

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
May14th, 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  
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 announced that the Meridian Hills Police Dept offices are currently located at the Park Tudor maintenance building until the will be renovations at Foster Hall are completed in the Fall. The phones were moved at no cost to the Town.

Marshall Russo spoke on the challenges of the Indianapolis Metro merger of the City's Police and County Sheriff Departments and its continuing reporting issues and effects on the Town's Police Department. Many details are still being addressed and Marshall Russo expressed some of the challenges and changes.

- In working with Metro Police on Accident reports, in the past the on-line electronic filing was done by the City. The Town doesn't currently have access
- Reports could be filed through the State Police and a DSL line will probably be needed for the Town's Police Department. Marshall Russo will work with Park Tudor to possibly arrange.
- In 2006 the Town's Police department covered 80 accidents. This could provide a revenue opportunity for the Town if the filing work was done by the State Police.

President O'Brien expressed concern as the Town has depended on the City for the mentioned back office services and we may disenfranchise relationships with the City if we work through the State Police Department.

Additional discussion on traffic ticket revenue clarified that traffic ticket revenue written by a Meridian Hills Police officer by statute, the money goes to the training fund.

Marshall Russo also commented on the Indiana State Legislature passing legislation for local schools and Universities to create their own Police Departments. This legislation follows the recent violence that had occurred at Virginia Tech University and although well intended, could have an impact on local police departments.

Councilor Ivceovich commented that the Police department had submitted street repair and maintenance requests for the Streets and Thoroughfares committee to review. She wanted to thank Officer Andy Jacobs for his efforts in completing this review.

### **Approval of Minutes**

After discussion, the April 9th, 2007 Town Council Minutes were approved as modified by a vote of 3-0.

### **Report on Town Engineer**

Town Engineer, Jay Vorisek, P.E. of CrossRoad Engineers, PC submitted a detailed report and field notes on activities of the prior month.

#### Item one. Streets and Drainage

- Received quotes for televising drain tile on North Pennsylvania between 71<sup>st</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> street. Engineer Vorisek recommended Fluid Waste Services (FWS) at a cost of \$250 plus \$175 per hour for a maximum cost of \$600 - \$1000.
- Engineer Vorisek commented that he is recommending that the televising of the drain tile occur on the west side of the street. East side of the street might require additional clearing for access and might not be necessary.
- Probable outcome: Spot repair as opposed to a total replacement of drainage tile.

Councilor Hohmann asked if there was anticipated paving on Pennsylvania then the Town might want to wait until the paving was started to do the work at the same time.

Councilor Ivceovich made a motion to approve a contract with Fluid Waste Services to televise the west drain tile between 71<sup>st</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> street on Pennsylvania Street. ( Not to exceed \$1000). Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion.

Councilor Hohmann amended the motion to have the contract sent to Town Attorney Sue Beesley for review. President O'Brien will sign the contract by the next Council Meeting.

Amendment was approved by a vote of 3-0 and the motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Engineer Vorisek commented on the erosion on the east side of Pennsylvania Street near the Congregational Church. He will submit a recommendation to the Streets and Thoroughfares committee.

Engineer Vorisek stated that a prepared list for bid document for 2007 street repair and maintenance will be submitted to the Streets and Thoroughfares committee for approval and recommendation to Council.

Councilor Hohmann asked about Street maintenance issues to clean drains and to install the Stop Bars that Council had been previously approved. Engineer Vorisek agreed to look into this and report back.

Engineer Vorisek reported that he plans to meet with resident, Mr. Allan Hall on a drainage issue at 65<sup>th</sup> and Meridian. Mr. Hall expressed appreciation for the quick response.

Engineer Vorisek commented on the Residential Construction Plan Review Process and submitted a draft to the Council for review.

Engineer Vorisek discussed three projects that he reviewed with returned comments for the Development Standards Committee. The first two involved asphalt within the front set back. He discussed the 2 methods he used to calculate set backs.

