

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
August 14th, 2006

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  
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney  
Mike Russo, Town Marshal  
Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer  
Bernie Bruno, Assistant Clerk Treasurer

Following the pledge of allegiance,

Veolia Water Company Vice President of Communication and Community Affairs, Lou Ann Baker, presented a summary of the project to repair and rebuild the Williams Creek Dam. The construction of a new Dam located near 71<sup>st</sup> and Westfield Boulevard, will start immediately and is scheduled to be completed by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The current dam failed last year and was repaired in an emergency with rock and land fill to the dam's southern side. The dam is necessary to provide sufficient water height to supply the Water Company's water.

Ms. Baker explained that Williams Creek below the dam supplies one third of the water flow that currently flows behind the homes in Sherwood Village. The water company is considering additionally augmenting bypass water flow or piping water during the reconstruction of the dam to maintain sufficient water flow to protect fish and wildlife in that area.

The presentation was given to inform local residents. Anyone with questions should contact Lou Ann Baker at [louann.baker@violawaterna.com](mailto:louann.baker@violawaterna.com)

### **Report of Town Engineer**

Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer submitted the monthly report.

Engineer Whitaker received a 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal for the Town's pavement project this fall. He recommended that we award the contract to Globe Paving.

A motion was made to approve the awarding of the contract to Globe Paving not to exceed \$30,000. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Engineer Whitaker also mentioned that he had a significant change of information on the Baxter Sewer located to the west of Illinois Street. The sewer was found to be located on platted easement. With the sewer on platted easement or right of way, then DPW can service the sewer. He plans to come to the September meeting with a plan to address the sewer and drainage issue.

Councilor Hohmann asked questions about repair of the drain at 73<sup>rd</sup> and Pennsylvania. Engineer Whitaker stated he would make sure that was included in the paving project.

President O'Brien reminded the approved stop bars and strips be done after the paving project.

### **Police Report**

Mike Russo, Town Marshall submitted the monthly Police Report.

Mike reported that in June there had been thefts of paintings from two of the local churches and that if anyone had information on these incidents to call the police department.

No further questions.

### **Approval of Minutes**

After discussion, the July 10<sup>th</sup> Town Council Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 2 to 0. Councilor Hohmann abstained. Town Clerk Treasurer Taylor apologized for the delay in getting the July 10<sup>th</sup> draft to the council and promised to get the minutes to the Councilors with more time to spare. He encouraged that the council submit and changes to the July meeting minutes and he would make the necessary changes.

The June 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting minutes with 75<sup>th</sup> Street residents to discuss the proposals of the Town Planning Committee were discussed. Residents recommended a newsletter article for the upcoming Town Newsletter. Discussion followed with questions from residents. President O'Brien reiterated that there has been no town money spent and there is no study being conducted or approved for any activity paths or sidewalks. The minutes were accepted.

### **Report of Town Attorney**

Sue Beesley, Town Attorney, had nothing to report

## **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that he and Assistant Clerk Treasurer, Bernie Bruno, had met with DLGF, the Department of Local Government & Finance representative Ron Stinson. Ron reviewed the budget reports that had been prepared for the Town's 2007 Budget.

The review was very helpful to insure that the town obtains the maximum allowable monies to be received for next year. Ron also assisted in resubmitting for funds lost in 2006 from a reduced assessment of property values in the Town and for errors in the submitted 2006 tax levy. Assistant Clerk Treasurer Bruno is working with the Marion County and Washington Township Assessors to verify the property value changes.

The Finance Committee will publish the first and second publication of the Town's proposed 2007 Budget during the month of August. A public hearing will be planned for August 24<sup>th</sup>. The Finance Committee will meet just prior to the September Council meeting to recommend the Council approve the proposed budget. Budget approval is expected to be discussed at the September Council meeting.

## **Old Business**

President O'Brien summarized the proposed ordinance that had been read at the July Town Council meeting. The ordinance is MH01-06 that changes the speed limit to 20 MPH for residential streets and 25 MPH for School Zones.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Appendix. Discussion followed.

Councilor Hohmann suggested that the law would not be enforceable at 20MPH without a traffic study and that the cost of signs would be significant. She also mentioned that there was not a groundswell of neighbors in support of this.

The Streets and Thoroughfares committee member, Perry Jordan suggested that the requirement for uniformity and consistency as well as posted speed limits were necessary to enforce speeds within the town. Committee had recommended the approval of the ordinance and that the cost of the signs was approximately \$2400. She also mentioned that there were many town residents concerned about speed and safety.

