

Town of Andrews

**Andrews Town Council Meeting
Via Zoom/Facebook Live
Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:00 p.m.
101 N Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510**

Mayor McClary stated that due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the implementation of social distancing measures, the physical meeting is closed to the public. The Public Hearing and Town Council meeting are being broadcasted via Facebook Live from the Town of Andrews Facebook page.

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation was rendered by Council Member Angela Anderson
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 Ulrich
Council Member Rob Stamper

Motion was made by Council Member Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Robert Stamper to approve the Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Town Council Workshop and the Thursday, January 20 2022 Town Council meeting minutes. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, motion carried.**

Monthly Bank Statements

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

Financial Report

The Town of Andrews Town Council members were presented with a copy of the Town of Andrews Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual for the seven months ended January 31, 2022 for informational purposes. Brenda Jackson, CPA for the Town of Andrews was not in attendance due to other personal family matters

Old Business

Second Reading ordinance No. 2022-01: Rezoning Ordinance. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2201-01 an ordinance to rezone 8.8 acres located at 1005 West Main Street known as TMS 06-0002-005-00-00, from LI, Limited Industrial to GC, General Commercial District, and to amend the official zoning map of the Town of Andrews to so reflect, providing that the property owner(s) agree to the following provisions:

Section 1. Conditional Use

Cemetery, provided that such use (a) consists of at least (5) acres, (b) has a ten (10) foot planted buffer strip around its entire perimeter which is kept free of any use except access, (c) includes no crematorium or dwelling unit other than a caretaker, (d) has a front yard setback of at least seventy (70) feet from the centerline of abutting public streets or ten (10) feet from public street right-of-way lines, whichever is further, and (e) maintains a nonilluminated sign no greater than thirty (30) square feet in area and ten (10) feet in height. **(TOA Code 601.35) Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, motion carried.**

CDBG 4-C1-21-001 N. Beech Waterline Project Update: Marsha Smith, WRCOG Grant Administrator.

Marsha Smith stated that the Town of Andrews was awarded a CDBG in June 2021 for North Beech Avenue Waterline Improvement Project. The project consists of replacing 2500 linear feet upgrade of six-inch piping in order to provide adequate service flow and to alleviate service interruptions. The grant amount is \$469,876.00. The Town's contribution is \$69,025.00 bringing the total project cost to \$538,901.00. A grant start-up meeting with the Department of Commerce was held in October 2021. The startup paperwork has been completed and submitted to the state. The environmental review has been completed. Currently there is a published combined notice posted for public comments. The Town was approved to receive public comments from February 15, 2022 until March 7, 2022. On March 8, 2022 the request for release of funds and the environmental review will be submitted to SC Commerce. This information will be reviewed and upon approval, the grant funds will be released. Keck and Wood Engineering Firm has already completed its project design and recently submitted its construction design to the appropriate agencies for permitting. After the designs have been approved and the funds released then the Town will be in the position to move forward with the bidding process for construction.

Black River Park Initiative: Maria Whitehead: Maria Whitehead and Erin Pate introduced a plan to create the Black River Water Trail and State Park Network, which includes two tracts of the Black River Cypress Preserve near Andrews in Georgetown County. Dr. Whitehead is with the Open Space Institute of New York, which helps provide funding and other services for conservation projects. Pate is with the Butler Conservation Fund and, specifically, the Black River Cypress Preserve. The Black River Cypress Preserve has two tracts that total 1,455 acres and protect almost six miles of the Black River. Along with boating, kayaking and canoeing, the Cypress Preserve has nature and hiking trails, use of kayaks and bikes, several pavilions and meeting areas, and so far, several Boy Scout Troops and other groups have camped or held meetings or activities at one of the two campuses. Gov. Henry McMaster, State Sen. Chip Campsen, Tom Mullikin of the S.C. Floodwater Commission and other state, and local officials met at the Black River Cypress Preserve. They used the occasion to announce a pending effort to bring back funding for

conservation efforts across the state. The goal is to double the number of protected lands in South Carolina. That would help protect areas from floodwaters as well as provide recreational facilities and other outdoor uses. The Butler Conservation Fund owns the Cypress Preserve, and also owns and/or holds conservation easements along the Black River and in several other parts of the state. The Initiative includes a collaboration of partners to include the Town of Andrews, Georgetown County, Williamsburg, Town of Kingstree, the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and numerous non-profit organizations, residents and stakeholders whose goal is to increase rural economic development, access to recreation, flood resilience, and habitat protection in the Black River Watershed of South Carolina. The Black River Park Initiative is an expansive, multi-parcel network along 75 miles of river, including State Park, local government and county ownership, more than 8,000 acres will be owned and managed by public and private entities for public access and recreation as South Carolina's first multiparter's riverine park network and water trail. The Town can expect to see an increase in construction jobs, hospitality and tourism, increased outdoor recreation opportunities, increased property values, industry recruitment and ultimately an increase in revenues.