Councilor Hohmann commented on issues involved with the projects and the status of the Town's standards with the City. Engineer Vorisek agreed to contact Estridge.

Mrs Hamilton, a resident, commented on the breakdown of the edge of the road on North Pennsylvania. Engineer Vorisek replied and restated that the target for the paving project for the Town will be discussed at the upcoming Streets and Thoroughfares committee meeting.

Clerk Treasurer Taylor discussed the current billing with CrossRoad Engineers for Town Engineering services is being done on an hourly basis rather than on a monthly retainer fee. He reminded the Council that the projects that had been temporarily been on hold until the Town Engineer had been selected would cause the current Engineering bills to be higher than normal. This would be offset by the prior months lack of retainer fees.

### **Report of Town Attorney**

Attorney Sue Beesley, reported that she had been working with two City attorneys to obtain indemnification for the Town and was frustrated that this was not making any progress.

Attorney Beesley also had not received any further information on the MOU with the City.

Attorney Beesley commented encroachment issues by residents on the Towns right of way. This discussion was brought up in relation to complaints on boulders placed on Washington Blvd. and on drainage repair issues on Pennsylvania Street.

### **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that the Town of Meridian Hills will be submitting Census information for the Town to the US Census bureau.

Clerk Treasurer Taylor reported that the Town was submitting audit information for the years 2005 – 2006 to DLGF during the month of May.

Clerk Treasurer Taylor will also be attending Budget workshops and Clerk-Treasurer training on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Hohmann expressed concern over the budget constraints that new state legislation might have on tax revenue for the town. Clerk Treasurer Taylor agreed to have someone come to speak to the Finance committee. It was recommended that he contact Barry Wood a former assessor at DLGF.

Council discussed the boulders placed on property on Washington Blvd. Under current Town Municipal Code there are not many options for the Town to have the resident move the boulders. Clerk Treasurer Taylor would be contacting the residents involved.

### **Old Business**

There was no Old business to discuss.

## **New Business**

Judson Scott, Vine & Branch Inc, presented packets to the Town Council for their review. Mr Scott is a former resident of Meridian Hills and grew up in the Town, so he knows it very well. Mr. Scott is one of only two certified Arborists in the State of Indiana. He and his company have created a safety program for Cities and Towns that assist them in planning and creating a program for maintaining and managing trees.

Mr. Scott described the need for safety and the reasons for adopting a program to avoid risk and liability. He explained that this is a safety issue and protects people as well as addresses line of sight issues with streets and thoroughfares.

Mr. Scott developed a Tree Assessment Program that has won three national awards.

Mr. Scott commented that he had worked with the City to take care of trees on the Cities streets at 71<sup>st</sup> & College, 75<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania, 73<sup>rd</sup> & College, 73<sup>rd</sup> and Meridian and Arden. The work that he arranged with the City cost \$10,000- \$12,000 and saved the Town money as well as created a safer condition for the Town.

The Town of Meridian Hills did adopt a Tree Risk Management Policy. The next step was to set up a program that deals with emergencies, working with the City where appropriate. The Town did adopt an emergency on call program with Vine & Branch. Councilor Ivceвич commented that the City had agreed to take on the above mentioned projects but didn't know the time line for completion of the work.

Attorney Beesley commented that the Town needed to adopt the policy, fund it, and work the plan.

The plan will be submitted by the Streets and Thoroughfares Committee.

Council expressed thanks for Mr. Scott's efforts and continued work with the Town.

President O'Brien mad a motion to approve four entry signs for the Town. The cost of each sign is approximately \$7,000. The locations will be at 71<sup>st</sup> & College, 75<sup>th</sup> & College, 64<sup>th</sup> and Meridian, and the Northeast Corner of Holliday Park West drive and Meridian Hills Blvd. ( on the curve ).

Councilor Hohmann expressed two reservations and was not comfortable moving forward. 1) Cost – will be greater due to more engineering work on property locations and 2) Money – would be reduced from the State and the Town has a drainage need and has not fully funded major paving needs.

