

Town of Andrews

**Public Hearings/Andrews Town Council Meeting
Via Zoom/Facebook Live
Thursday, June 16, 2022 6:00 p.m.
110 North Morgan Avenue Andrews, SC 29510**

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

Notification of the Public Hearings was advertised in the Georgetown Times on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 and posted on the doors of Town Hall as required by the Freedom of Information Act. In addition, a post was added on the Town of Andrews Facebook page and the Meeting Agenda was posted on the doors of Town Hall informing citizens who were interested in giving input for the Public Hearings, to email townhall@townofandrews.sc.gov no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

Public Hearings

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. for a Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increase Ordinance on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 6:09 p.m. until 6:14 p.m. No public comments were submitted online referencing the ordinance.

A public hearing was held by the Town Council of Andrews, S.C. for a Proposed FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 6:14 p.m. until 6:21 p.m. No public comments were submitted online referencing the ordinance.

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2022. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:21 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 James Altman
Council Member Robert Stamper

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the Tuesday, May 17, 2022 Budget Workshop minutes. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the Tuesday, May 17, 2022 Town Council Meeting minutes with the noted corrections: Thomas Chapel AME Church sponsors a food give-away the third Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. Ebenezer MBC sponsors a food give-away the Wednesday following the fourth Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; 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 presented Town Council members with a review of the Town of Andrews Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual report for the eleven months ended May 31, 2022.

Old Business

Second Reading Ordinance Number 2022-02: A Proposed Coast RTA No Parking Zone Ordinance.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the second reading of the Proposed Coast RTA No Parking Zone Ordinance Number 2022-02, an Ordinance to designate a No Parking Zone at Coast RTA bus stop located in front of the Andrews Library on North Morgan Avenue. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

Second Reading Ordinance Number 2022-03: A Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increase Ordinance.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the second reading of Proposed Ordinance Number 2022-03, an ordinance to modify the water and sewer rates for the Town of Andrews by 3.50% effective August 1, 2022. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member James Altman; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper; Yes, motion carried.**

Second Reading Ordinance Number 2022-04: A Proposed FY2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget Ordinance. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2022-04, a Proposed FY2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget Ordinance as follows:

General Fund Revenues: \$2,113,700.00

General Fund Expenditures: \$2,034,150.00

Millage Rate 137

Water & Sewer Fund Revenues \$1,795,050.00

Water & Sewer Fund Expenditures \$1,874,600.00

The Ordinance shall be effective on the date of the final (second) reading.

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

Citizens' Comments

Mayor McClary introduced Mr. Tirrell Anderson a Johnsonville native better known as Ghost the Repo Man, Butter Black and Pastor Anderson. Ghost the Repo Man donates free gas and sponsors food giveaways. Pastor Anderson is a full-time pastor of Christ Fellowship International Church in Columbia, South Carolina. He has been using his money from his repo business to help people. Because he is a pastor, he considers what he is doing at the gas pumps to be a ministry. Mr. Anderson stated that he goes across the state, especially to smaller towns, sponsoring gas giveaways and grocery shopping sprees. He will be visiting Andrews tomorrow, blessing people with free gas and grocery shopping sprees on a first come, first serve basis as a way of expressing his love to others. The Exxon gas station in Andrews will be the location for the gas giveaway on Friday, June 17, 2022 starting at noon. Individuals must follow Ghost the Repo Man on Facebook, subscribe to his YouTube page and Instagram to be a recipient of the giveaways.

A citizen inquired about the South Magnolia Avenue sewer issue. Mayor McClary stated that he will address that concern during the Mayor's report. Another citizen inquired about the status of several inoperable police vehicles stored at CNK Marie Auto and Repair on Main Street. Mayor McClary stated that there are only two police vehicles at that location. The two vehicles have been decommissioned and are being used for spare parts. The Town has been awarded a USDA grant to replace the entire APD Fleet. Two Silverados have been purchased and several Ford Explorers are on order. He mentioned that water bills have been delayed due to the fact that the Town has a new meter reader who is currently in training and is learning how to properly locate and read over 1700 meters. This has caused the delay in citizens receiving their monthly water bill; in addition the Town is actively conducting an audit of all water meter readings. No penalties will be assessed and the cutoff process will be held off

throughout this process. It is the goal to have this entire process completed and the billing cycle back on schedule by August 1, 2022. The Town Council meetings will resume in-person meetings in July 2022. Mayor McClary stated that the ARAP funding that the Town receives will be allocated primarily to infrastructure projects for the Town of Andrews. It was stated that there is a sewer blockage along Magnolia Avenue. Unfortunately, this is a major challenge for the Town. The piping in this area has never been upgraded and the original clay piping is deteriorating and collapsing. There is no easy fix for a problem of this magnitude and it's extremely costly to address. However, a temporary solution has been initiated. The Town has identified several contributing factors to include citizens continuing to put foreign objects and grease into the drainage system, thus wreaking havoc on an outdated, unmaintained system that results in it malfunctioning. Citizens were encouraged not to place foreign objects and other harmful debris into the drainage system as a means to help minimize and to eliminate sewer issues throughout the Town.

Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator apologized for the delay in water bills, due to on-the-job training of a new meter reader taking place and an ongoing audit of the entire billing system. No late penalties will be applied to this billing cycle. The plan is to have the billing cycle back on schedule by August 1, 2022. It was explained that the Town has to enter into a condemnation process to address fallen/dilapidated structures. This is a lengthy and costly process to undertake and the Town will have to be financially responsible for any action to take place. The Town Administrator spoke in response to a citizen comment regarding the Georgetown County Water & Sewer District taking over the Town's system. She explained that this would not eliminate the issues that the citizens are experiencing. There are no overnight fixes for these issues that have been developing for over twenty five years or more. She stated that no matter who owned the system, or if you had all of the funding needed to address all of the issues, it would still take the owner of the system the same amount of time to replace the entire system. She thanked everyone for their concerns and those citizens who actively participate in aiding the Town to secure grants funding to finance infrastructure improvement projects by actively providing all of the required documentation during the application process.

Council Reports

Council Member Angela Anderson reported a foul odor along Myrtle Road in the vicinity of Fern Loop and Cedar Avenue. She also stated that it could be beneficial for the Town, to solicit help from the citizens by encouraging them to report others whom they witness violating the Town's ordinances that address littering, and to report any visible water or sewer leaks that they have knowledge thereof. She announced that Ebenezer MBC will sponsor a Food Giveaway on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 9 a.m. Lastly, she requested clarification on the guidelines for burning trash within the Town Limits. Mayor McClary in response stated that approval for burning trash must be received from the Andrews Fire Department before any burning takes place or fires started. Citizens should call the Emergency Dispatch number (843-527-6763) to receive prior approval before igniting a fire to burn yard debris or trash. She thanked all of the Town employees for doing a great job. Mayor McClary stated that the foul odor on Fern Loop is currently under investigation by the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department will be collecting yard debris the first week of August, 2022.

Council Member James Altman thanked the Andrews Police Department staff for doing an outstanding job. He thanked Councilman Lee for his support with assisting him with placing work orders with the responsible department to assess and repair water leaks. He also thanked Mayor McClary for providing his mother-in-law with information pertaining to available assistance for the elderly.

Council Member Robert Stamper thanked his fellow council members and the Administrative Staff for their acts of kindness expressed to his father and family during the illness of his father. He inquired about the status of the Town's backhoe and vacuum truck. Mayor McClary stated that the backhoe is currently inoperable and is being assessed for repairs. In the meantime, the excavator is readily available if needed to complete any work orders. The vacuum truck was recently inoperable and in need of repairs. However, the parts have been purchased and the vacuum truck is expected to be repaired and fully operational by the first of next week. Councilman Stamper also inquired about the status of the DHEC Annual Sewer System Inspection. The Town Administrator stated that the DHEC Sewer Inspection has been completed and the Town is waiting for the final report from DHEC. He reminded and cautioned all to stay hydrated while working in the extreme hot temperatures during the summer months. Lastly, he asked for permission to park one of the department's engines in the breezeway at Town Hall. In response, Mayor McClary authorized the department to utilize the parking area.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee stated that during the past month he assisted a citizen with placing a work order with SC DOT to have a compromised roadway issue on West Cherry Street addressed, and a ditch cleaned out along Mahogany Avenue. He also placed work orders with the Town of Andrews requesting that a hole in the middle of Jones Avenue and Pine Street be repaired as well as a water leak along MLK Drive in front of a citizen's home. He further reported that he removed discarded trash bags from the side of the street along MLK Drive. Lastly, it was reported that he was successful with having SC DOT to replace a downed traffic sign at the intersection of Hemlock Avenue and Jones Avenue after making direct contact with the responsible agency.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Frank McClary thanked all of the staff and employees of the Town of Andrews for their hard work towards keeping the Town functioning and providing excellent service to our citizens. He encouraged all to keep up the good work and continue to be safe.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Town Council Meeting Minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.