

Town of Meridian Hills
Town Council Meeting
March 9th, 2015

The meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council was called to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the library of the Early Childhood Learning Center at Park Tudor School

In Attendance: Walter Freihofer, Councilor
 Kristina Frey, Councilor
 Terry O'Brien, Councilor
 Rick Batza, Town Officer for Town Marshall Mike Russo
 John Taylor, Clerk – Treasurer
 Bernie Bruno, Asst. Clerk-Treasurer
 Mary Soleda for Attorney Sue Beesley
 Lance Stahley for Jay Vorisek, Town Engineer

Residents & Visitors that signed in:

Bob Barrows	Alli Stittle
Edward Smid	Jake Isenbarger
Kevin Stittle	Sherman McMurray
Brian Wieger	David Lucas
Tom Barry	Dobbie Smith
Patty Miller	Mike Miller
Anne Jay	Stephen Jay
Jan Krukemier	Tom Krukemier
Greg Morris	Sara Morris
Craig Huse	Jill Huse
Josh Wakefield	Kasey Wakefield
Abbe Hohmann	Tom Aschauer
Don Densborn	Kathy Densborn
John Van Winkle	Mike Morgan

Mark Demerly

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Walter Freihofer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Per President Freihofer's suggestion the Council voted to move the Development Standards Committee discussion concerning 7701 N. Pennsylvania to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the number of residents attending the meeting.

Development Standards Committee:

President Freihofer stated he had recently received notice that Resident Bundy requested a variance concerning construction of a building on his property at 7701 N. Pennsylvania and because the property had no frontage on a public street a variance might be needed to address or define setback requirements. President Freihofer stated that the Development Standards Committee (often referred to as the Land Use Committee) would schedule a meeting and discuss the variance request with the plan for making a recommendation to the Town Council at the May 11th Council Meeting.

Discussion followed. Questions concerning variances, the Town Council's authority, and the timing of when the Indianapolis Department of Metro Development would act were discussed. President Freihofer clarified that because the Town's Municipal Code was different than the City's, the Town Council over the years had established a working relationship where the City's Metro Development had the legal authority to approve variance requests but would refer all Town variance requests to the Town of Meridian Hills for review and recommendation. The Land Use Committee meets as needed every month. The merits of the variance request are discussed with an emphasis on neighbor support. Typically a second meeting is held and the committee makes a recommendation to the Council that is either Yes – No or No Opinion. The Town Council will vote on the variance request at the next Council Meeting or under some circumstances at a Special Council Meeting.

Residents Forum

Resident Abbe Hohmann asked about the status of the Pennsylvania St. Project. Engineer Lance Stahley stated he was not aware of any open issues and that the project had been completed to the best of his knowledge. Resident Hohmann asked about the trees that had been planted and had subsequently died. Engineer Stahley explained that the trees would be expected to be warranted and he would ask that they be replaced.

Approval of Minutes

Council approved of the amended November 10th Council Meeting minutes and the January 12th Council Meeting minutes.

Police Report

Officer Rick Batza on behalf of Town Marshall Russo submitted the Monthly Police report and commented that a series of car break-ins had been occurring over the entire North Side of Indianapolis.

Officer Batza encouraged residents to use 911 to report and suspicious activity. He reminded residents that the 317-253-5678 is an answering machine for administrative issues. He also stated that he will be ordering a new phone number answering service, so that non-emergency calls can be referred to the police more quickly.

Officer Batza reported that the City's computer aided dispatch system was experiencing difficulty. The city will be spending \$8.5 million to improve the dispatch system and it should take 9 mo to a year for the update. The Icons on the Town's website for Crimeview are tied to the City's database and computer aided dispatch system.

Residents asked how much is being spent on Police – Safety in the Town. Clerk Treasurer Taylor stated that approximately 1/3rd of the annual Town Budget goes toward Police and Safety issues, reflecting approximately \$110,000.

Resident also made note of a perceived increase in accidents at 75th and Meridian St.

Report of Town Engineer

Engineer Lance Stahley for Town Engineer Jay Vorisek, submitted the Engineering report and updated the Councilors on the projects that they were working on.

Streets and drainage issues are being addressed. Potholes reported to the Mayor's action line have been responded to within 24-28 hours.

Street and Right of Way Lawn damage due to the construction at Woodmont are being corrected the contractor.

Engineer Stahley provided updated information on Central Avenue south of 75th St., and a reported drainage issue at 222 W. 75th St where Town Right of Entry will need to be granted. He also reported the status of several new driveways and parking areas in the

Right of Way that have been previously discussed.

Engineer Stahly commented that Public Drainage issues, in addition to gas and sewer issues, serviced by Citizens Energy Group (CEG) can be reported to CEG via phone or via the internet which is similar to the reporting of action items to the mayor's Action Center for roadway, signage or animal control issues. The issues should be in the public right of way. CEG customer service line is 317-924-3311 and the internet service link is www.citizensenergygroup.com/My-Account/Contact-Us and you can select a reason such as "drainage issue" or "sewer issue" from a drop down list so CEG can redirect the service request to the appropriate department.

