

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
December 11, 2006

President O'Brien called the regular meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council to order at 7:10 pm. The meeting was held at the Hilbert Early Learning Center at Park Tudor School.

In Attendance: Terry O'Brien, President  
Abbe Hohmann, Councilor  
Kay Ivcevich, Councilor  
John Taylor, Clerk - Treasurer  
Officer Rick Batza for Town Marshal Mike Russo  
Bonnie Jagoditz for Sue Beesley, Town Attorney

Following the pledge of allegiance,

**Police Report**

Officer Rick Batza submitted the monthly Police Report. Town Marshall Mike Russo was unable to attend.

Officer Batza spoke about the Metropolitan Indianapolis Merger of Sheriff and Police Departments occurring on December 28<sup>th</sup> and its effect on the Town of Meridian Hills. Several changes can be expected. Officer Batza requested that residents be patient if they need police reports, as communication and reports are some of the details to be worked out in the merger. Radios are being reprogrammed and reports accessibility will be clarified. Scheduling of Town's police will be determined as availability is currently not known from City schedules.

Officer Batza also mentioned that new Metro police cars will begin showing up in the spring.

Officer Batza reported a theft of a van in an unlocked garage at 7700 Holliday Drive East. This occurred on December 6<sup>th</sup> at night, while the residence were in their home. Officer Batza recommended that lights and motion sensor lights be utilized and that residents not leave keys in the garage.

With the holidays approaching, Officer Batza suggested that any resident who would be out of town call the Town's police department office and leave word along with a local contact in case of emergency. The officer's will monitor and occasionally swing by.

## **Approval of Minutes**

After discussion, the November 13th Town Council Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 3 to 0. The Special Meeting minutes for Executive session to discuss Engineer candidates were also approved by a vote of 3-0.

## **Report of Town Engineer**

President O'Brien provided an update of the status of Town Engineer position as a result of Cecil Whitaker's resignation. Chris Conover, of Schneider Corporation recommended that the Town work with Schneider Corporation on an as needed basis until the Town decided to select a replacement. As a result the retainer fee to Schneider Corporation would stop as of the month of December.

A motion was made to "Terminate the retainer contract with Schneider Corporation and to continue using Schneider Corporation's engineering services on an as needed basis until the Town Council appoints a new engineering firm. This is subject to receiving a rate card or informing us of hourly rates." Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Further Council discussion mentioned that the approval of a new engineering firm would more than likely occur in the first half of 2007 and that during this time of the year the Town could save some money by foregoing the retainer for a couple of months. The town would also consider a possible change of arrangements with an engineering firm or firms from a retainer to an hourly as needed basis.

## **Report of Town Attorney**

Bonnie Jagoditz reported that Sue Beesley, Town Attorney, had a family emergency and could not attend this evenings meeting.

Councilor Hohmann asked if there was any further progress on a pending MOU with the the City. Attorney Jagoditz had no further information to report.

## **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that the At-Large election ordinance was to be filed with the County Election Board on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Clerk –Treasurer Taylor also mentioned that he and Bernie Bruno, Assistant Clerk Treasurer will be creating pie charts for the calendar year 2006 revenues and expenditures to be reported in the upcoming

newsletter. Additional year end reports and booklets will be completed by mid February to coincide with submitting 2006 year end annual reports. A finance committee meeting will be scheduled before the February monthly Town meeting.

Clerk – Treasurer Taylor submitted the monthly financial statements for the Council's review.

## **Old Business**

Councilor Ivcevich made a motion to approve the Ordinance MH02-06 Establishing a Town Beautification Fund. Ordinance was approved by vote of 3-0.

Councilor Ivcevich made additional motions to approve:

Ordinance MH03-06 Establishing and Town Entry Sign Standard,  
Ordinance MH04-06 Establishing a Street Name Sign Standard, and  
Ordinance MH05-06 Establishing a Decorative Streetlight Standard

President O'Brien seconded the motion. Councilors discussed the Ordinance's further.

Councilor Hohman expressed a concern over the need to have Ordinances for these Standards and stated that it was in her opinion, not a logical step from the Town's Planning committee survey and that she would like further Town input.

President O'Brien stated that in checking with other Towns that they did use ordinances to set sign standards. He expressed that with over 50% positive response from the Town committee survey, 6-7 committee members approval, and 2-3 Town Public meetings that is was his opinion that the Town was looking for the Council to lead and act on these issues. Councilor Ivcevich expressed agreement and that the ordinances made sense to her.

Ordinances were approved by a vote of 2-1. President O'Brien and Councilor Ivcevich in agreement and Councilor Hohmann voting against.

Ordinance MH06-06 Amending the Municipal Code for the Town of Meridian Hills, Chapter V, Article2, Section 2 and Section 3.

was read and brought up for further discussion. Councilor Hohmann commented that the Goal of amending the Town Code was to control future drainage problems. Councilor Hohmann questioned whether compliance to a standard was more likely by enforcement through the court or through fines.