The Ordinance was approved by a vote of 2-1 with Councilor Hohmann voting against. Attorney Beesley will verify the Town's ability to set the limits at 20 MPH.

## **New Business**

Councilor Hohmann suggested that an Ad Hoc committee be created to research the Town Council Elections for the possible expansion of the number of Councilors to 5 from the present 3 Councilors. Councilor Hohmann wanted to also look at how the councilors would be elected and reconsider the districts versus the approved At-Large representation. Councilor Hohmann made a motion to approve the creation of the committee. Councilor Ivceovich seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0. Each of the councilors will submit two names to John Taylor who will head up the formation of the committee. The committee will try to make recommendations at the October Town Council Meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

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

Councilor Ivceovich made a motion to approve the signs necessary for the speed limits ordinance, not to exceed \$2400. Motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 2-1 with Councilor Hohmann voting against.

A motion to approve the stop bars at 70<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania, 73<sup>rd</sup> & Pennsylvania, and 75<sup>th</sup> & Illinois Street, not to exceed \$1000 was approved by a vote of 2-1 with Councilor Hohmann voting against.

Councilor Hohmann asked that Town Attorney review bonding from construction workers for damage for emergency work on a right of way.

### **Finance Committee –**

July 19<sup>th</sup> the Finance Committee met to review the proposed budget and review any changes from the 2006 Budget. The Town is expecting to receive additional revenues from the State's Major Moves program that should provide an additional \$22,000 for the Local Streets Fund.

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

Councilor Hohmann provided the Committees report. She reported that the Committee met on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Hohman talked about the City Zoning request for spot zoning at 6917 N. Pennsylvania Street where a developer wishes to build three houses on the existing location. She mentioned that the committee decided to take a position of not getting involved on this topic as it is not in the Town but across Pennsylvania Street in the Arden subdivision.

The council discussed this topic and expressed a desire to take a position in support of Arden residents as the Town may need support on zoning issues in the future that might be helpful to have contiguous neighborhoods acting in support of each other.

The City zoning meeting had been continued or postponed on this topic. Any residents that are interested into this spot zoning topic should look at attending the next City zoning meeting to express their position. Councilor Hohmann will look into having the builder present the spot zoning plan to the committee or the council so residents can be fully informed.

Resident Perry Jordan asked a question about two neighbors buying land and splitting it between the two and wonder if this was something that could be done. The council discussed the issue and didn't have any knowledge of any reason it could not happen.

A town Resident asked of the status of the construction sight at 75<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania. Councilor Hohmann was hoping for an update from the builder. If there was no response, the Town will send a nuisance letter concerning the lack of activity and the status of the construction sight.

### **Communications Committee Report -**

President O'Brien submitted the committee report.

President O'Brien reported that the Town newsletter will be drafted by the September Meeting. He also hoped to maintain the website at no additional cost to the town but the town may need to budget for costs if no Webmaster can be found to volunteer their time.

### **Planning Committee Report –**

President O'Brien reported that the ad hoc committee will more than likely be disbanded after having made recommendations from the committee at its July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Resident Forum

Residents asked questions on how policemen were assigned duty during the week. Town Marshall Russo detailed how this was done and how the Town works with Williams Creek to maximize our coverage. Residents reiterated the emphasis of the Town Planning Committee Survey that showed Police and Safety as the top items of concern to residents.

Councilor Hohmann requested an approval of a Land Use Planner after having solicited a proposal from Bingham McHale. Town Attorney Beesley suggested someone from her law firm and that we limit the hours to 10 hours and to be less than \$1500. A motion was made and seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0.

## Approval of Claims and Warrants

Clerk Treasurer, John Taylor, submitted accounts payable vouchers of

\$14,255.46 for approval. President O'Brien questioned the voucher for Twila Shrum and was informed that this expenditure was for Defibrillator Instruction. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

## Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

### Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted August 14, 2006

EFT	Town Payroll	8/3/06- 8/16/06 (estimated)	\$4,600.00
EFT	Town Payroll	8/17/06- 8/30/06 (estimated)	4,600.00
1056	AT&T		96.81
1057	IPL		625.01
1058	Bingham, McHale		1,000.00
1059	Schneider Corp		1,000.00
1060	Speedway		358.87
1061	Mike Russo		320.00
1062	Twila Shrum		200.00
1063	Redding-Troy Insurance		245.00
1064	Indianapolis Newspapers		4.49
1065	Butler Ford		695.28
1066	Freije Lawn Care		510.00
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			<u>\$14,255.46</u>

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Residents in Attendance:

