DHEC on August 2, 2024 and that will also include the required quarterly report. The Town is preparing to apply to the Department of Commerce for funding for a shovel ready project for Rosemary Avenue Improvements.

Ms. Wilson provided Town Council with a copy and review of the Town's Risk Management Loss Review Report. The Town is still at the top of the list with the modifier which means that the Town is spending the most money possible for risk management insurance. The plan is to reduce that number. The Town staff will have a risk management training next week and a follow up defensive driving training course in August. Currently the Town is at the max modifier of 2.50.

The Hazard Mitigation process is underway with Georgetown County; this process has already been completed with Williamsburg County and the Town has been cleared to receive federal funding for any natural disaster that may occur over the next five years.

The Town has had both the state and federal monitoring closeout for the North Beech project on June 4, 2024. The Town continues to receive the same fine as before for not being ADA compliant with the New Municipal Complex, thus this will continue to put the Town at risk for not receiving federal grant funds. The Town has been placed on a list for consideration as to whether it could apply for federal funding due to the Town Hall Building not being ADA compliant.

The Rural Technical Committee met earlier this month and the ongoing sidewalk projects are a result of the January meeting discussion about concerns in the town dealing with walkability and other things that the state has neglected to maintain.

On Friday, June 21, 2024, the Joseph Hayne Rainey plaque dedication will take place at Rainey Park, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mr. Rainey is a native of Georgetown County and was the African American US Congressman. It was announced that early voting started Wednesday and will end Friday for District Three. The Runoff Election Day will be Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at all voting precincts from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The July Town Council meeting will be Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. due to the MASC Annual meeting being held July 17-21, 2024, in Greenville, SC.

### **Council Reports**

**Council Member Robert Stamper** asked Mayor McClary for an update on the status of engine #2. Mayor McClary replied there is no update at this time. He added that a lot has been going on and apologized and requested that Mr. Stamper send him a reminder notification to look into this matter. Mr. Stamper encouraged employees to remain hydrated and be cautious of the extremely dangerous hot weather during the summer months. He inquired about the water supply in the Andrews Memorial Cemetery. Mayor McClary stated that he will check with public works to get an update on the status of the water supply in the cemetery. Mr. Stamper requested that someone from public works assess the inoperable

fire hydrant on Soapberry Road for repairs. Lastly, he shared that the fire department is in the process of purchasing safety vests for all volunteers.

**Council Member Amy Flagler** questioned if the Beech Avenue Project will extend from Main Street to West Gapway Road. Mayor McClary replied that the project was not funded to extend beyond Main Street and Walnut Street, but he is hopeful that the Town will be able to receive funding from the County Transportation Commission to complete the necessary repairs from Walnut Street to West Gapway Road and to install additional streetlights along Beech Avenue which is a major safety concern. Ms. Flagler thanked Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee for his hard work to get the inoperable streetlights repaired from Beech Avenue to West Andrews. She inquired about the status of the investigation into the recent increase in car vandalisms. Chief Chris Cockrell replied that the department has not identified any suspects and currently have no leads. He reminded and encouraged all to always lock their vehicles.

**Council Member Angela Anderson** asked for a status report for the opening date for Little Caesars Pizza, Anytime Fitness and Pueblo Chico Inc. Mexican Restaurant. Mayor McClary replied that there is not a tentative open date for Little Caesars Pizza or Anytime Fitness Center to open but the Mexican Restaurant is scheduled to open in August. She thanked the Town employees for doing a good job.

**Council Member James Altman** stated that he had a question about the water supply in the Andrews Memorial Cemetery which has already been discussed. He thanked Lieutenant Carr for his assistance into a citizen's concern pertaining to people trespassing on their property. Lastly, he asked if there are in future plans to replace or repair additional sidewalks within the Town. Mayor McClary shared that the sidewalk projects along Martin Luther King Drive and Rosemary Avenue are projects under the jurisdiction of SC DOT and he's not aware of any other potential projects. However, Mayor McClary informed Town Council that he will look into getting an update on the SC DOT plans for additional projects for the Town of Andrews. Town Administrator Mauretta Wilson added that the Town has already submitted a request for funds to place additional sidewalks and cross walks in the vicinity of the local schools through the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan.

**Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee** began his report by giving a definition of an "unreal Town Council member." An unreal Town Council member shows no interest in picking up their meeting packet prior to Town Council meetings which are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. They have a pattern of not showing up for regular scheduled Town Council meetings. They have a habit of calling the Town of Andrews to ask the Town Clerk to bring their packet to scheduled meetings; the Town Clerk doesn't work for the Town Council she works under the jurisdiction of the mayor. An unreal Town Council member loves to get paid for doing nothing.