Bonnie Jagoditz, representing Attorney Sue Beesley, wanted to know if the Town Council wanted additional language, or changes to create stronger enforcement compliance to the code.

A motion was made and the ordinance was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The topic of cleaning the Baxter Sewer was discussed. Several residents had expressed interest in pursuing this issue.

In order to proceed the residents will need to:

1. provide right of entry,
2. agree to pay additional costs
3. provide a waiver of liability before starting.

The Town cannot be responsible for any potential liability for the cleanout of the Baxter Sewer. The Goal is to get DPW to take over the sewer.

Motion to approve money for this project to assist residents in cleaning Baxter Sewer was approved by a vote of 3-0.

## **New Business**

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Police and Law Enforcement-**

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

#### **Street and Thoroughfare Committee-**

Councilor Ivcevich reported that at the November 30<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting, Alex Saunders of Schneider Corp presented the Town Roadway Maintenance Program and asked that the committee accept the document and act on it accordingly.

It was determined that a motion was not needed to accept the Town Roadway Maintenance document as amended as a guideline. The Council was not approving payments or funding but to identify the locations as a 15 year Roadway Management Plan.

In response to inquiries at December's council meeting, Councilor Ivcevich stated that there are 59 road signs identified with locations in the Town. Additionally that the Stop Bars approved in prior meetings will be installed in the Spring when weather is better.

At 75<sup>th</sup> & College the committee is considering recommending that the left turn lanes be moved back to better accommodate turning traffic.

Councilor Ivcevich reported that in follow up to inquiries on 75<sup>th</sup> Traffic study, the committee had seen positive results from Washington Township buses, and stepped up speed enforcement. Councilor Ivcevich requested that residents submit additional requests.

Councilor Hohmann asked a series of questions and requested metrics to gauge the effectiveness for the committee to consider. She commented on use of Additional Stop signs, Speed bumps, possibly rerouting School buses, increase tickets versus warnings for speeders as possible considerations.

Councilor Ivcevich commented that she had talked to Alex Saunders of Schneider Corp. and he did not recommend speed bumps. She agreed that the new Engineering company that the Town would hire would address speed issues next year.

Councilor Ivcevich reported that she had checked with Jud Scott of Vine & Branch to complete the budgeted Tree maintenance work that had been approved previously. She noted that Vine & Branch was the least expensive at \$90 per hour for emergency rate and \$40 per hour for scheduled rate services.

Councilor Ivcevich stated that the Council had approved \$7500 annually for tree maintenance and had spent only \$1800 in 2006. Councilor Ivcevich agreed to submit the list of priority projects to the Council at the January meeting. Council discussion reiterated that some of the projects may by resident's responsibility and some may be the City of Indianapolis responsibility.

#### **Finance Committee –**

Councilor Ivcevich reported that the committee will meet before February council meeting to review the 2006 annual report.

#### **Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –**

Councilor Hohmann reported that the committee had no committee meeting since the last Town Council meeting. She did make additional comments on the progress of construction on two properties around 75<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania Streets.

President O'Brien asked Councilor Hohmann to send the Council electronic copy of the setback changes by the City County Council.

### **Communications Committee Report -**

President O'Brien reported that next newsletter will be sent out in late January. The new website will start in January 2007 as well.

President O'Brien proposed that the Town consider a Beautification Fund match of up to 20% of residents contribution to the fund. The proposal was tabled until January.

### **Resident Forum**

Resident Fran Gharrett resident commented on an IPL repair of a transformer near her property and thanked Councilor Ivcevich for looking into the matter for her. Councilor Ivcevich commented that IPL was very responsive in providing information on the repair work being done by the work crews and that residents could obtain this information by calling IPL directly.

### **Approval of Claims and Warrants**

Clerk – Treasurer John Taylor submitted Accounts Payable Vouchers for \$50,267.41 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

President O'Brien asked Clerk Treasurer Taylor to look into the carry over expenses approved in 2006 that will be spent in 2007 and to find out from the State Board of Accounts on how to handle them correctly.

## **Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana**

### **Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted December 11, 2006**

Town Payroll 12/07/06- 12/20/06	
EFT (estimated)	5,800.00
EFT Town Payroll 12/21/06- 1/3/07 (estimated)	4,700.00
1111 AT&T	93.48
1112 IPL	625.01
1113 Speedway	284.07
1114 Bingham, McHale	1,321.05
1115 Schneider Corp	5,543.25
1116 Globe Asphalt	31,694.65
1117 Freije Lawn Care	90.00
1118 The Waymire Group	115.90
	<hr/>
	\$50,267.41

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John H.R Taylor  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Meridian Hills

Residents in Attendance:

Fran Gharrett