

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
December 13, 2004

Town Council President Terry O'Brien called the regular meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. 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
Esther Q. Schneider, Clerk/Treasurer
Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
Rick Batza, Deputy Town Marshall
Absent: Mike Russo, Town Marshall

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President O'Brien changed the agenda and moved the town engineer's report ahead in order to accommodate the engineer's schedule.

Engineer's Report:

Cecil Whitaker advised that the HNTB invoice not be paid until they submitted their contracts to support their charges and that as of Dec. 13, the town's engineering records had never been delivered. Also, that it was unlikely that all of the records could be contained in the space allocated in the storage unit.

Construction work planned for this fall had been completed, including the change order requirements, and includes a one-year warranty. The HMA seal project, performed by Dustmasters/Rejuvtec, was estimated to cost \$6462.96 and actually came in at a lower cost because of the change order, \$6348.96. Cecil said that Steve Moore had inspected and approved the work and then asked for a motion to accept the lower cost. Councilor Ivceвич motioned to accept, was seconded by Councilor Hohmann, and the vote carried 3-0. Councilor Ivceвич approved the payment of the invoice.

Cecil said there were 6 firms qualified for the drainage project and that they should be sent a RFP. President O'Brien approved Cecil's letter and will disperse it.

Cecil concluded that the sign ordinance was appropriate for vendors. President O'Brien asked for a second change in the agenda and asked that the Salary Committee present their findings. See report attached.

Police Report:

Deputy Batza reported that a resident's mail had been stolen, that no 9-1-1 call was made and there had been some activity on the resident's account. Deputy Batza advised that mail should not be left in resident mailboxes, and should be taken to the Post Office.

The traffic controls that had been installed have been effective.

As of Monday, Dec. 20, all officers will have completed the taser training.

Police Report *cont'd*

On Dec. 8, there were two MV stolen, with one recovered, and a home invasion. In both cases, they were crimes of convenience: garage door was unlocked and both vehicles contained the keys.

Two arrests were made: one for possession of marijuana and the other was Stacy Breeding, 35, involving a prior burglary at Park Tudor. At the time of the Breeding arrest, there were three juveniles in the car with Breeding

Deputy Batza asked about having Officer Matt Grimes hold a crime prevention class for the residents. Officer Grimes is certified to teach such a class as well. The class encourages residents to call 9-1-1 when they see/hear suspicious things, such as excessive dog barking.

Councilor Hohmann said that Mike Russo called her about sending a letter to the block captains and this would help to “squash” continuing criminal intent. Deputy Batza said he would draft a letter.

Councilor Ivcevich discussed that she had many calls from residents about persons failing to stop at the stop sign at 75th and Penn. Deputy Batza said the SW corner would be best for issuing citations.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilor Hohmann made a motion to approve the Nov. 8 regular meeting minutes and the Nov. 29 special meeting minutes. Council Ivcevich seconded the motion and the vote carried 3-0.

Attorney's Report:

Sue Beesley reported that the mother of the young man who hit the sign at Arden & Meridian would be paying for a new MH sign. In another situation, Sue suggested to a woman who wanted the town to pay to repaint her SUV after hitting yellow paint on Meridian that she should file a claim with the City of Indianapolis.

Sue asked to have an executive meeting to determine procedures for litigation resolution.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report:

Esther suggested that the Clerk/Treasurer's salary should probably be included in the police payroll because of the taxes. She would check with Prime Pay to see what the additional costs would be.

Sue Beesley said asked if the bond paperwork had been submitted and Esther answered “yes”. Sue said that the Council would need to vote on the \$15,000 bond. Councilor Hohmann motioned, Councilor Ivcevich seconded and the vote carried 3-0.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report *cont'd*

Esther suggested that the snow removal bid for one year be approved because John Bedwell did not want to commit to a longer contract. President O'Brien signed the contract and Esther will retain a copy for the records.

Esther informed the Council that she was sworn into office by Carol Terzo on Dec. 9.

The new town address is PO Box 40437 Indianapolis, IN 46240. Esther suggested a po box so that no matter who served as the Clerk, the address would remain the same.

\$2,300 was transferred from the litigation fund to the insurance fund to cover the November Liberty Mutual workman's comp payment.

A thank you was sent to the Tobias family for the \$1000 donation to the MH Police.

Indianapolis attorney Kimberly Miller had legally requested payroll records for former MH Police Officer Larry Giordano. What data was immediately available was sent.