Secondly, he gave a definition of a "real Town Council member." A real Town Council member is very active in daily participation to assist Mayor McClary. They make monthly reports that have substance. They don't argue with the mayor in open session. A real Town Council who observes a down street sign or a dead caucus will report it, and he added "don't call the Mayor Pro Tem." He provided the phone number to SC DOT, 843-546-2405. Mayor Pro Tem Lee made the statement to all, if you see him in the grocery store and he speaks to you and you don't speak back to him, that's fine, because he may not be rich, but the one thing, he isn't broke. He gave a detail report of several in operable streetlights for which

he placed work orders with the responsible agency and the lights have since been repaired. In conclusion he stated that as a 71-year-old man he will not entertain any negative conversation about Mayor McClary because before him we had nothing and now, we have something.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor McClary recognized Veronica McCray and Jamal Richardson for organizing the event that was recently held at the Jones Avenue Park. The focus of the event was to bring the community together and attempt to motivate our young men to become active in the community in a positive manner. The Andrews Police Department and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office had a great presence at the event as an effort to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the citizens. Wadus and Tina Newton were recognized for their participation during the event and for bringing the ladder truck out. In addition, the Drug and Alcohol Rehab representatives were present to provide information on the services offered by the agency. The Town of Andrews Municipal Judge, Clerk and Mr. Ernie Cooper were also present and were given the opportunity to address the audience. The mayor announced that tomorrow he will give a presentation to a delegation consisting of OSI representative, members from Senator Tim Scott's office and a host of other people. The group will also visit the site for the Black River Park. Congressman Russel Fry will have a mobile office set up in town July 31, 2024, at the Ayce Center from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for staff members to meet and greet citizens.

Town Council Members were made aware of an ongoing water outage that has affected about seven to ten homes in Deer Wood Estates since Mother's Day for which the property owner is solely responsible and not the Town of Andrews. The property owner has not made any attempts to resolve the issue. The Town's staff, SC Rural Water employees and DHEC representatives have gone out to locate the leak and the Town employees will make the necessary repairs and bill the property owner for the associated cost. Mayor McClary stressed to the Town Council his concerns about the safety of the employees working in Town Hall due to the multiple health and safety issues present throughout the entire building especially in the police department. Our employees are in danger of being severely hurt if parts of the roof caves in or a very bad storm hits the area. Several employees have reported seeing lighting inside of the building and the smell of smoke and sparks during major leaks in the ceiling. Mayor McClary informed Council that the time may come that our staff may have to work remotely as an attempt to keep them safe, specifically when storms are predicted to impact the area.

Attorney Carter updated the Town Council that the pending court case with Georgetown County is expected to have a court date in August.

Marva Session, a citizen suggested that Town Council contact our State Representatives and Senator for support with our court case against Georgetown County for the Municipal Complex.

Peggy Cumbee a citizen came before Town Council stating that she recently experienced a fire inside her Cypress Lane Apartment. Ms. Cumbee shared that it took the fire department an hour and twenty-four minutes to get the sprinkler system shut off. She added that she was told that no one from the Andrews Fire Department knew how to shut the sprinkle system off and it was a fire chief from another jurisdiction who shut the system off. She suggested that someone from the Andrews Fire Department

obtain certification on how to shut off sprinkler systems in apartments buildings. She added that she was denied assistance from the Red Cross due to the contents of the fire report that was issued by the fire chief and she asked for further guidance. The mayor said that he will have a conversation with the fire chief to get some clarity about the situation.

In closing, Mayor McClary mentioned that the Andrews Police Department reported that during the past month the department received 60 calls; 9 of the calls were related to vandalism; 7 incidents were not reported; 4 incidents of simple assault; 4 counterfeiting and 8 were characterized as all other offenses.

The fire department responded to 47 calls during the month of May, 36 of the calls were non fire related. Mayor McClary told the Town Council members that they need to make a collaborated effort to reach out to Georgetown Council members and to the County Administrator and request an increase in the yearly stipend for Rural Fire Services which has been negatively affecting the fire department budget.

The public works department responded to 11 sewer backups; completed 3 sewer repairs; made 10 water leak repairs; pulled and serviced 2 pumps; delivered 19 trash cans and installed 2 water and sewer taps during the month of May.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.