

Town of Andrews

Town of Andrews Town Council Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024 6:00 p.m.
110 North Morgan Avenue
Andrews, SC 29510

Town Council Meeting

The Town of Andrews met for its Monthly Town Council Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Mayor Frank McClary presiding in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

The invocation was rendered by Dr. Marian Thompson.
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 Robert Stamper II
Council Member James Altman

Mayor McClary welcomed Ms. Turquoise Rouse to the meeting, who is a lifetime resident of Williamsburg County from the Trio Community. She graduated from C.E. Murray High School in 2003 and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Morris College. Additionally, she holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Walden University. She is an active member of the Kingstree-Lake City Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Currently, she serves as Program Manager focusing on improving parent-child interactions, health, and wellness and preventing abuse, and abuse within families. Turquoise is also Co-Owner of Ruby's Daycare and the owner of TR Development Group, a company specializing in consulting, coaching, and coordinating services. She stood before the Andrews Town Council and announced that she is seeking candidacy for Williamsburg County Council District 3 and solicited the support of all.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee made the motion and it was seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to approve the minutes for the Thursday, December 21, 2023 Town Council Meeting. **Mayor Frank McClary; Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee; Yes, Council Member Angela Anderson; Yes, Council Member Amy Flagler; Yes, Council Member Robert Ulrich; Yes, Council Member Robert Stamper II; Yes, Council Member James Altman; 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 six months ended December 31, 2023.

New Business

2024 Mayor Pro Tem Election: The Council Members received a voting ballot to cast their vote for Mayor Pro Tem. The ballots were collected and tallied by the Town Clerk Chaconas Parson. The results were verified by Mayor Frank McClary. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee was re-elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the Andrews Town Council for the next two years after receiving four of the seven votes casted.

Mayor McClary stated that the Town Administrator Mauretta Wilson was not in attendance due to her attendance at an Administrator's conference. Mayor McClary informed Town Council that the Town has received authorization from the state to move forward with the South Magnolia Avenue Sewer Upgrade project that will replace an eight-inch sewer line. The Town's ongoing Beech Avenue Waterline replacement project is still experiencing problems with the performance of the contractors.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

Council Member James Altman thanked the public works department on call staff for their support on Saturday, January 13th for responding to a Code 3 at Victory Freewill Baptist Church and resolving the issue prior to a scheduled funeral service.

Council Member Amy Flagler thanked all who came to support her during her second swearing-in ceremony for Town Council and she stated that she doesn't have anything negative to report.

Council Member Robert Ulrich elaborated on the excellent service he received from the Andrews Police Department. He requested the Andrews Police Department's assistance for a non-emergency situation at his residence and an officer arrived at his home in less than ten minutes. He stated that it has been reported to him on several occasions that the workers on the garbage truck are not always wearing a reflective vest and this needs to be addressed for the safety of the workers and to minimize the Town's liability if an accident were to occur. He asked Mayor McClary when will the regular monthly billing cycle resume for water bills. Mayor McClary explained that the previously mentioned issues are still being addressed to ensure that all readings are accurate. He added that repairs are ongoing to correct the deficiencies found in the billing process is still ongoing. The meter reader is currently reading meters and customers can expect to receive a bill soon and the regular billing cycle will soon be back to normal with actual readings. Lastly, he asked why does the Town of Andrews have nineteen different bank accounts. Ms. Jackson, CPA for the Town responded by saying that several accounts are proprietary accounts, that funds are required to keep funds separate from all other funds e.g., water & sewer, bond account, grant funds; firemen's fund; police seizure funds etc. However, she did agree that several of the existing accounts could possibly be closed.

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Angela Anderson mentioned that she received several concerns from citizens who inquired about the lack of lighting along Main Street especially on the West Side of Town. She reported a huge hole on West Cherry Street near the train tracks with no warning signs for traffic traveling along that street. She voiced her concern with the need to improve the level of communication between Town Council and the citizens of Andrews. She suggested the Town developing a community calendar. Ms. Anderson expressed her opinion that Town Council members should be better informed about the things that are taking place within the Town and having an additional monthly meeting could be the solution. She asked for an update on the status of the lawsuit related to Municipal Complex. Attorney Carter replied that the Town has an upcoming court date in March; the case will appear on the roster but every time he tries to have the case heard, the opposing attorney utilizes his partners' authority as speaker of the House of Representatives, not to engage in any court cases while the House is in session. Ms. Anderson asked Mayor McClary if the outcome of the lawsuit is not favorable to the Town what will be the next plan of action. Mayor McClary stated that if the outcome of the lawsuit is not favorable to the Town, the Town will seek other funding sources. Attorney Carter added that he firmly believes that the court case will be heard March 2024. Ms. Anderson thanked the Code Enforcement Officer, Joyce Williams for doing an excellent job and she thanked all who assisted with the planning of the recent MLK Day Celebration which was a success.

Council Member Robert Stamper asked if the Town could send a monthly bill out for garbage service until the regular water and sewer billing cycle is back on track as a means of having a steady flow of income coming in monthly. Mayor McClary stated that he would have to inquire about that request from the billing department. He recommended that Andrews Town Council make every effort to have a dialogue with the Capital Sales Tax Committee members to inform them of the needs of the Town of Andrews and its citizens.

