

Town of Andrews

Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, January 19, 2023 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023. 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 Pastor 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 Ulrich
Council Member James Altman
Council Member Robert Stamper

Mayor McClary presented council Member Amy Flagler with a bouquet of flowers as a small token of love and support to her family who recently lost their son Douglas Flagler in an automobile accident.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the Thursday, December 15, 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 Ulrich; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

Mayor's Comments

Mayor McClary informed the citizens that the Town has discovered several ongoing issues with customer's water bills. The Town has since then brought in experts on water meters and the billing system. It was discovered that a number of customers have been receiving flat rate bills with no usage recorded. These account holders were alerted that they will be charged for the usage on their meter for which they have not been billed. The Town is in the process of hiring a new billing clerk. Citizens were informed that while the billing process continues to be audited, no services will be interrupted or penalties assessed. The Town is committed to providing quality service to its' customers. It was stated that the Town is in good financial standing. The Storm Drain project to create a new water outfall for the Town and reduce 75% of flooding that has been occurring in town will soon be underway. The Waterline Improvement project for North Beech Avenue has been rebid, this project will replace a two-inch waterline to a six-inch line. The Town also has received a request to service 25 additional homes in Williamsburg County. However, the Town must and will seek permission from Williamsburg County to infringe in their jurisdiction to service those customers who have petitioned the Town of Andrews for water and sewer service. Mayor McClary informed the citizens that he has made two attempts to request information from Georgetown County referencing relocating EMS back into the Town limits but he has not yet received a response. Citizens

were informed that the County has relocated the EMS that was housed at the Andrews Recreational Center to the fire sub-station in the Big Dam Community. He thanked all who participated in the Martin Luther King Day Jr. Events. He thanked the Gun Violence Committee for their efforts in the community to bring awareness to our community.

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 six months ended December 31, 2022.

New Business

General Obligation Bond Ordinance Number 2023-01: An Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale not to exceed \$400,000 taxable General Obligations Bond, Series 2023, or such other appropriate series designation of the Town of Andrews, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bond; authorizing the administrator of the Town to prescribe certain matters relating to the Bond; providing for the payment of the bond and disposition of the proceeds thereof. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the first reading of a General Obligation Bond Ordinance Number 2023-01. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; No, Council Member James Altman; No, Council Member Robert Stamper, motion carried.**

Vacant Building Ordinance Number 2023-02: An ordinance to protect the public health, safety and welfare by enactment of this ordinance which establishes a program for identification and registration of vacant buildings; determining the responsibilities of owners of vacant buildings and structures; and provides for administration, enforcement and penalties. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the first reading of an Vacant Building Ordinance Number 2023-02. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper, motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

Addy Brydic 413 South Beech Avenue stood before Town Council stating that she came before Town Council during the October 2022 Council meeting to voice concerns with a higher-than-normal water bill that she received during the month of October 2022. She voiced concerns with a large sink hole in front of her home that is located in the right of way developed as a result of a water leak under the asphalt pavement. She stated that the Town is aware of the water leak which has existed for over a year. She is still awaiting a response from the Town of Andrews as to when the water leak will be repaired. She stated that if the Town cannot or doesn't have the resources to make the needed repairs maybe it time to discuss letting another water and sewer district take over the system.

Wilma Brown 202 South Magnolia Avenue came before Town Council voicing concerns with stray animals (cats) in her neighborhood. She has constantly been disturbed by these animals for a week and she stated that it is time to address the issue.

Jennifer Hunt 207 South Farr Avenue stood before Town Council and informed everyone that she is still sponsoring a ride share to the Georgetown County Council meetings and she encouraged all to join her. She announced that she's the manager of the Andrews S.C. New Facebook page and she will post other events occurring in the town of Andrews free of charge if the information is shared with her. She announced that a Legislative breakfast will be held on January 27, 2023 and she encouraged everyone to join her in attending this paid event for \$35.00. She thanked all of the Town's officials and staff members for doing a wonderful job handling the town of Andrews business.

Sudha Patel 502 South Morgan Avenue came before Town Council and thanked all of the Town's Elected Officials, staff members, AFD and the APD workers for always willing to assist her when she is in need of assistance.

Leatha Palmer 427 East Cherry Street stood before Town Council to complain about a bad stench that is coming from a sewer leak in a ditch near her home. She also stated that several fire hydrants in her community are in need of repairs or replacement. Lastly, she thanked all elected officials and staff members for a job well done.

