

Town of Andrews

Andrews Town Council Meeting Thursday, December 15, 2022 6:00 p.m. 110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, December 15, 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 Chaplain Pastor Cox
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

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the Thursday, November 17, 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, motion carried.**

Mayor's Comments

Mayor McClary informed the citizens that water bills were processed and mailed on Friday, December 9, 2022. However, there were approximately 285 water bills that were not mailed. The additional bills are being reviewed because of high usage or no usage was indicated during the monthly meter reading process. The meter reader has already begun to read water meters for the next billing cycle which should put the billing process back on schedule. The recent billing cycle consisted of an average of 45 days. No services will be disconnected or late penalties assessed to customer's bills during this billing cycle. New and more efficient meter reading equipment have been purchased for the water department and the majority of inoperable water meters have been citizens for replaced. As a result of those actions customers who received a new water meter can anticipate receiving a bill based upon their actual water usage. Mayor McClary thanked the staff for their assistance with the kick off of the Town of Andrews Holiday events. He introduced Major Doloes Chandler of the Andrews Police Department. The mayor announced that he recently attended and participated in a State of the County Address and invited all interested parties to go online and view the slides and recording of the discussion.

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 five months ended November 30, 2022.

New Business

Resolution No. 2022-04: A Resolution authorizing and approving funds from South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve Resolution No. 2022-04: A Resolution authorizing and approving funds from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority. **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, motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

Allison Newton stood before Town Council stating that she was recently a victim of a home invasion. She further stated that Mayor McClary wouldn't return her phone call, no law enforcement officers were on duty in the Town and Georgetown County Sheriff's Department took 40 minutes to respond to the incident. She stated that Chief Cockrell returned her call and informed her that the Town has three officers on staff. She further inquired about the plans for hiring additional personnel for the department. She voiced concerns pertaining to the status of a water leak repair at 412 S. Beech Avenue. In addition, she complained about her water bill and the status of the funding to complete the Municipal complex project. Mayor McClary informed everyone that the appropriate action to take when an emergency issue arises is to call 911. He told Ms. Newton that he in fact returned her call, however they keep missing each other's calls; but he did put her in contact with the police chief who was the appropriate person to address her concerns. Ms. Newton kept interrupting him and he explained that her time to speak was up and this is not the time to engage in a dialog. She continued to interrupt the meeting and was asked to leave.

Jennifer Hunt stood before Town Council and introduced the Andrews Beautification Group to the Town. The group is in the process of soliciting help from the community with identifying abandoned buildings and residential homes that need to be demolished. The group has submitted an application to apply for a 501C3. Town Council was presented with a spreadsheet of dilapidated properties identified in the Town of Andrews as possible submission for the Blight Program. The next proposed project for the group will be to obtain a digital message board that will be used primarily to inform citizens of community events. Ms. Hunt announced that she is actively sponsoring a Ride Share to provide transportation to and from the Georgetown County Council meetings and the service is available to all interested individuals. She asked if the Town of Andrews submitted an application to the Accommodations Tax Committee for 2022 and if not, she recommended that the Town take advantage of this opportunity to seek funding for advertising. She also expressed interest in serving on the Accommodations Tax Committee. She informed everyone that she's open to post upcoming community events on the Andrews SC News Facebook Page, if the information is submitted to her.

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 holding the two Georgetown County Council Representatives accountable for representing the Town's Interest. However, this can only be accomplished with Town Council members and the citizens being united and demanding fair treatment

Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator informed Town Council that the rebid for the Beech Avenue project took place today. There were three bids for the project: Carolina Tap and Bore, Complete Utilities LLC and TCO. It was stated that the Town of Andrews submitted an application for Accommodations Tax funding in 2017 to Georgetown County Government for approximately \$25,000.00. Out of 8 applicants the Town was told to resubmit its grant application because the items listed on the application didn't meet the need. The Town made the revisions and the grant application was resubmitted for \$15,000.00. All of the applicants that applied that year received funding with the exception of the Town. The Town was told to apply for tourism funding with the Chamber of Commerce. The Town did receive some funding from this source but not all that was requested. In 2019 the Town made another application for the alley ways and Progress Park projects. The Town was awarded funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 that year. The submission requested that the funds be awarded in advance to purchase supplies. Thus, the Covid-19 Pandemic occurred and the Town followed up in March on the status of the grant award. The Town was told that the funds would be distributed on a reimbursement basis but that was not noted in the special condition's section on the application. Communication has been ongoing with the County Administration in regards to the Town of Andrews receiving the awarded funds but as of today the County Administration has not responded. As previously stated the Town of Andrews gets nothing from the County or ether gets ignored. Council Member Anderson presented an email that she received from Ms. Glenda Long from Georgetown County regarding Accommodations Tax application and stated that she previously sent an email to the Town via email to Mauretta Wilson. Ms. Wilson stated that she never received an email from Ms. Long. Mayor McClary intervened and requested that a meeting be scheduled between Ms. Wilson and Council Member Anderson to meet with Georgetown Administration to further discuss a resolution to this matter.

