

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
January 8, 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  
Bonnie Jagoditz for Sue Beesley, Town Attorney

Following the pledge of allegiance, President O'Brien read a list of accomplishments for 2006 to be published in the Town's January Newsletter. After some additional comments,

### **Police Report**

Town Marshall Mike Russo submitted the monthly Police Report. Marshall Russo commented on several items.

- 1) Several complaints were received on a vehicle for sale at 130 W.73<sup>rd</sup> St.
- 2) Marshall Russo showed the Council the new uniform patches for the Police Dept.
- 3) Marshall Russo commented on the general situation with the City – County Police Merger. The merger was moving forward with progress and more items will be worked out in the near future.
- 4) The Town received a \$1000 donation from Randy & Mary Ann Tobias. This donation was sent to support the Town Police Dept.
- 5) A new Police car for Williams Creek has arrived. Marshall Russo mentioned that it is a slightly lighter color as it has been difficult to match colors.

Councilor Hohmann commented that break-ins have been occurring through garages that have been left open and with access to garages from unlocked cars and garage door openers. She suggested information be printed in the upcoming newsletter and asked the Marshall's opinion. Marshall Russo commented that he supported anything that can be done to remind residents to lock garages and cars to prevent burglaries.

### **Approval of Minutes**

After discussion, the approval of the December 11th Town Council Minutes were tabled until the next Town meeting for time to review the submitted draft minutes.

### **Report on Town Engineer**

President O'Brien provided an update of the status of Town Engineer position as a result of Cecil Whitaker's November resignation. President O'Brien mentioned that Schneider Corporation provided an on-call agreement for consideration until a replacement engineering company is selected. President O'Brien will call a Special Session of the Town Council before the next Town Meeting in order to make a recommendation to the Town.

### **Report of Town Attorney**

Attorney Bonnie Jagoditz attended the meeting for Sue Beesley, Town Attorney.

Attorney Jagoditz commented on Cable Law changes that occurred during the 2006 State Legislature. All of Indiana is open to the deregulation efforts passed last year. The Town should continue to receive fees from the cable service providers, although it may include more cable companies. AT&T – SBC had requested copies of the current contracts to make sure they were paying the appropriate fees.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor provided a copy of the Comcast agreements that he had on file and Council Hohmann agreed to obtain a copy of the Comcast Contract she had on file.

### **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that Bernie Bruno, Assistant Clerk Treasurer submitted 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 the 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 reported that a rental agreement for meeting space had been signed with Park Tudor. Park Tudor credited the town for the amount of the rent so the meeting space doesn't cost the town anything. The Town agreed to add Park Tudor to the Town's liability insurance agreement..

Clerk – Treasurer Taylor also commented on a complaint from residents and safety concern that involved larger rocks placed next to the road at 7633 Washington Blvd. A letter was written to the residents to move the rocks back from the edge of the street. Clerk – Treasurer Taylor will advise of the status at the next Town Meeting.

## **Old Business**

President O'Brien updated the Council on the status of the Baxter Sewer. President O'Brien reported that Alex Saunders of Schneider Corporation, on his own accord, came over on a previous weekend to work with resident Stacy Reamer. Alex Saunders finding and reports suggested that the Baxter Sewer is 10 inches in diameter and probably wouldn't be accepted by the city for responsibility by DPW.

The property owners planned to take responsibility to clean the sewer and coordinate the action with neighbors. Results will be reported at a future Council meeting.

## **New Business**

Councilor Ivcevich nominated President Terry O'Brien to serve the term as President in 2007. President O'Brien seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 2-1 with Councilor Ivcevich and President O'Brien in favor and Councilor Hohmann voting against.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

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

Councilor Ivcevich reported that the committee had not met since the December Town Meeting.

Councilor Ivcevich reported that Vine & Branch submitted a proposal to Committee for tree maintenance for 2007.

Marshall Russo will take responsibility to provide traffic control support when the tree maintenance effects traffic safety and save the town \$700 off of the proposal for this service.