Mayor McClary stated that animal control in the town of Andrews is a problem. He informed the citizens that the Town of Andrews doesn't have an established contract with St. Frances Humane Society in Georgetown, S.C. for sheltering animals. It would cost the Town \$75,000 annually to enter into an agreement with this organization to house stray animals in addition to the citizens of Andrews paying a fee to Georgetown County through property taxes. The Town of Andrews Code Enforcer has been citing the owners who are identified as owners of the stray animals. The Town of Andrews work load exceeds the capacity of the employees, but the employees on staff are doing an excellent job working to meet the needs of the citizens. However, all issues will not be resolved overnight. Leaks in the middle of a road do not affect customers' water bills. Citizens were instructed to call 911 for all emergencies. The dispatching of officers is controlled by the Georgetown County Dispatch Office. The Town is aware of the stench along Cherry Street which is the result of a damaged line caused by a contractor dropping a heavy piece equipment directly on top of the Town's eight-inch sewer line. As a result of that incident sewer in that area over the past six months has been filtering through a 4-inch sewer line versus the original 8-inch line that was damaged. The problem is being addressed and hopefully it will be repaired in the next week. The Town will go out tomorrow and pump the sewer down and distribute lime. The Town of Andrews is limited when it comes to assisting citizens during the extreme weather conditions. This is a topic that should be addressed with our State and Local Representatives for their assistance.

Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator provided Town Council with an update on the rebid for the Beech Avenue Project. The low bidder is Carolina Tap and Bore Inc. with a bid of \$500,515.00. Construction on this project is expected to begin in March. These funds were received in 2020. She stated that she appeared at the Georgetown County Council to ask if the EMS that was recently relocated to the Big Dam Community fire

station if the move is permanent or temporary. This is a critical need for the Town of Andrews and its citizens. She encouraged all to come out to the Georgetown County Council meeting to address this issue as a united group. As a follow up to the 2019 A-Tax funding that the town had previously applied for; after several attempts to communicate with Georgetown County and receiving no response a check was mailed to the Town with no correspondence or explanation. However, she did have a conversation with the County Administrator Angela Christian who stated that 80% of the funds would be awarded. This is just another example of how Georgetown County continues to disrespect the Town of Andrews and its officials and citizens. The Council members were presented with a copy of the Town's calendar for the first quarter of 2023. The second reading of the Bond Ordinance will take place on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6pm. She encouraged the Council members to prepare themselves to approach our Representatives and Senators during the MASC HLAD next month about potential projects and securing funding. The State has a \$300 billion dollar budget this year.

Council Reports

Council Member Robert Stamper thanked the mayor and the public works department for their efforts to locate and restore water pressure to our customers along Rosemary Avenue during the recent water outage. He stated that the move of the EMS service to the Big Dam Community has affected the AFD call volume. The EMS Service response time has increased and could potentially be affected by the CXS train if a train is on the tracks during an emergency call. He has been told that this move is permanent. He thanked the Town Clerk for assisting him with his efforts to graduate from the MASC MEO Academy and for all the work that she does behind the scene to assist the council members. He stated that during November 2022 he sent an email requesting information from Georgetown County pertaining to the amount of taxes collected from the Town of Andrews over the past year and for the amount collected under the law enforcement tax but he has not received a response. He inquired about the process for renting the Ayce Center. Applications can be received from Town hall, \$100.00 deposit; \$125.00 for half a day rental or \$200.00 for a full day rental. Renter must have their own insurance if alcohol is being served during an event.

Council Member Robert Ulrich, no report. He thanked the citizens for coming out and voicing their concerns and to inform the body of issues within the Town.

Council Member Angela Anderson announced that the Georgetown County Adult Education program will be held at the Andrews Public Library starting January 23, 2023 Monday thru Thursday 9am until 12noon. The classes that will be offered is High School Diploma and GED classes. She encouraged citizens to attend the Georgetown County Council meetings to be a voice for the Town of Andrews. She thanked the staff and employees of the Town for the job that they do.

Council Member Amy Flagler thanked all who expressed acts of kindness to her family in the passing of her second son within the past two years. She thanked the Town for the flowers. She expressed concerns about the apartments located on Cherry Street and the constant code three calls that the Town has received and responded to over the past several years. She feels that a conversation should transpire

between the owner of the apartment and the water and sewer department with regards to the reoccurring sewer problems and the constant low water pressure to help identify the source of the problem which could be the owner's responsibility to have repaired.

Council Member James Altman thanked the employees for making repairs along Beech Ave. He also thanked the APD for a wonderful job apprehending an individual who attempted to steal property from the construction of his new home.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee began his report by highlighting some of the tasks that Mayor McClary has been instrumental with since he took office in January 2014. He stated that under the leadership of Mayor McClary the Town has acquired new equipment and vehicles for all departments, new lift stations have been installed, meters, a new garbage truck and service truck has been purchased just to mention a few of his accomplishments. Mayor McClary cares about the Town of Andrews and the welfare of all citizens. He is known to go above and beyond his call of duty to ensure that the citizens are treated and respected as they should be.

Mayor McClary emphasized the importance of the EMS Units being relocated into the town limits. This is a critical issue that must be resolved. The Town citizens and the local schools, nursing home and FMA Dialysis Center all depend on these services being readily available when emergencies arise. Love Bailey and Associates will be in town next week performing the annual Financial Audit of the Town's records. The Town's Worker's Compensation Audit is scheduled to occur next month.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.