

Town of Andrews

Public Hearing/Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510

Notification of the Public Hearing was advertised in the Georgetown Times on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 as required by the Freedom of Information Act. In addition, a post was on the Town of Andrews Facebook page and the meeting agenda was advertised on the doors of Town Hall to inform citizens who were interested in giving input during the public hearing, to email townhall@townofandrews.sc.gov no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. concerning a rezoning application to reclassify real property located within the corporate limits of the Town of Andrews, at 108 Eltaw Street known as TMS #06-0017-001-01-00, 1.90 acres from LI, Limited Industrial to R-8, Medium Density Residential District, and to amend the official zoning map of the Town of Andrews to so reflect. The public hearing was held from 6:00 p.m. until 6:05 p.m.

The applicant, Mr. Michael Davis, stated that the said property has been in his family since 1938, which predates the adoption of the Town of Andrews 2001 Zoning Ordinance. In his opinion, the Town made a mistake when this historic residential area was designated as part of a Limited Industrial District, and by doing so, it restricted the rights of the property owners to utilize their property for only Limited Industrial permissible uses.

Planning Commissioner Mark Stump stated that the Planning Commission met on Tuesday, April 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to review and discuss the applicant's request. He stood before the Andrews Town Council on behalf of the Planning Commission and recommended that Council consider approving the said rezoning request.

There were no citizen comments. Mayor McClary officially closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Invocation was rendered by Chaplain 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 Robert Ulrich
Council Member Amy Flagler

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the minutes for the Thursday, March 16, 2023 Town Council Meeting, **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

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 provided Town Council members with a copy and review of the Town of Andrews Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual report for the nine months ended March 31, 2023.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McClary informed everyone that the Town of Andrews Staff has completed a forensic audit of all customer accounts. In addition, all accounts will be reviewed once again before bills are processed and mailed. Some customers will receive a statement explaining how their account may have been affected during the months when no bills were generated and clear guidance on how to proceed with future payments and to remain in good standing. Customers who have been making regular monthly payments even though no bills were generated will have a credit on account that will be applied towards their next bill. The Fire Department responded to 34 calls during the last month. The department now has a ladder truck that will provide it with the capability to assist with fires at any of the surrounding industries. The department responded to several emergency calls that needed EMS Services. Town officials will continue to fight and demand that Georgetown County relocate EMS Services back within the town limits. A petition with over 1000 signatures from citizens and elected officials was submitted to Georgetown County Council addressing the need of this critical asset within the Town of Andrews. The Andrews Police Department responded to 44 calls this past month. It was noted that the Chief of Police and officers with the support of Georgetown County Sheriff's Office have been doing an outstanding job patrolling and protecting the citizens of Andrews. The department is expected to have three new hires within the next several weeks. The department is currently working a case that involved gun fire reported at Arbor Place Apartments last night. An arrest has been made in the shooting case that occurred in town last year where a young man was shot in the head but by the saving grace of God, he survived the shooting. The Public Works Department responded to 28 sewer backups, made 3 sewer repairs, 15 water leak repairs, patched 14 potholes and completed meter reading and checks. The Town is currently applying for resources to address the AT&T Cell Tower issues, replacing the waterlines from Main Street to Alder Street, the sewer lines along Magnolia Avenue and Park Avenue. The mayor thanked Jennie Hunt, Ms. Brown and Ms. Wright for their assistance with getting the required surveys completed by the deadline for the grant submission. Brooklyn Hibberts was recognized as the Town Water Treatment trainee. Brooklyn is also working to become certified to operate and manage the Town's system. The demolition of the Andrews Recreational Center is still a hot topic for which no resolution has been reached nor has a date been provided as it relates to the completion of this project which is a major issue for the citizens within the Andrews community.

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-03, an ordinance establishing an Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to South Carolina Local Revenue Services: Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-03, an ordinance relating to an Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to South Carolina Local Revenue Services. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Second Reading of the Town of Andrews Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance No. 2023-04, an ordinance pertaining to the Town of Andrews Flood Damage Prevention. Motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson and seconded by Council Member Robert Ulrich to approve the second reading of the Town of Andrews Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance No. 2023-03. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

New Business

Fair Housing Resolution Number 2023-03; Motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson and seconded by Council Member Amy Flagler to approve Fair Housing Resolution Number 2023-04 declaring the Month of April 2023 as Fair Housing Month in the Town of Andrews. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

