

## Town of Andrews

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### **Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, November 17, 2022 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510**

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The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Invocation was rendered by Chaplain Rebecca Tilton  
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  
Council Member James Altman

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the Thursday, October 20, 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, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

#### **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor McClary introduced the newly hired Town of Andrews Police Chief Christopher Cockrell. Members of the Town of Andrews Chaplain Alliance were present during the meeting and they were recognized for their services. He informed everyone that Mr. Kendall a representative of Ferguson Water Works will speak to Town Council from a remote location and provide some technological information about the recent challenges that the Town has been dealing with in regards to processing water bills. He will elaborate on the discovery of problems within the software and hardware applications that are used to generate meter readings. The identified problems in the system have existed for at least three months.

Mr. Kendall stated that the Town of Andrews recently experienced some issues with the handheld devices used to read water meters. The software that is used to read the water meters somehow became corrupt. The Town has since then purchased new meter reading devices that he will bring to Andrews on December 1, 2022 to set up. Rob Watson, a representative of Sensus Meters, recently visited the Town and assessed that the meter reading guns used by the meter reader may also have issues. Steps have already been taken to replace the meter reading guns. Kendall stated that while he's in town, he will conduct a training session with staff members on how to properly operate the new equipment. He further explained that when the software crashed the system lost approximately 400-500 meter readings that were non-retrievable, thus causing the staff to manually reread those meters, which took up an enormous amount of time. The problems discovered were not with the actual readings but with the loss of data during the transferring cycle. Citizens were encouraged to report concerns to the front office to ensure that each concern is documented and reviewed.

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The Town of Andrews is sponsoring an Angel Tree Program for Christmas. The program will help provide Christmas gifts for children. Donors from the community can register with Bobbi Hughes to purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. The gifts will be distributed to the families to place under their family Christmas tree. The point of contact for the Town is Bobbi Hughes who can be reached at 843.543.8121. Ms. Nikki Hutto will organize the Christmas lighting along Main Street and she's accepting monetary donations for the cause. Joyce Williams and Bobbi Hughes are also working to bring lights and joy to the sections along Main Street that have gone neglected for years. The Town will sponsor a Fall Clean-up on Friday and Saturday. Public Works workers will only collect yard debris. Mayor Pro Tem Lee has provided the department with a map of various locations over the town where citizens have already begun to pile yard debris for pick up. Mayor McClary thanked Mr. Jamal Richardson and his team for the work they have done to coordinate the Jones Avenue cleanup project and for spearheading the No Gun Violence program on Tuesday night. He also thanked Lisa Kennedy and her mother Genivieve Halyard for organizing citizens who have experienced the loss of love ones due to homicide incidents. Lastly, he announced a Healing and Deliverance Prayer Service sponsored by McKnight Fraser Funeral Home on Saturday at the Home Charity Lodge on South Maple Avenue from 5 pm to 9 pm.

**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 four months ended October 31, 2022.

**New Business**

**Proclamation: Waccamaw Community Foundation.** Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member James Altman to approve the Waccamaw Community Foundation Proclamation. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, motion carried.**

**Citizens' Comments**

**Jennifer Hunt** stood before Town Council on behalf of the Andrews Beautification Group that is in the process of soliciting help from the community to identify abandoned buildings or residential homes that should be demolished. The group is in the process of applying for a 501c3. Once the group identifies properties a grant application will be submitted to the Federal Government requesting funds through the Blight Abatement Program to demolish the said properties at no expense to the property owners. She mentioned that the individual who provide the most addresses of potential targets will receive a \$20 gift certificate to Antonio's Restaurant. She's working to create a master email list of the churches in the Andrews Community as a means for establishing a communication network other than Facebook to inform citizens of current events until the Town has an established website. Lastly, she stressed the importance of citizens showing up to the Georgetown County Council meetings and representing the Town of Andrews. She volunteered to provide transportation to and from the meetings.

**Jamal Richardson** emphasized the importance of the citizens of Andrews taking advantage of the opportunity to represent and to be a voice for the Town's interest during the Georgetown County Council monthly meetings. He stressed the importance of the Town Council members being united when addressing issues such as the Municipal Complex and demanding that Georgetown County abide by the law and provide the Town of Andrews with the funding it's due as a result of the one percent sales tax referendum. He mentioned that during the previous Town Council meeting it appeared that several members of Town Council were somewhat confused or divided on the status of the \$500,000.00 payment made to the contractors who worked on the construction phase of the Municipal Complex and he asked if this matter has been resolved. In response, Mayor McClary stated that the matter will be discussed during the upcoming executive session as outlined on the agenda. Jamal thanked Jennifer Hunt for the excellent job she's doing with the Andrews News page and for being a voice for the Town. He also encouraged others to join them in their efforts to make the Town of Andrews a great place to live. He added that he's a member of a group of concerned citizens who are working diligently to clean-up and revive the Jones Avenue section of town. In closing, he said that the Town of Andrews will be the talk of the County during the upcoming Christmas Holiday season.

