

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
July 9th, 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
David McGimpsey representing Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
Bernie Bruno, Assistant Clerk – Treasurer
Jay Vorisek, Town Engineer

Following the pledge of allegiance,

Police Report

Town Marshall Mike Russo submitted the monthly Police Report. He made note of a burglary on June 25th during the daytime 6-10am on Holliday Drive. He asked that if any residents see any questionable activity to always call 911.

A resident asked whether anyone can come to a resident's front door. Marshall Russo stated that anyone can come and knock on your door. He advised residents that they don't have to answer and can ask the person to leave the property.

An additional query on whether there had been increased graffiti activity in the Town. Marshall Russo responded that there was no noticeable increase.

Approval of Minutes

After discussion, the approval of the May 14th, 2007 Town Council Minutes and the June 11th, 2007 Town Council Minutes were approved as amended. Vote was 3-0.

Report on Town Engineer

Town Engineer, Jay Vorisek, P.E. of CrossRoad Engineers, PC submitted his monthly report on activities and projects of the prior month.

Engineer Vorisek received bids for the Town Street Maintenance Project and will open them later in the meeting during the Streets & Thoroughfares committee report.

Engineer Vorisek reported that Stop Bars previously approved in 2006 plan to be installed after the paving project is complete. He had contacted last years bidder , United Rentals Highway Technologies, Inc. and will ask for the bid to be resubmitted with a new RFQ that will also include 2 additional bidders. He should receive those quotes for review at the August Council Meeting.

Engineer Vorisek updated the Council on the drainage project on North Pennsylvania Street between 71st and 73rd. He has scheduled to report to Streets & Thoroughfares committee with an action plan with construction cost estimates. This project had been taken off of the 2007 Street Maintenance Project.

Engineer Vorisek reported that he is working with resident Allen Hall to obtain historical information on drainage problem at 65th street. He also reported that he will follow up to check the status of road cuts at 6470 N. Illinois. Councilor Hohman stated that it had not been repaired.

Engineer Vorisek also received pricing on drainage structure cleaning and will make a recommendation to committee to develop a program/plan/schedule to identify the locations where the work is to be performed.

Engineer Vorisek commented that no activity by the Town Engineer last month on five listed construction projects, although projects may have made progress during that time.

Engineer Vorisek talked about the Construction Plan Review Procedures that were discussed at the June Committee meeting. Residents Eric Lee and Greg Jacoby will be point persons for review of next draft of procedures. Next draft is expected later in the month of July.

Councilor Ivceвич commented on the need to move forward with street striping. She recommended that the Town proceed with striping but not to exceed a certain amount. No action was taken.

President O'Brien brought up a fence project for the Council to review. The address 7155 Washington Blvd. was asking for a variance to install a fence of 42 inches in height and that this meets City code.

Councilor Hohman commented that there were concerns for restricting pedestrian walk way. She suggested that the resident should have a survey or identify the right of way. She also suggested contacting Bill Dwkert of the Church to review, as there has been some history on this issue.

Attorney David McGimpsey representing Town Attorney Sue Beesley suggested that the Council not take a position since the Town doesn't issue variances. Councilor Hohman suggested that the matter be referred to the Develop Standards committee.

President O'Brien commented that the resident wants to be put on record of having asked for the variance. Councilor Ivceвич made a motion to table this. Motion was approved.

President O'Brien made a motion to approve money for staking the Town entry signs. Cost not to exceed \$2000. Councilor Ivceвич seconded the motion,

Councilor Hohman questioned the total cost and the increasing incremental costs. Council had approved four signs at \$7500 each and the motion added and additional \$2000 to the project. Councilor Hohmann asked what the amount was for permits and Landscaping.

President O'Brien stated he had an email from Steve Wolfa, from the City providing a waiver for permit costs and fees for right of way.

After further discussion the motion to approve the additional expenditure was approved by a vote of 2-1. President O'Brien and Councilor Ivceвич in favor and Councilor Hohman opposed.