Councilor Hohmann commented that the Cross Traffic Sign was missing at 71st & Pennsylvania. Councilor Ivcevich made a motion to approve the installation of this sign, not to exceed a cost of \$200. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

A resident commented that the striping and painted lines on 75<sup>th</sup> street from College avenue as fading and needed to be redone. President O'Brien commented that this section of the road is scheduled for repaving during the 2008 year.

## **Finance Committee**

Councilor Ivcevich requested that the Council approve an encumbrance to carry over any appropriations for work requested in 2006 to be carried over in 2007. Those items include work for Stop Bar marking installation approved in the past year that will be completed in the spring. Additional work approved for tree maintenance and trimming by Vine & Branch (not to exceed \$5500) was approved in 2006 will be completed in 2007. A motion was made and the encumbrance was approved by a vote of 3-0.

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

Councilor Hohmann reported that the committee will be meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> for the regular monthly meeting at St. Luke's at 8:15 am.

A resident asked for an update on a previously discussed item of whether Bonding for construction companies who damage Town roadways while performing work for residents in the Town. Attorney Jagoditz said she would follow up with Town Attorney Sue Beesley on this matter.

## **Communications Committee Report -**

President O'Brien requested approval of the Town Newsletter submitted to the Council and approved by the Communications committee.

Councilor Hohmann requested that an article she submitted on the Town Election in Fall 2007 be accepted for the newsletter. President O'Brien commented that he had solicited articles and the current draft article covered the issues. Councilor Ivcevich suggested the addition of a reference to the Town web site to provide the detail Councilor Hohmann requested.

Councilor Hohmann questioned the article on Town Match for the Beautification Fund. Councilor Hohmann suggested that competing needs should be considered or reflected in the article.

A motion was made to approve the Newsletter draft for print and mailing in January. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-1 with Councilor Ivcevich and President O'Brien voting in favor and Councilor Hohmann voting against.

## **Resident Forum**

Resident Christy Scofield commented on the excessive trash accumulating at 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Meridian Hills. She asked if the Police department could provide security assistance for residents to clean this intersection. She commented that this was the worst she had seen this in 25 years.

Council discussed the issue and commended her on her initiative to keep the Town beautiful. Since this intersection's maintenance is the responsibility of the City, the Council recommended calling the Mayor's action line and to contact Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to obtain suggestions on adopting an intersection or securing traffic assistance.

A resident, Kristina Fry, requested information on putting a fence on her property. She had done considerable research on the topic and was aware of the setback issues from Town's municipal code. Councilor Hohmann commented that she would be happy to assist her. .

A resident expressed thanks for the new street signs and thought they looked better and were effective.

Resident Perry Jordan expressed thanks to President O'Brien for assisting her father with a tree that had fallen during a recent windstorm and blocked a driveway.

Councilor Hohmann, as a resident commented that the drainage issue around 73<sup>rd</sup> & Pennsylvania was getting worse rather than better. She expressed the desire to hear from the Streets & Thoroughfares Committee on this matter. Councilors commented that the new Town Engineers will be able to look into this matter when appointed in the coming months.

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

Clerk – Treasurer John Taylor submitted Accounts Payable Vouchers for \$18,909.67 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

### **Town of Meridian Hills**

#### **Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted January 8, 2007**

	Town Payroll 1/04/07- 1/17/07	
EFT	(estimated)	4,700.00
	Town Payroll 1/18/07- 1/31/07	
EFT	(estimated)	4,700.00
1130	AT&T	96.08
1131	IPL	625.01
1132	Speedway	241.85
1133	Traffic Sign Inc.- traffic signs & posts	5,442.24
1134	The Indianapolis Star- legal advertising	4.49
1135	Bedwell Construction- Snow #1	2,100.00
1136	Bingham McHale- January retainer	1,000.00
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		<u>\$18,909.67</u>

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Residents in Attendance:

Trish Mong  
Perry Jordan  
Kristina Fry  
Helen Carroll  
Christy Scofield  
Shirley Fry  
Bob Barrows