Council Reports

Council Member Robert Ulrich thanked everyone for coming out in support of the meeting. He asked Chief Cockrell what is the standard level of coverage for the APD that he wishes to attain for the Town of Andrews. Chief Cockrell replied that to provide the level of safety needed to cover for the Town he would need to have at least four officers on shift per day. He added that the Georgetown Sheriff's office is working with the APD to fill in any gaps of coverage until the APD work force is completely staffed. He also asked does the Town have a plan to get the backhoe and street sweeper back into operation. Mayor McClary responded stating that the backhoes' starter was blown however a new starter just arrived and the backhoe will soon be back in operation. The Town is currently utilizing its manpower and blowers as an alternative to a street sweeper. Council Member Ulrich raised concerns with the AFD being called out to respond to issues that's clearly the responsibility of the public works department. He added that the EMS Unit that was once housed at the Andrews Recreational Center has been relocated to the Fire House in the Big Damn Community; therefore, citizens within the Town of Andrews may experience a delay in the response time to EMS assistance related calls. The AFD is currently working to put logistics in place

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that will aid the firefighters in responding to and assisting with EMS related emergencies. In the interim he recommended that the Town contact Georgetown County to find out if there are plans to relocate an EMS Unit back into the Town limits. Mayor McClary stated that he will have a discussion with the public works supervisor regarding a resolution to the matter of the AFD having to respond to public works related issues and emergency calls.

Council Member Angela Anderson thanked Jennifer Hunt for her efforts to bring the Blight Elimination Program to the Town. She stated that it was brought to her attention that the Jones Avenue Park is not under the jurisdiction of Georgetown County. She asked if the Town could consider allocating funds in its annual budget to expend towards the maintenance of the park. She announced that Trinity United Methodist Church will sponsor a Christmas Dinner at noon on Saturday, December 24, 2022. Volunteers are needed to help serve the dinner on Christmas Eve. GED courses will soon be available in Andrews at the County Library. She announced that Georgetown County has plans to demolish the old gym located on the grounds of the Andrews Recreational Center during the fall of 2023. She encouraged the citizens of Andrews to unite and support efforts to improve the quality of life in the Town. Mayor McClary informed that the JJ Shaw Park on Jones Avenue is a privately owned park and the Town has been assisting with the up keep of the lawn for years.

Council Member Amy Flagler thanked the AFD for their assistance last week with a car accident on Hwy 41 involving a fatality. She spoke on concerns with over grown growth at intersections in the Town that makes it difficult for drivers to safely pull off after stopping at stop signs. Mayor McClary stated that the roads and sidewalks are under the jurisdiction of SC DOT, however the Town employees will assist with these type issues when they are reported to Town hall.

Council Member James Altman thanked Jamal Richardson for his efforts and support given to the Town of Andrews. He thanked Jennifer Hunt for her hard work to make the Town a better place to live. He encouraged the citizens of Andrews to work together and with the Town Council to address the issues and challenges of the Town. Lastly, he thanked the Andrews Chaplain Alliance for the support it provides to the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee stated that he assisted the Town with its cleanup project on November 18 and 19, 2022. He shared with Town Council members a memo that he presented to Mayor McClary updating him on the specifics of the cleanup project. He thanked all of those who supported the cleanup effort. Lastly, he Mayor McClary for his leadership and service to the Town of Andrews.

In closing Mayor McClary thanked everyone who was instrumental in working with the Town of Andrews over the past year. He stated a goal for Town to accomplish in the new year is to establish a better relationship that fosters good communication between Town officials, citizens, County and State representative. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by CouncilMember Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.