Council Member Flagler stated that she received a phone call and was informed that Councilman Everette Carolina and Councilman Raymond Newton never received any applications or names for consideration for the Capital Sales Tax committee. Mayor McClary asserted that he personally delivered copies to the Administrator for the City of Georgetown and to the Attorney for Georgetown County.

Councilman Stamper reminded Town Council that the old fire engine is sitting out in the elements. The engine may need to be covered or possibly listed on Gov Deals for sale. He recommended that the Town engage in a conversation with Williamsburg County regarding selling water to the county from the town's existing water mains located in Williamsburg County. He mentioned that the Andrews Fire Department is applying for a V- Safe Grant in the amount of 14,000.00. He thanked Jerney Dickson and Brooklyn Hibberts for being vigilant and for their efforts to put out a fire and notifying the AFD to further assess the situation. He reminded Town Council that the deadline is rapidly approaching to utilize ARAP Funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee reported that January 16, 2024 at 1:33 pm, he spoke with a representative from Duke Energy Progress regarding the light outage along Main Street and he placed work order number 52357898 which covers seven different locations which should have light restored within 3 to 5 days.

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Mayor Pro Tem stated to the Town Clerk there's no need to put a reminder notice in his council packet, he will contact her immediately if he has any questions or concerns about the contents of the packet. Mayor Pro Tem stated that he took it upon himself to distribute copies of the upcoming holiday garbage collection schedule to various places in the community as an additional means of keeping the citizens informed. During the month of December, he reported several water leaks to the public works department, he cleaned up the entire five blocks of the railroad bed, removed discarded debris along MLK Drive and placed work orders with SCDOT to have several ditches in the Town cleaned out.

Mayor Pro Tem stated that prior to the recent election there were many attempts by individuals whose objective was to discredit Mayor McClary. He went on to say that he once read a sign that was hanging on a wall in a church in North Santee that read "Do the Right Thing"; he shared with everyone that saying was not adhered to during the recent election. He encouraged all to think about the type of Mayor the Town of Andrews has; think about the where he has brought the Town from to include neglect of infrastructure, little or no money in the bank and the lack of leadership in prior administrations. Lastly, he stressed to Mayor McClary that he fully supports him in his efforts to improve the quality of life for all citizens in the Town of Andrews.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor McClary stated that Council Member Anderson is suggesting that Town Council have two meetings a month. He explained that this would have to be a Town Council's decision to change from one to two Regular monthly Town Council meetings on a regular basis. Of course, that would require the Town to pass an ordinance. However, Council Member Ulrich suggested a work session in addition to the Regular Monthly Town Council meeting. Mayor McClary stated that other members may recommend other options such as bi-monthly, quarterly, etc. This topic will be listed on the next monthly meeting agenda for further discussion and a vote. In addition, there was discussion about creating a committee to coordinate special community activities made up of citizens who are willing to volunteer their service. Currently there is an active group called the Main Street Andrews Group who is responsible for a lot of the decorations along Main Street which others can join. However, to create a formal committee under the Town's umbrella would subject that group to state laws and rules for governing bodies. Mayor McClary informed all that anybody can report a light outage to Duke Energy Progress, it only requires reporting the pole number associated with the inoperable light.

It was announced that the Town now has a YMCA presence thanks to the Rebecca Parson's Foundation which has contributed a substantial amount of funds to the project. This project will address youth programs that will meet the needs of young men and young women ages 11-17. Mayor thanked Mr. David Byrd who is the CEO and Mr. Zackery Marshall, Executive Director of the Georgetown County YMCA. Vermel Fraser was recognized, for her role in starting Girl Scout Troop 2913 which is a positive thing for the community. The Troop currently has 30 members.

Mayor McClary announced that the Town received written notification January 3, 2024 from S.C Department of Transportation stating that the department will be installing an intersection control beacon with flashing redlight above ground that is visible from all directions at the intersection of County Line Road and Martin Luther King Drive. Georgetown County Maintenance Department will extend the

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edge lines and center lines to better define the intersection, relocate the stop lines, and hash out excess pavement on all quadrants. That department will also be responsible for relocating and raising the truck restriction signs as needed and installing a retro reflective post on all signs per traffic engineering guidelines. Lastly, he announced that the Andrews Traffic Court will be holding pre-trial hearings Wednesday, January 24, 2024 and on the docket is the old abandoned Barrineau Gas Station. Lieutenant Darryel Carr was welcomed to the Andrews Police Department. Patrol Officer Jacob Leister was recognized for successfully completing the S.C. Police Academy training.

Mr. Samuel Marsh requested to address Town Council. He stated that he and other citizens of the Town are deeply concerned about the completion of the Municipal Complex. He asked Mayor McClary, Town Council members and the Town's Attorney would they object to him and other citizens getting involved with County Council to move this issue along. All agreed that citizens should and can exercise their rights to support and fight for what they believe is right.

Ms. Jennifer Hunt came before Town Council and announced that the next Capital Sales Tax Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 25, 2024, 5:30 pm at the Andrews Library and she encouraged all to come out and be a voice for the Town of Andrews. She offered her service to post events in the Town of Andrews via the Andrews News Facebook page.

Ms. Turquoise Rouse offered her services through her consulting company TR Developing Group to help disseminate information to citizens within the Andrews Community via phone call or text messages.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Lee and seconded by Council Member Angela Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Town Council Meeting minutes submitted by Town Clerk Chaconas Parson.