

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
April 11, 2005

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	Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
Mike Russo, Town Marshal	Kay Ivcevich, Councilor
Bernie Bruno, Asst. Clerk Treasurer	
John Taylor, Clerk Treasurer	Cecil Whitaker, Engineer

Following the pledge of allegiance, President O'Brien indicated there were no changes to the agenda.

### **Police Report**

Mike Russo introduced Jeff Lumpkin from the Meridian Hills Police Department. Mr. Russo submitted his report. There were three thefts in the town last month. Some checks were taken from a mail box, a car was broken into, and a sign was missing. He reminded the council of seasonal efforts by magazine salespersons canvassing the neighborhood and for town members to be on alert. He submitted the Monthly Law Enforcement report for March and a year to date spreadsheet of activity for the Town of Meridian Hills and Williams Creek.

Mr. Russo also reiterated the success of Mike Grimes and neighbor David Tucker, who alertly call the police at 2:40 am on March 24<sup>th</sup> to report suspicious activity with 2 individuals sitting in a car on Penn Ridge drive. Officer Grimes was able to inquire and prevent a possible crime from occurring.

April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm Matt Grimes will be presenting Safety and Security topic at Park Tudor. Town is welcome to attend and learn from the event.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Monthly Meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and Special Meeting March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Minutes were approved with minor corrections by the Town Council by a vote of 3 to 0.

### **Report of Town Engineer**

Cecil Whitaker presented the engineering report. He stated that the pot hole repair program was successfully completed. Any new or additional pot hole issues can be brought to the Streets and Thoroughfares committee for review.

Property owner at 7401 Holiday Drive East had signed the easement agreement in order to proceed with the drainage work to be done by the city in that location. Quackenbush Construction Company had been selected in competitive bidding to complete the work.

Mr. Whitaker presented the status of drainage issues for the town. Continued discussion followed in the Committee reports.

Councilor Hohmann suggested the engineer's recommendations regarding the Town Drainage study be reviewed and presented at a future meeting. There were 9 projects on the document that was previously presented and the request to update the status of these projects was requested.

He explained that the projects fall into three categories. Those that are:

- 1) Capital improvements and are to be completed by the City of Indianapolis and DPW.
- 2) Maintenance projects. The majority of the projects.
- 3) Residential projects that are the homeowners responsibility

### **Report of Town Attorney**

Sue Beesley submitted no report.

### **Report of Town Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor introduced Bernie Bruno as the appointed Assistant Clerk Treasurer. Mr. Bruno is an accountant that works with John as the Financial Manager at Morales Group Inc. He's a graduate of Ball State University and Chatard High School. Mr. Bruno is not a town resident but is experienced in financial budgeting and management.

Mr. Bruno submitted updated financial statements from the last month that was submitted in November. Councilor Hohmann noticed that one of the months looked to be duplication and the financial statements will be officially submitted at the next meeting for approval.

Mr. Bruno has requested the forms for submitting the Annual Report to the State Auditor and this will be completed by the next meeting. The Annual Report was due at the end of February, but President O'Brien notified the State Board of Accounts of the transition in the Clerk Treasurer's office and was assured there would be no penalties once a new Clerk Treasurer was elected and had adequate time to submit the report.

Mr. Taylor presented information on canceling the additional Storage space at Nora Self Storage. The space that had been previously rented is unnecessary as Morales Group Inc is providing an office and storage space to accommodate the documents. This should save the town \$170 per month and he's looking to get the payment made to Nora Self Storage reimbursed.

Mr. Taylor also addressed the issue of bank interest from Bank One. This had been a question at previous meetings and the statements from the bank were very confusing. Mr. Bruno had looked into the matter and validated that the town is earning approximately \$600 per month with the way the private banking and savings accounts have been set up with the town.

Mr. Taylor did agree to obtain written competitive bids for banking from Bank One and National Bank of Indianapolis as they had expressed interest and had been contacted by Esther Schneider in prior months. He'll submit to the Finance committee and the Town Council a comparison report at a future town meeting.

Mr. Taylor obtained and submitted to the Council the bonding documents for himself and Mr. Bruno. He also announced that he and Mr. Bruno have registered for training for Clerk and Budget training on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with IACT

### **Old Business**

There was no old business submitted.

### **New Business**

Streets and Thoroughfare Committee - Signage work that was approved in 2004 in Oct- November was not completed due to the changes in Clerk Treasurer position. A list of signs had been approved and it was the recommendation of the committee to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> priority signs for safety consideration.

Councilor O'Brien made the motion to approve and not exceed \$4250 of priority one signs from the list. Councilor Ivcevich seconded. Motion was approved 3-0. Councilor O'Brien agreed to have prices verified and confirmed for the signs approved previously.

Finance Committee – Councilor Ivcevich announced a committee meeting for Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am.

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee – Councilor Hohmann agreed to contact an applicant for doing the grant writing for the town.

There was further extensive discussion of the drainage issue for the town. Councilor Hohmann agreed to submit recommendations for a strategy to address drainage issues. A clearly defined Drainage Policy for the Town and addressing the items on the Drainage Study will continue to be pursued by the Council.

Councilor Hohmann talked briefly about the issues of an Indianapolis City project to potentially widen Meridian Street. Mike Russo and Cecil Whitaker added discussion to the options that the city had considered in the past, and what they thought might be considered. One option was to create a middle turn lane.

### Communication Committee –

Councilor O'Brien had announced that the Newsletter had been published and mailed last month. He recommended posting the Town's Municipal Code on the website. After some discussion, no action

was taken.

### Resident Forum –

Resident Albert Saurini expressed his concern over a dangerous part of Meridian Street at 6400 North, where a street light and a marker had been removed or disappeared. He wanted the town to look into the issue and see what had happened to them.

Resident Don Mattson expressed the possibility of finding ways to fund some of the drainage issues the town faces.

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

John Taylor submitted the following claims and warrants that were approved and signed:

<u>Claim#</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
266	Police Payroll 3/31/05 – 4/12/05 (Estimated)	3900.00
267	Police Payroll 4/14/05 – 4/27/05 (Estimated)	3900.00
268	SBC	130.36
269	Redding-Troy Insurance Agency (Bonding)	200.00
270	Jerry Alderman Ford	696.61
271	IPL	626.31
272	Speedway Super America	202.79
273	Iquest	2000.00
275	Schneider Corp (two monthly payments)	1366.66
276	John Taylor (two monthly payments)	1300.00
277	Bernie Bruno (two monthly payments)	660.00
xxx	Bingham McHale	1000.00

Two other claims not submitted were voted for approved were: 1) Jeff Lumpkin - a reimbursement for repair of computer battery for police car. \$450. And 2) Terry O'Brien – a reimbursement for printing

costs \$500. Both claims had been previously submitted to the clerk treasurer and had not been listed. These claims will be properly documented on the next meeting minutes.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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