President O'Brien commented that all of the locations were on Town or City right of way. He also expressed confidence that the Town could address any major capital improvement plan for paving.

He stated that the Signs had been recommended from the Finance Committee and positively supported in the results of the Town Planning Survey. President O'Brien stated that it was the time to do this. And not to exceed \$28,000.

After further discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 2-1 with President O'Brien and Councilor Ivceovich voting for the motion and Councilor Hohmann voting against.

The fall Town Election was discussed. Clerk Treasurer Taylor expressed that he will be filing as an independent candidate in July. Councilor Ivceovich stated that there were several people who would be filing for the Councilor positions but refrained from stating any names.

First reading MH02-07, An Ordinance of the Town Council Amending the Municipal Code for the Town of Meridian Hills Chapter V, Article 2, Section 3. This section was being amended to address drainage problems and establishes plan review requirements by the Town for approval prior to construction.

Discussion by the Council to have the plans submitted to the Town Engineer and the Fees for submitting the plans to the Town Clerk Treasurer. Engineer Vorisek addressed the Fee Structure.

A motion was made to approve the Ordinance with modifications to the paragraph to accept the Fee Structure. Motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

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

Nothing further to report.

### **Finance Committee**

Nothing further to report.

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

Councilor Hohmann reported that First Congregational Church was petitioning the City to rezone the Church for SU1. Councilor Hohmann stated that there are reasons for concern as SU1 allows for ancillary use than just church use. The concern from Councilor Hohmann and others on the Development Standards Committee is that there is no reason provided or motive for rezoning and that no explanations have been given after voicemails had been left. There was to be a meeting at 5:30 Monday at the Church and Councilor Hohmann plans to report at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Hohmann had received complaints over weeds and lack of mowing on the construction site on 73<sup>rd</sup> east of Pennsylvania Street. She also reported on the Fire Dept demolition of the house at 74<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania and that the contractor had an equipment breakdown and needed to complete the demolition by the end of the week.

Councilor Hohmann commented on finalizing the Plan review and discussed the need to require a survey on the plans. Engineer Vorisek expressed that he was in favor of requiring a survey as that is what is required 90% of the time. President O'Brien expressed concern over adding excessive cost for small projects and didn't want to make it a requirement.

## **Communications Committee Report -**

President O'Brien distributed copies of the May newsletter for approval. He commented on the Vine & Branch advertisement, the article highlighting the saving of the Town money by working with other agencies, and listing the Town Election deadlines in bold. Council approved the newsletter by a vote of 3-0.

President O'Brien requested money be approved for getting the Town's reports, minutes and information on the new website in PDF format. The project would take approximately 5-8 hours and the total cost would not exceed \$800. A motion was made and approved by a vote of 3-0.

## **Resident Forum**

No further discussion.

## **Residents in Attendance:**

Bob Barrows  
Barbara Hamilton

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

Clerk – Treasurer John Taylor submitted Accounts Payable Vouchers for \$16,968.93 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

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

### **Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted May 14, 2007**

EFT	Town Payroll 5/10/07- 5/23/07 (estimated)	4,700.00
EFT	Town Payroll 5/24/07- 6/6/07 (estimated)	4,700.00
1162	AT&T	93.95
1163	IPL	625.01
1164	Speedway	304.05
1165	Bingham, McHale	1,000.00
1166	Crossroad Engineers PC	4,405.00
1167	Redding-Troy Insurance Agency-bond renewals	200.00
1168	Freije Lawn Care	165.00
1169	Indianapolis Star- legal advertising	4.72
1170	The Envelope Agency- payroll envelopes Vine &	32.00
1171	Branch	300.00
1172	U.S. Postal Service- PO Box rental	144.00
1173	Terry O'Brien- newsletter postage	295.20
		<u>\$16,968.93</u>

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