Councilor Hohmann said she had spoken to Richard Dickinson from Williams Creek and they would like to attempt to plan another joint picnic for next year.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

First Reading of Ordinance MH 07-04 – Traffic Sign Standard. Council Hohmann moved to strike “and recommendations”. Councilor Ivceovich seconded and the vote carried 3-0.

Councilor Ivceovich moved to accept MH 07-04 on first reading with amendment noted above and Councilor Hohmann seconded and the vote carried 3-0.

First reading of Ordinance MH 08-04 – Change to Regular Meeting Time. Councilor Ivceovich moved to accept on first reading and Councilor Hohmann seconded and the vote carried 3-0. Sue recommended suspending rules and adopt tonight. Councilor Hohmann made a motion to suspend the rules and Councilor Ivceovich seconded and the vote carried 3-0.

First reading of Ordinance MH 09-04 – At-Large Election of Town Council Members. Council Hohmann moved that this item be tabled after review of possible new districts. Councilor Ivceovich seconded and the vote carried 3-0.

Status of Committees. Councilor Hohmann commented that in reviewing the first year in office there have been instances when the Council could have benefited from more information and research from committees prior to voting on an issue or approving a resolution. She suggested that each of the five committees should have a minimum number of members (5 or 7) and meet at least quarterly. After some discussion, no action was taken.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Thoroughfares – a tree landscape plan is forthcoming. There's an existing ordinance for signage on traffic poles so no action is required. Fire hydrants are checked annually by Indianapolis Water Company.

Police & Law Enforcement – an emergency procedure and contact reference sheet has been distributed to schools in MH should a situation arise for a school lockdown.

Development Standards & Residential Construction – Councilor Hohmann submitted a written report of committee activities which is attached. The last committee meeting was on December 3rd at St. Luke's School. A draft article on the value of obtaining a staked survey was presented for comment which has been prepared for the next newsletter. A draft letter to the Washington Township Fire Department establishing guidelines for using a home in Meridian Hills for training exercises was presented for comment.

Discussions are ongoing with two residents with wall height violations. A meeting was held with Park Tudor officials on November 11 to discuss their long range plans.

The committee has recommended to Council that developing a sidewalk plan should be tabled because of limited funding, need to prioritize drainage problems, potential loss of trees and past disagreement over desirability of sidewalks and the taking of right-of-way. The next committee meeting is Thursday, January 27, 2005, at 8:15am at St. Luke School.

Communications – a website and newsletter policy was introduced, establishing guidelines for content posting. Updates to the website were recommended and a request for newsletter information to be submitted before the end of the year.

Staff & Salary Review – recommendations were submitted, as well as job responsibilities for a deputy clerk treasurer.

Approval of Warrants:

Claim#	Payee	Purpose	Amount
GENERAL FUND			
201	Esther Q. Schneider	Clerk/Treasurer salary	\$650.00
202	Terry O'Brien	Councilman salary (2/yr)	\$800.00
203	Abbe Hohmann	Councilman salary (2/yr)	\$800.00
204	Kay Ivcevis	Councilman salary (2/yr)	\$800.00
205	Bingham McHale	Town attorney monthly fee	\$800.00
206	Schneider Corporation	Town engineer monthly fee	\$650.00
207	MH Police	Payroll 11/25-12/8/04	\$3777.78
208	MH Police	Payroll 12/9-12/25/04	\$ TBA
209	IP&L	Street lights	\$623.80
210	Prime Pay	Police payroll service	\$79.21
211	SBC	Police telephone	\$ TBA
212	Speedway SuperAmerica	Police fuel consumption	\$217.97
213	Waymire APS, Inc.	Police patrol car repair	\$50.00
214	Alderman Ford	Oil change for patrol car	\$29.95

215	Mike Russo	Halloween candy reimbt	\$122.37
216	Mike Russo	Payroll cards reimb.	\$14.97
217	Indianapolis Star	Legal notice advertisement	\$4.75
218	IACT	Nov. Roundtable	\$28.00
219	Esther Q. Schneider	PO Box rental fee (6 mos)	\$70.00
221	Terry O'Brien	MH Newsletter	\$364.34
222	Esther Q. Schneider	100 - .37 postage stamps	\$36.75

MVH FUND

220	Schneider Corporation	Street repairs	\$701.20
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