CDBG Matching Resolution Number 2023-04; Motion was made by Council Member Angela Anderson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee to approve the CDBG Match Resolution Number 2023-04 stating that the Town of Andrews does hereby pledge 10% of the CDBG grant amount in local cash match for the Community Development Block Grant plus any additional funds needed to complete the project in addition to the \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant. It will also provide the necessary leveraging to complete the project. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Planning Commission Report; Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Amy Flagler to accept the Planning Commission recommendation and approve the rezoning request submitted by Michael Davis to rezone his personal property located at 108 Eltaw Street known as TMS #06-0017-001-01-00, 1.90 acres from LI, Limited Industrial to R-8, Medium Density Residential District, and to amend the official zoning map of the Town of Andrews to so reflect. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, motion carried.**

Citizen's Comments

Jennifer Hunt 207 South Farr Avenue came before the members of the Andrews Town Council and asked if the Town Administrator received an email from the NIC containing a survey related to a website for the Town of Andrews. The Administrator replied that Abe had someone to send her some information pertaining to a website but she explained to him last month that the Town has an existing contract with a company to provide such services. Ms. Hunt asked how many police officers the Town of Andrews has on staff. Mayor McClary responded that the APD currently has seven officers on staff. Ms. Hunt asked about the process of having an item placed on the Town Council meeting agenda. Mayor McClary told her to submit the request to the staff and they will have the information vetted through the Town Council who will decide if the item should be included on the meeting agenda. Ms. Hunt stated that she is trying to obtain funding from the Town to address blighted properties. She was told to provide a complete packet of information for Town Council to review and to render a decision to her request. She stated that she has already emailed the required information to Town Hall. Mayor McClary requested that a meeting be scheduled with Ms. Hunt to further discuss this topic with himself and the Town Administrator. In closing Ms. Hunt invited all to attend the Georgetown County Council meeting to join the fight to have EMS Services relocated to the Town of Andrews city limits and to discuss concerns about the demolition of the old gym. She asked how she can obtain a copy of the Town's Ordinances. She was informed that she should submit a request to the Town Clerk for copies of ordinances.

Ms. Shea Stamper 204 W. Alder Street came before Town Council to address concerns with it being April and Christmas was in December and Christmas decorations are still up in the Town. She informed Town Council that she and several other citizens will volunteer their services to help take the decorations down. In addition, she stated that there is a lot of trash and debris piled up in the old section of the Andrews Cemetery. Mayor McClary stated that the Town has plans to address these noted issues very soon. He thanked them for their willingness to assist.

Jamal Richardson 104 Privet Street stood before Town Council and thanked them for their hard work. He elaborated that he had a conversation today with Ms. Marylyn Hemmingway and he learned of other ways the Town of Andrews is being overlooked by Georgetown County. He recommended to Town Council that they consider forming a Historical Board for the Town of Andrews. Georgetown County is currently meeting to discuss potential projects to fund with Ten million dollars that the County already has access to, but again the Town of Andrews has not been made aware of these meetings and has no voice at the table. The Town of Andrews has great history that should be captured and not forgotten. He told all to keep up the good work and continue to fight for Andrews.

Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator responded to the comments that were made by Jennifer Hunt referencing an email she received from Linsey Butcher at the request of Abe who initiated plans to establish a website for the Town of Andrews which should only be initiated by Town officials or staff members. Ms. Wilson added that she previously had a conversation with Abe informing him that the Town was already engaged in contract with a company to provide this service. Mayor McClary once again, requested for a meeting be scheduled for a later date and time at Town Hall to further discuss this matter. Ms. Wilson stated that she and Mayor McClary met with Ms. Hunt and Councilwoman Anderson and provided directives on how to move forward with the Blight Properties. Ms. Wilson

