

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
February 12th, 2007

President O'Brien called the regular meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council to order at 7:00 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 Ivceвич, Councilor
John Taylor, Clerk - Treasurer
Mike Russo, Town Marshall
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney

Following the pledge of allegiance,

Police Report

Town Marshall Mike Russo submitted the monthly Police Report. Marshall Russo commented on additional items that had occurred since the January meeting.

The daytime burglaries that have occurred were particularly bothersome and of concern to everyone. The Police Department conducted door to door interviews to obtain information. Officer Rick Batza took additional hours during the week and used an unmarked car to continue surveillance.

A suspicious vehicle was observed wandering around the area around 75th and Central and 75th and Park. The vehicle was stopped and the driver had been arrested on prior warrants from Owen County. .

Marshall Russo commented that John Bedwell Construction, the Town's Snow Removal Contractor, is ready for the pending winter blizzard.

Marshall Russo also submitted an invoice for certification of the Town Radar guns.

Approval of Minutes

After discussion, the December 11th Town Council Minutes and January 8th Minutes were approved as amended.

Report on Town Engineer

President O'Brien discussed the four companies under consideration for the position of Town Engineer. President O'Brien submitted the proposals from:

Roger Ward Engineering Incorporated
Stoepelwerth & Associates, Inc.
Crossroad Engineers, PC
A&F Engineering Co., LLC.

President O'Brien made a motion to secure Crossroad Engineers, PC as the Town's Engineering Company to replace Schneider Corporation. Councilor Ivcevich seconded the motion.

In further discussion, Councilor Hohmann was concerned over hiring without a formal contract, the possibility of splitting duties between companies, and of conflicting interests of Town Engineer.

Attorney Sue Beesley suggested that the motion be contingent upon reaching an agreement with Crossroad Engineers.

The motion was approved by a vote of 2-1 with President O'Brien and Councilor Ivcevich voting for and Councilor Hohmann voting against.

President O'Brien will forward information on Crossroad to Attorney Beesley for review.

Report of Town Attorney

Attorney Sue Beesley expressed her personal thanks and appreciation to the Council for sympathies and concerns expressed in the recent passing of her mother.

Attorney Beesley updated the Council on several pending issues.

- 1) The Memorandum of Understanding that had been sent to the office of ~~Merrie Maury Plambek~~ Planbeck, Director of DMD - nothing has been received at this point in time.
- 2) The Non-Performance Bond to cover street damage has not received a response from Jeff Simnic.
- 3) The 79th Street issue with Attorney Murray Clark was also being brought up for resolution.

Attorney Beesley also requested to receive Draft Minutes by the Clerk – Treasurer.

Attorney Beesley provided tips to the Council and a reminder for Special Executive Sessions. 1) State the reason. 2) No Agenda 3) Keep Minutes 4) No Votes.

Report of Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that the Town Annual Report and the 2006 Books covering the finances, budget, and expenditures of the Town will be presented to the Finance Committee Meeting on February 20th.

President O'Brien requested a follow up report on the previously complaint from residents about the safety concern that involved larger rocks placed next to the road at 7633 Washington Blvd.

Further concern was expressed by Council about the construction at the southwest corner of 75th and Pennsylvania.

Old Business

President O'Brien made a motion proposing a 80/20 Matching for the Beautification Fund. If a resident donates 80% toward the fund, the Town based on eligible funds would match 20%. \$1 Town Match for \$ 4 donated to the fund by Town Resident.

Councilor Ivceвич seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Councilor Hohmann ~~requested a written policy detailing expressed concern over~~ a priority system in light of drainage, street maintenance needs, and pending high snow removal costs.

Motion was tabled until next month by vote of 3-0.

President O'Brien presented Resolution MH 1-07 Transfer \$30,000 to Rainy Day Fund. A motion was made to approve the appropriation. Councilor Ivceвич seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Clerk Treasurer Taylor expressed some concern that the State Board of Accounts may adjust how the town accounts for the Rainy Day Fund when the next audit occurs. He stated that the Town created this fund after the last audit period and there may be some adjustment by the State Board of Accounts

Attorney Beesley stated that the motion was being handled properly.

The resolution 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 commented that the Committee is working with Jud Scott of Vine & Branch on the Town's Tree Maintenance program. Jud prepares a book documenting the prevention and maintenance program for tree maintenance in the Town.

Jud has been working to get the City of Indianapolis to do work on trees along city thoroughfares. Mr ~~Pink~~Pinko, with the City of Indianapolis Forestry is the primary contact.

These coordinated efforts have saved the Town close to \$4500

Jud is asking for a Consulting fee to cover the hours worked in touring and identifying the trees that have been the responsibility of the City and the Town. The hourly rate is \$100/hr.

Councilor Ivcevich made a motion to approve the consulting fee of an amount not to exceed \$300. President O'Brien seconded and requested that the fee include a report.

Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Attorney Beesley agreed to look at Jud Scott's report for the Town and City.

Councilor Ivcevich also agreed to look into the Emergency Services and On Call Agreement with Vine & Branch that had previously been proposed.

Later on in the meeting the Council expressing concern over the expected winter storm, voted 3-0 to give Councilor Ivcevich the authority to approve an On-Call Emergency contract with Vine & Branch for Tree removal.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet on the 20th of February at 9:30 am at Councilor Ivcevich's home..

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –

Councilor Hohmann reported that the committee met on January 25th for the regular monthly meeting

The Committee discussed Plan Review for Remodeling and Construction. The question is whether the Town should do a plan review or the City of Indianapolis. The committee is in favor of doing plan review. The goal of the committee is to make a recommendation to the Council.

A two hour February 17th Committee meeting will focus on making the recommendation. The next regularly scheduled Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 22nd.

Councilor Hohmann commented on three new teardowns planned on Pennsylvania Street. She also commented on a platted road issue that was being reviewed.

Communications Committee Report -

President O'Brien presented the Committee report. He announced that the Town Newsletter was mailed to town residents. He also reported that the new Web site is live.

The next committee meeting is in March.

Councilor Hohmann asked if the Town should pay to maintain the Web site. Clerk-Treasurer asked how much it would cost.

Resident Forum

Resident Walter Friehofer commented on a safety issue [on the southwest corner](#) at 75th & Central where the visibility of seeing oncoming traffic when turning from Central Avenue onto 75th Street. Mr. Friehofer had recently moved onto Central and was concerned for the safety of his family.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor would contact the resident at that location to suggest that the trees or bushes be trimmed to clear the view for traffic at that intersection. Jud Scott will also look at the location and make a recommendation.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor announced the upcoming 6th Annual Holiday Park Trail Run on March 24th. He commented on the success of this important fund raising event and encouraged residents to participate.

Approval of Claims and Warrants

Clerk – Treasurer John Taylor submitted Accounts Payable Vouchers for \$27,838.51 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

EFT Town Payroll 2/01/07 -2/14/07	4700.00
EFT Town Payroll 2/15/07 – 2/28/07	4700.00
1137 AT&T	93.54
1138 IPL	625.01
1139 Speedway	245.76
1140 Bingham, McHale	1,000.00
1141 Bedwell Construction (Snows #2 through 6)	15,480.00
1142 Express Service Print- newsletter	322.80
1143 Vine & Branch	225.00
1144 Mike Russo	79.50
1145 Terry O'Brien	276.90

Midwest Radar & Equipment	90.00
Total	27,838.51

Adjournment

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Residents in Attendance:

Walter Freihofer