President Freihofer reported a pothole problem at 73rd between Meridian and Pennsylvania. He commented that there was a 73rd Street failure in the pavement at Meridian St on the west side of Meridian at the gas valve. Engineer Stahly agreed to look into this.

Town Attorney

Nothing to report

Report of Clerk Treasurer

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor reported that February and March were a bad months for winter snow and the cost of snow removal spiked. While it wasn't as bad as 2014, the snow removal costs for the year would be above budget. The Town had spent \$57,000 prior to March 1st and we expect additional invoices for snow removal.

Clerk Treasurer Taylor also want to express thanks to Council for the thoughtful charity donation in memory of his father, Howard Taylor who passed away on January 11th, 2015.

Old Business

President Freihofer opened the discussion concerning the 72nd Street request for Speed Humps to address traffic calming.

Councilor Frey updated the Council that the residents had tabled the traffic speed humps until other options are considered (i.e. hammerhead T-Street as on 92nd St).

Councilor Frey also commented on Resident Al Hall's request on 65th Street. She stated that response was slow from affected city services (police, fire, etc.). Engineer Stahly also commented that IFD preference response is slow.

Central Avenue Drainage south of 75th St. update, Engineer Stahley stated that DPW is waiting on Right of Entry from the Town. Discussion followed.

Some Residents sought other engineering private report, Guidant report, for feedback on what the DPW project would accomplish. One resident spoke out against the drainage swale taking out mature trees and wanted to review the report to prevent tree removal.

Engineer Stahley stated that capturing the water on the west side of Central with the swale might not solve the east side of street issues. President Freihofer stated the drainage issue has been studied for 2 years and wanted the Town to move to make a decision.

Resident asked how to move forward. Discussion continued between residents on the effected trees. One long term resident reflected that the problem started when the street was paved approximately 17 years ago.

President Freihofer made a motion that the Town execute on the Right of Entry to limit of the right of way for the purpose of the DPW project to create swales. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed by a vote of 3-0.

President Freihofer suggested that one resident be a contact for Lance and encouraged that all parties do everything to be neighborly and civil.

New Business

Councilor Terry O'Brien presented to the Council a Wellington and Sherwood Village Historical Marker image for approval. After further discussion, Council approved the two markers at a cost of \$1860 each by a vote of 2-1.

Councilor O'Brien reported on requested Town Website upgrade. He commented that the website is on a newer platform and is more available for use with Mobile devices. There will be links with City safety. Cost to the Town is a range of \$1000 to \$3000. Council discussed and approved funding by a vote of 3-0.

Councilor O'Brien asked if there were any Eagle Scout projects to consider as a Park Tudor student had inquired.

Councilor O'Brien also discussed the possibility of a Fund Raising Campaign for the Town to support Signs, lights, and landscaping for the Signs. The goal of the fund raising would help fund Town efforts in recognition and awareness.

Committee Reports

Development Standards Committee -

President Freihofer reported that there was a variance request at 7605 N. Pennsylvania St. The location is on the south side and east side of the lot. The resident is asking for a 3 ft variance for the side yard set back. The construction project would be taking an addition out and adding a new structure. Resident is addressing drainage issues with the project and has approval of neighbors to South and North. Land Use Committee unanimously recommended the variance to the Council. Council discussed and voted 3-0 to approve the variance.

Claims & Vouchers

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor submitted Vouchers for January 2015 for \$32,656.43 and February 2015 for \$33,297.68. Claims were approved by Council 3-0.

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted January 12, 2015

EFT Town Payroll 12/25/14- 1/7/15 (estimated)	\$5,000.00
EFT Town Payroll 1/8/15- 1/21/15 (estimated)	5,000.00
EFT Town Payroll 1/22/15- 2/4/15 (estimated)	5,000.00
2737 AT&T	124.70
2738 Speedway	289.29
2739 Crossroad Engineers	809.00
2740 Bingham Greenebaum Doll (Jan. retainer)	1,000.00
2741 Globe Asphalt Paving	15,085.00
2742 Penske Chevrolet	43.67
2743 Redding-Troy Insurance (bond renewals)	145.00
2744 Michael Russo (answering machine for police office)	39.99
2745 Info Services Agency	69.78
2746 First Friends Church (Howard Taylor donation)	50.00
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	\$32,656.43
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Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted February 9, 2015

EFT Town Payroll 2/5/15- 2/18/15 (estimated)	\$5,000.00
EFT Town Payroll 2/19/15- 3/4/15 (estimated)	5,000.00
2747 AT&T	124.81
2748 Roundpeg (web update)	100.00
2749 Crossroad Engineers	3,731.00
2750 Bingham Greenebaum Doll (Feb. retainer)	1,000.00
2750 Bingham Greenebaum Doll (Invoice 4319762)	2,684.13
2751 ARW Trucking	14,062.50
2752 Verizon Wireless	60.28
2753 IPL	1,090.18
2754 Info Services Agency	69.78
2755 Vine & Branch	375.00
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	\$33,297.68
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President Freihofer thanked all those in attendance and for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Taylor
Clerk Treasurer