recognized Williamsburg County Government and Rev. Alfred Darby for the support given to the Town of Andrews with the passing of a resolution in support of EMS Services being relocated back into the Town by means of an Intergovernmental Partnership. The next Georgetown County Council meeting will be Tuesday, April, 25 at 5:30 p.m. The date of the next Andrews Town Council meeting will be May 25, 2023. The Town's Visioning Plan will be presented at 5pm on that same day prior to the Council meeting. The tentative location for the meeting is the Andrews High School Auditorium; however, a flyer will be sent out when the location is confirmed. The MASC Annual meeting will take place on July 27th thru 30th. The MASC will host a Small City Summit on July 27th during the Annual meeting. She elaborated on how DHEC Compliance and Air Quality permitting was not properly obtained for any of the previous building demolitions on the Andrews Recreational Center site. It is a known fact that black mold was present in the old gym sometime before plans were implemented to demolish the gym. In addition, no 811 calls were made before the demolition began. Georgetown County Administration should be held accountable for their neglect to follow proper protocol especially as elected officials. The Town will soon begin advertising for a new Municipal Court Clerk. The required reporting for ARPA funding will start next month. The General Assembly has decided to fund all of the states proposed SCIIP projects at the same time thus putting all recipients in a pool to compete for certified contractors across the state. The funding must be expended by December 26, 2023. The Town will be moving forward with submitting an application in the amount of \$177,014.00 to the state revolving grant program which is 100 percent forgivable to fund the Sewer Line Project caused by the AT&T Cell Tower issue. A CDBG Grant submission was made on Monday. Ms. Wilson shared some highlights from a Cyber Security training she recently attended. Town Council was provided a report identifying proposed road repair work to take place in the Town of Andrews. She introduced the federally funded Transportation Alternative Set- Aside Program for which local governments can apply for funding for road improvement projects. Award amounts must be used to fund up to 80 percent of eligible approved projects with the applicant providing the remaining 20% as matching funds. The deadline to submit Letters of Intent is Friday, April 28, 2023. Qualified applicants will receive applications in June and will have one month to submit the applications. The Town of Andrews will also submit an application to the Brownfields Voluntary Cleanup Program and Loan Fund for a proposed project to clean up the old gas station and laundromats in the Towns limits. Ms. Wilson provided details of a \$30,000.00 Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment grant submission for which the funding cycle will open in October. In closing she announced that Mayor McClary was recently named Andrews High School Volunteer of the Year and the Sigma Psi Beta Fraternity Inc. Georgetown Branch awarded him with the John Lewis Social Action Award.

Council Reports

Council Member James Altman thanked the Andrews Police Department for assisting him with another case at the construction of his home. He congratulated the Andrews Fire Department for acquiring the ladder truck. He also thanked Jennifer Hunt and Council Member Angela Anderson for the work they are doing on the Blighted Homes project.

Council Robert Ulrich elaborated on the purpose of the Andrews Fire Department acquiring a ladder truck. Andrews Fire Department may not have the need for a ladder truck at this time, however there are large industries in the surrounding area that could benefit from the use of the ladder truck should any industry experience a fire. In addition, the truck was very economical and in excellent condition. Long term this

apparatus could help the Town to qualify for funding in the future to replace its aging vehicles. He reported that 70% of the calls that the fire department responded to during the last month were medical calls. Statistics of this magnitude is evidence that the Town of Andrews has the need for Local EMS Services that are readily available to assist in emergency type situations, he thus encouraged everyone to continue to fight to get Georgetown County to relocate EMS Services back in the Town of Andrews.

Council Member Amy Flagler inquired about the Town's next scheduled debris -pick up date and the process to apply for a burn permit. She explained that the Town's Code Enforcement Officer approached and informed her that she will be receiving a citation if she doesn't comply with the Town's Ordinance and clean up the disregarded household items along the side of the street in front of her rental property. Council Member Flagler added that she doesn't agree that she should receive a citation for something that she didn't do. In response, Mayor McClary referred Ms. Flagler to the Andrews Fire Department to apply for a burn permit. The Town Ordinance states that the public works department can only pick up small debris, leaves, weeds and small branches. The Public Works Department has already begun its Spring Clean -Up, however this will not include picking up disregarded household goods. He added that he will engage in a conversation with the code enforcement officer as it relates to determining if the landlord or tenants are responsible for removing disregarded household items from along the side of the road.

Council Member Angela Anderson voiced her concerns with the Town of Andrews officials and citizens holding Georgetown County accountable for its lack of respect shown to the Town of Andrews especially regarding the improper demolition of the old gym located on the grounds of the Andrews Recreational Center. She encouraged others to join them in attending the Georgetown County Monthly Council meetings to be a voice for the Town of Andrews. She recommended that Town Council consider allocating some of the ARPA funds to the Blighted Home Project. She also requested that Town Council agree to have this item listed on the meeting agenda for the next Regular Monthly Town Council meeting. In closing she stated that she is in agreement with the Town employing a full-time Code Enforcer.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee highlighted an excerpt from the Andrews Town Code Section **2.210 Rules of Order Parliamentary Procedures**. Except as otherwise provided by state law or this code, all proceedings of Council shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. **2.212 Unlawful to Interrupt Meetings-** It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to interrupt the proceedings of Council, the Court or any other official body while in session. **2.215 Conduct of Meetings-** All citizens have a right to participate in, but not interrupt, Town Council meetings. Therefore, a period of time (citizens' agenda) shall be set aside at every meeting to afford citizens an opportunity to speak on any town-related subject. Citizens wishing to speak shall add their name and address to a roster maintained by the Clerk, if requested to do so. When the Mayor hits the gavel upon the desk, that's a sign that the meeting has been interrupted.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.