New Business

Memorandum of Agreement with the Children's Recovery Center: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Robert Stamper to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Children's Recovery Center. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

There was one citizen comment posted online that referenced animal control which was a repeat from last month and the response remained the same as last month. In response, Mayor McClary stated that the Town has no current resolution for animal control. It will cost the Town \$75,000.00 annually to engage in a contract with St. Francis Animal Society to manage/provide animal control services. Thus, the Town's annual operating budget doesn't support the expense for animal control. In the meantime, the Town of Andrews Code Enforcer is working diligently to identify loose animals and their owners. Upon being identified the owners will be cited and imposed with a fine for noncompliance of The Town's ordinance governing animal control. The ultimate goal of the Town is to minimize the problem as much as possible. Three additional comments were posted online during the meeting. Those comments referenced citizens who have dilapidated trash carts, missing or illegible street signs and the status of the construction of the New Municipal Complex. Mayor McClary in response stated that the APD and Public Works staff are in the process of identifying all missing and illegible street signs and replacing them. Citizens are required to contact Town Hall and place a work order to have the condition of their trash carts assessed for damages so that repairs can be made or receive a replacement cart. In addition, he stated that the lawsuit with Georgetown County is still an ongoing legal matter that is not up for open discussion and all construction work at the site of the new Municipal Complex has ceased until a decision has been rendered through the court system.

Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator extended words of appreciation to Ms. Marsha Smith for providing an update on the North Beech Water project, and to Dr. Maria Whitehead and to Ms. Erin Pate for sharing information about the new State Park and the Black River Cypress Reserves Initiative. She announced that most of Town Council recently attended the MASC Legislative Action Day in Columbia, SC. She mentioned that the State will be receiving additional ARPA Funds which the Town will be applying for as soon as the application process is open. The Town will be working with Keck and Wood Engineering Firm to help identify and prepare various shovel ready projects. The Town will be working with the Waccamaw Council of Government to make preparations to move forward with a project during the next CDBG funding cycle. Mr. Jody Bouchette was thanked for all of his hard work to help the Town's most recent RIA Grant County Line Road Pump station improvement project closed out. On Tuesday, February 15th the Town received approval from DHEC to place the two new pump stations online. The Town will have its annual Risk Assessment Audit performed next week. Ms. Joyce Williams was recognized for her work as the Town's Code Enforcer Officer and assisting citizens who were in compliance with the Town's Planning and Zoning Ordinances to come in compliance. The APD has received 2 of the six vehicles through the USDA Project. The other 4 have been delayed due to unforeseen manufacturing delays which the Department of Commerce is onboard with and fully understands the delays. Lastly, she stated that the Public Works department is still awaiting a new service truck which is due to manufacturing delay.

Council Reports

Council Robert Ulrich stated that he has no report at time and he thanked the Town of Andrews for the acts of kindness and for the support shown to him and his family during the passing of his mother.

Council Member Amy Flagler stated that she attended the MASC Legislative Action Day in Columbia and that the experience was very rewarding and she gained a lot of Knowledge. She praised Joyce Williams for doing an excellent job enforcing the Town Codes and helping people come in compliance with the codes. She stated that several citizens have inquired to her about the job that Ms. Williams is performing and she added that things have gone on for so long that people now have to be educated about the codes in order to come in compliance which is not an easy task to perform.

Council Member Angela Anderson stated that she enjoyed attending the MASC Legislative Action Day and it's necessary that all council members be educated and trained to effectively carry out their duties. She elaborated about a municipality that hosts a Live Five after Five event. During this event the Town designates an area strictly for food trucks to come in and offer their services to the community. The event has been very successful and rewarding to that municipality. Ms. Anderson stated that she would like for the Town of Andrews to give consideration of hosting a similar event.