Report of Town Attorney

Nothing to report.

Report of Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that the auditor from the State Board of Accounts had reviewed the financial reports and files of the Town for 2005 and 2006. A formal report will be forthcoming and be presented at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor mentioned the only comments from the Auditor were

1. Using an unapproved software for Town financial statements. The auditor didn't complain, because the files were well organized and the spreadsheets allowed for easy audit review and verification.
2. Some missing minutes and bank stubs from January 05 when the town was in transition from one Clerk-Treasurer to the current Clerk - Treasurer.
3. Rainy Day funds that had been funded in 2005 and 2006 were not in accordance with state rules. Auditor recommended that the Town Attorney look into this further.

Clerk – Treasurer commented that the Town Budget for 2008 will be presented at the Finance Committee meeting in August. He requested that any planned expenditures for 2008 be sent to him as soon as possible, so that they can be included in the budget. The only capital expenditure that had been requested is the replacement of the Police Car. The estimated cost is \$31,000 after receiving fair market value for the used Police Car.

Old Business

There was no Old business to discuss.

New Business

President O'Brien brought up the topic of Property Tax as the new assessments in Marion County had just been mailed to residents with some very high increases. He recognized the concerns of all residents and provided some perspective on the reason for this happening. A 1998 Court ruling ordered a reassessment of all properties in Marion County. The ruling ordered the reassessment based on Market Values of the property and significant increases occurred in 2003 and 2005.

President O'Brien stated that the Town receives 2.4% or \$24 per \$1000 of taxes paid. The Town's budget is approximately \$300,000 and has been steady for several years. He commented that Washington Township schools receive approximately 45% of the property tax proceeds. He recommended that all residents focus the inquiries at the State legislators, and provide the names of our representatives and planned meetings to discuss this issue.

State Representative David Orentlicher will have a meeting on July 17th

Senator Teresa Lubbers website stated that the Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy will meet on Monday, July 23rd.

Councilor Hohmann commented that the Town would get additional money of approximately \$30,000 as a result of the new assessment if we kept the tax levy the same. She suggested we might consider lowering the levy.

Councilor Hohmann also suggested that residents appeal the assessed values and commented the Town's assessed values actually went down in 2006. She commented that the Town's property tax increases were relatively good when compared the City areas of Meridian Kessler.

Many comments and questions came from residents. A question was asked what would happen if the Town of Meridian Hills didn't exist. The comments were that the money would go to the City and more than likely the Town would lose services.

A resident commented that the difference from tax percentages for the City at 4.04% and the Town at 2.81% that the City would want to incorporate the Town and would increase the percentage to Town residents.

Resident Perry Jordan commented that the Town Website should have links to the other organizations for information purposes. She also commented on future Washington Twp School Board meetings.

Other residents had comments concerning 100% increases in Property Tax based on fair market value and questions about Homestead exemptions.

Committee Reports

Street and Thoroughfare Committee-

Engineer Vorisek opened three received bid packages for the Town 2007 Street Maintenance Program. Five had been sent out and three were received from Grady Brothers, Globe Asphalt, and Calumet Paving.

President O'Brien commented that the bidding could be made public at a published committee meeting. It would allow the committee to make a recommendation to the Council for approval.

Engineer Vorisek opened the bids and reported:

1. Grady Brothers bid \$63,640
2. Globe bid \$37,457
3. Calumet Paving bid \$42,246

Engineer Vorisek agreed to take the proposals to committee for a recommendation. Since the Council will not have its regularly scheduled Town Council meeting it was suggested that the Council approve and estimated \$33-35,000 for the paving project so that there would not be any delay in the paving project being completed.