#### **Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator provided an update on the status of the FEMA flood maps for the Town of Andrews. FEMA intended to release the flood maps for the Town of Andrews in October 2015; however, the Historical Flood occurred in October 2015. The FEMA flood maps are helpful tools used by insurance companies, property owners and tenants to identify flood risk and to promote resilience. The maps are scheduled to be released by March 2023. It was announced that the process of establishing a visioning plan for the Town of Andrews had begun. A public forum was held on November 1, 2022 and thereafter several round table meetings. During the meetings the following topics were discussed: Tourism, Arts, Restaurants, Merchants, Real-estate, Economic Development, Leadership and Conservation and how they relate to the development of the Town's Visioning plan. The design group working on the project will present an official presentation and further analysis at the midpoint of the first quarter of next year. She thanked all of the participants involved in this process for their support. The \$500,000 CDBG Project for Beech Avenue had to be rebid and that was active as of last Monday. The grant will fund the installation of a 2 inch waterline and resurfacing of that section along North Beech Avenue. The Makers on Main were recognized for the wonderful work they are doing. The Makers on Main is a group of individuals in partnership with the Town who are working to beautify Downtown Andrews. The group spearheads are Gail Tanner and Karla McKenzie. They will have booths set up on Sunday, December 11, 2022 in the parking lot of Mel's Market. The Holiday schedule for the Town of Andrews will be as follows: Thanksgiving Holidays; November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>; Christmas Holidays; December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>; New Years; January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Council Member Robert Stamper** welcomed Police Chief Christopher Cockrell to the Town of Andrews. He commented on the work CL Anderson has done to beautify the corner of West Main and North Morgan Avenue. He added that it would be a great idea if the other corners along Main Street could look the same. He mentioned his concerns with the Media painting negatives pictures in the minds of the public by misleading or reporting negative things that allegedly took place in Andrews when in fact the events actually occurred in one of the neighboring counties and not in the Town of Andrews. He mentioned that he called Town hall to place a work order for 201 S. Beech Avenue and 309 S. Poplar Ave and he was told

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that several work orders have already been submitted but no one has visited the location to make an assessment of either concern. Mayor McClary stated that he will follow up on the work orders tomorrow. Lastly, he asked if the request submitted by a resident of Williamsburg County for sewer service had been addressed.

**Council Member Amy Flagler had no report.**

**Council Member Angela Anderson** asked if the Town of Andrews could write a letter to CSX addressing the issues with the railroad crossings in Andrews. She requested more details on the Fall Clean-up. She encouraged citizens to attend the Georgetown County Council monthly meetings and to voice concerns about the level of service offered to our citizens through the Georgetown County Recreational Center as compared to the level of services offered at other county sites. She thanked the employees of the Town of Andrews for their services.

**Council Member James Altman** welcomed Police Chief Christopher Cockrell to the Town of Andrews and offered his assistance to him if it is ever needed. He announced that Mel's Market will be hosting an open house for Christmas this upcoming weekend. He stated that he has received several calls from concerned citizens about an increase in homeless individuals living around the railroad tracks and in the surrounding woods.

**Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee** stated in his report that he and Mayor McClary were instrumental in getting a large oak tree removed from 108 Oakland Avenue at no cost to the Town with the assistance of former Judge Ben Dunn. He highlighted a few topics that were of discussion during a Municipal Elected Officials Conference he attended at the Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston South Carolina. He mentioned that elected officials should get to know the citizens who they represent. They are furnished with the tools to take care of the community and must be willing to help people. It is important that the leadership of any town to value and respect each other. Elected officials must be accountable for their social media accounts. It is important the elected official receive training as it pertains to social media and put out positive information about your Town. In closing he stated the elected officials should have a copy of the Town of Andrews 2003 Code of Ordinance. Article VII of the Codes of Ordinances addresses the Railroad regulations for the Town of Andrews. He further explained the process of filing a complaint against the CSX Railroad with the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

**Chaplain Degoris Brown** president of the Andrews Police Chaplain Alliance introduced her fellow chaplains, Pastor Rebecca Tilton, Pastor Eddie Fulmore, Pastor Cox and Bishop Cooper. She stated that the alliance is here to offer their support to the Town in health, sickness and if and when a tragedy occurs.

Mayor McClary explained the reason why Andrews is listed when unfavorable news is broadcasted as occurring in Andrews is because of the zip code of the location where the event occurred. He stated that this will be added to list a of items in need of a resolution. He also stated that as a part of the Town of Andrews Beautification project, the recommendation will be made to have all of the corners along Main Street mirror the look of West Main and North Morgan. It was announced the Fall Clean-up is a Town effort. The main focus is to remove all of the debris left from the recent storm and from citizens cleaning up their yards. The Street and Sanitation crew will be out on the job at 8:00 am Friday and 9:00 am on

Saturday. Citizens were encouraged to clean around their property as part of a joint effort to help beautify the Town. In reference to the letter sent to the Town about water and sewer access, Mayor McClary explained that if property is inside of the town limits and within 300 feet of the Town's system then those property owners are required to tap in to the system. On the other hand, if the property is located outside of the Town limits, then it is optional for those property owners to connect into the Town's system. However, these two property owners desire to install a well on their property versus tapping into the Town's system, DHEC requires a letter from the neighboring Municipality stating that the Town's system is not available to service the said property, which is not the case and saying so would greatly diminish the Town's ability to generate revenue. He further recommended to the citizens of Andrews that they collectively request that the Town's two county representatives; Everett Carolina, District 3 and Raymond Newton, District 5 meet with them once a month to discuss any concerns and to be a voice for the Town during the County Council meetings. A topic for discussion would be the Georgetown County Industrial Park as it pertains to the Town of Andrews having jurisdiction to service that area with water & sewer, which would be additional revenue for the Town. We as a body must be consistent and persistent in demanding what is best for the Town of Andrews.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to enter into an Executive Session according to S.C. Code §30-4-70 (A)

- A. Per section 30-4-70 (a)(2) Discussion about Contractual Matters: Municipal Complex

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

A motion was made by Council Member Robert Stamper and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to come out of Executive Session and enter back into the Regular Monthly meeting. Mayor Frank McClary stated that no decisions were made during the executive session.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.