Council Member Robert Stamper stated that he also attended the MASC Home Town Legislative Action Day and found the event to be very informative and rewarding. He stated that food trucks are becoming more popular in towns across the state. He referenced the Town of Moncks Corner which has designated an area in their Town and a Food Truck Park has been established. He thanked the APD for their quick

response to a vehicle fire at the Exxon Station. The actions of the APD quickly responding to the scene minimized the amount of damage to the vehicle. He stated that he's received several calls from citizens who were experiencing sewer issues and he wanted to be ensured that the public works department is aware of the concerns and have or will address the concerns. He inquired about the Town's status of receiving ARP funding. He also inquired about the Vacuum truck and needed repairs. Mayor McClary stated that the vacuum part of the vacuum truck is in need of a motor which will be funded through the current operating budget. In closing he stated that he is glad to see that plans are underway to utilize Black River as a resource to promote the Town. Ms. Dorsey stated that it was reported in December 2021 or January 2022 the Town has received a portion of the designated ARPA funding from the state. She added that she reported tonight that we would like to use any funding that the Town receives to include APRA funding, as match for possible grants and this was mentioned during the Monday, August 30, 2021 Town Council Special Called meeting during the discussion of shovel ready projects for the Town. Mayor McClary mentioned that it was during that meeting that it was agreed upon or voted to utilize ARP funding to fund projects to improve the town's infrastructure. Town Council will meet to identify potential projects and further discuss in detail potential shovel ready projects and the guidelines for stipends for employees.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee began his report by recognizing Joseph Bouchette for doing an outstanding job, taking care of business in the Public Works department. He stated that Mr. Bouchette is dedicated to the job and has helped the Town to save money by making repairs in house and shopping around for the best price when making purchases. He stated that he attended the Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Town Council Workshop which was facilitated by the MASC Field Representative Charlie Barrineau. During this workshop, he and other members of Town Council gained very helpful information on how to conduct yourself as an elected official and how to effectively carryout the duties of an elected official. In conclusion he stated that he also attended a class that Mayor McClary co facilitated educating elected officials from across the state on how to effectively conduct meetings. He recognized Mayor McClary for having an exceptional presentation.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Frank McClary thanked the members of the Andrews Town Council for an excellent job of being involved and communicating with the citizens of Andrews. He highlighted a couple of critical items from his desk. He shared a drawing that portrays the Town of Andrews as a Gateway to America's Best Beaches and Historical Districts which he often refers to in an effort to help rebrand the Town of Andrews, attracting visitors and enticing potential businesses to locate in the Town of Andrews. Additionally, this information identifies the main resources that the Town has to offer which is key to attracting visitors and new businesses to the area. Mayor McClary stated that in 2018 he submitted a letter to the state requesting additional traffic controls for the intersection at Martin Luther King Drive and Seaboard Road which is a very dangerous four-way stop. Numerous traffic accidents have happened there because drivers repeatedly fail to come to a complete stop before driving through this intersection at a high rate of speed. Mayor McClary provided several pictures of the intersection taken from different directions and at different times to help viewers recognize that the current four- way traffic stop sign is not an adequate

Andrews Town Council Meeting minutes**Thursday, February 17, 2022****Page 6**

means to prevent additional accidents at this intersection. His slide highlighted the scene from a January 26, 2022 accident. He thanked the Waccamaw Regional Council of Government, Former Lieutenant Senator Yancey McGill, Senator Carl Anderson and Senator Ronnie Sabb for their support to the Town's efforts to get the Department of Transportation to recognize the need for additional traffic controls at this particular intersection. The APD officers have increased their presence at this location. He urged the Town Council members to reach out to their state representatives and solicit their support to the Town's efforts to get the needed traffic controls for the Seaboard Road and MLK Drive intersections. In closing, he stated that this is a top priority for his office and he will reengage with top state officials as early as tomorrow to continue seeking their support. He introduced Ms. Karen Greene who is now providing consulting work for the Public Works department. He also recognized Ms. Brooklyn Hibberts who also is new with the Public Works department in the position as a truck driver, General Laborers Eliceo Martinez and Cameron Yarbrough.

Attorney's Report

The Town's attorney Eleazer Carter stated that the Town currently has two ongoing lawsuits. The first is dealing with the Hanna Engineering Firm in which the Town has until February 26th to provide a response to the courts. In addition, the Town has a pending law suited filed against Georgetown County pertaining to the 1% sales tax project. The Town has been notified that the case will be heard in the courts on February 22, 2022. Mayor McClary stated that an Executive Session will be scheduled during next month's Town Council Monthly meeting to discuss these legal matters in detail.

Motion was made by Council Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Robert Stamper to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.