Some additional updates from committee:

1. An East - West cross walk at Nottingham across College. Dept of Public Works produced cross walk with lights
2. Ask residents to clear Brush from street signs for Town Safety.
3. Duplicate poles were removed and light placed on existing poles at 71st & College and 71st & Meridian.
4. Inquiry into burying power lines on 75th Street reported that it would take several million dollars. Stopped the discussion.
5. St. Lukes Catholic Church will have a big construction project. Engineer Vorisek will take "before" photos in event of construction damage to streets.

Resident commented that at 7600 Holliday Drive that the drainage issues from the last major construction project at St. Lukes were still causing residents problems. She will discuss further with Town Engineer.

Councilor Hohmann inquired on the status of the Tree work. Resident Dawson had stated that the City Forestry Dept had scheduled work.

A resident inquired about paint marks by a survey company at 75th & Illinois and 75th and Pennsylvania, and wondered what this was for. Engineer Vorisek will look into the matter.

Police and Law Enforcement-

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will produce the calendar for Budget Planning for 2008. The committee will schedule Budget meeting in August. With Councilors not being available to conduct an August 2007 Town Council Meeting, the Finance committee meeting will probably require approval of Vouchers and Warrants for the month of August.

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –

Councilor Hohmann reported that the Development Standards Committee met on June 25th and discussed the Plan Review Process. She reported that Committee members, Eric Lee and Greg Jacoby will review a draft plan for setbacks and drainage. She believes it will be an improvement.

Councilor Hohmann reported on the following requests for variance:

- 7400 Central – Front setback. City makes decision. Town can support.
- 7162 N. Pennsylvania – Deck would exceed city limits.

Committee meets 4th Thursday of Month 8:15 am at St Lukes Church.

Residents on West side of the Illinois Street near 2nd Presbyterian Church complained that the new air conditioning systems that the Church has installed for the just completed addition causes a high pitch whine, that make sitting in their yards in the summer impossible. Several residents acknowledged the problem and suggested calling the Church on this issue.

Communications Committee Report -

President O'Brien announced that the next Town newsletter will be sent in September.

President O'Brien was hoping to have all of the minutes updated on the website and was working with a volunteer to finish this project soon.

President O'Brien was hoping to have the schedule for the Town Entry Signs in August.

Resident Forum

Clerk-Treasurer John Taylor as a resident and President of the Friends of Holliday Park was pleased to announce the completion of the playground installation. The new slide towers were just completed the prior week of July. All residents should check this out.

Resident had a question on the Town Entry Sign approval and where they were to be located. Additional questions on the Stop Bars were also asked and answered by the Council.

Resident Ann O'Rourke commented that with the new property tax statements, residents have 45 days to appeal. They should pay the tax and appeal with the hope they will get their money back. She commented that there are 10% penalties if you don't pay it on time. If a resident hires an appraiser to assess their property it must also be a certified appraiser.

Residents in Attendance:

Ann O'Rourke
Virginia Marten
Jim Schick
Don Mattson
Perry Jordan
Paul & Donna Hilgeman
Dave Jongleux
Bob Barrows
Bob Gallagher
Philomena Dias
Pete Buck
Brenda Hayes
Carole Reeves

Approval of Claims and Warrants

Clerk – Treasurer John Taylor submitted Accounts Payable Vouchers for \$25,498.11 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted July 9, 2007

EFT	Town Payroll 7/5/07- 7/18/07 (estimated)	\$4,700.00
EFT	Town Payroll 7/19/07- 8/1/07 (estimated)	4,700.00
1188	AT&T	93.87
1189	IPL	625.01
1190	Speedway	248.22
1191	Bingham, McHale- retainer	1,000.00
1192	Crossroads Engineers	702.50
1193	Broad Ripple Lock Service	45.25
1194	Freije Lawn Care	280.00
1195-1204	Town Officers clothing allowance (\$187.50 x 12)	2,000.00
1206	Butler Ford	365.26
1207	Redding-Troy Insurance- liability renewal	<u>10,738.00</u>
		<u>\$25,498.11</u>

Adjournment

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 9:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

