

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
June 12th, 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  
Bernie Bruno, Asst Clerk Treasurer  
Dave McGimpsey for Sue Beesley, Town Attorney  
Mike Russo, Town Marshal  
Alex Saunders for Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer

Following the pledge of allegiance,

### **Police Report**

Mike Russo, Town Marshall submitted the monthly Police Report.

Marshall Russo commented on highlights for the month of May. A town resident had reported jewelry stolen from their home and had seen a suspicious vehicle in the area. Marshall Russo advised strongly that residents who see suspicious activity call 911.

Several calls from Town Residents had been received about solicitors in the Town. Marshall Russo commented that although it can't be prohibited, that residents should not open their door, but politely decline and if solicitor persists that residents should call 911.

Assistant Clerk Treasurer, Bernie Bruno asked about the status or progress on recovering the stolen police radio. Marshall Russo suggested that we proceed with insurance claim. The radio will be replaced with updated technology radio.

No further questions.

### **Approval of Minutes**

After discussion, the May 8th Town Council Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 3 to 0.

## Report of Town Engineer

Alex Saunders, Schneider Corporation Senior Project Manager, submitted the monthly report for Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer.

He provided the Town Council a report and proposal for Town Roadway Management, previously submitted at the April Town Meeting. Mr. Saunders presented a letter and the spreadsheet list of preventative maintenance and major improvement recommendations based on Schneider Corp. evaluation of current street conditions.

Town Engineer Whitaker recommended that the Town adopt a 15 year plan for Roadway Management. The cost of developing the assessment study would be \$5200.

Councilor Ivceвич reported that the Streets & Thoroughfares Committee discussed at their June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and recommend the Council adopt the plan with an added column to address drainage. She moved to approve the assessment study as amended. Terry O'Brien seconded. There was discussion and the motion passed by a 2-1 vote. Councilor Hohmann voting against.

Town Engineer Whitaker also submitted for approval a change order document for 2006 street repairs for Schneider Corp. From the list of Schneider Corporation's road recommendations for roadway maintenance, a motion was made to approve the contract change for Schneider's management of the repair and maintenance program not to exceed \$3500. The 2006 roadway maintenance project had been recommended out of the Streets and Thoroughfares Committee not to exceed \$30,000 including the Schneider management fee of \$3500.

Council discussed the change order and the approval of the list of repairs. Councilor Hohmann inquired whether the Town's monthly engineering fees included these project fees and asked that the Town Clerk look at the contract. Mr. Saunders stated that project fees to manage projects were separate.

Upon Council's further review, the Town Council modified the street list and President O'Brien made a motion to approve the change order of \$3500 and the modified street list for repair of \$22,000 for a total not to exceed \$25,500. Motion was seconded and approved by Council by a vote of 3-0.

Terry O'Brien submitted Traffic Sign Work for approval. Traffic Sign work estimate increased from \$3000 to \$3414.

Colleen Scheidler complained that Illinois did not have school zone signs and was being used as a thoroughfare. There was discussion about adding speed signs on Illinois and Holliday Drive East north of 75<sup>th</sup> Street and changing the number of signs on Wellington from 5 signs to 3. A motion was made to approve the Traffic Sign work as amended not to exceed \$4000. Vote was 2-1, with Councilor Hohmann voting against.

## **Report of Town Attorney**

Dave McGimpsey representing Sue Beesley, Town Attorney, stated that the Covenant & Environmental Agreement at 7495 N. Pennsylvania Street had been recorded on the afternoon of June 12<sup>th</sup>.

A question was asked whether a builder or home owner would be required to post bond and whether the Town would be named in the case of damage to roads. Attorney agreed to look into this.

A complaint was made about a resident at 69<sup>th</sup> and Meridian Street who has a boat and car for sale in the front yard. Municipal Code Chapter 12 Sec 3 addresses this issue. Marshall Russo agreed to look into this and Clerk Treasurer Taylor agreed to write a letter to the violator.

## **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that all of the Town's records are now being stored without cost at 8092 Woodland Drive at Morales Group Inc. The records were recently moved from Nora Storage to save money.

Clerk –Treasurer requested items for budget be submitted and provided Budget Calendar for the budget process. The finance committee will meet in July and DLGF will review the Towns Budget to assure that the town receives maximum amount of funds for 2007

## **New Business**

None Reported.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

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

Councilor Ivceovich reported on Committee meeting of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Most of the Committee's recommendations had been previously discussed in the Town Engineers report.

Councilor Ivceovich submitted committee recommendations for repainting the stop bars at the stop signs along 75<sup>th</sup> Street and along Pennsylvania Street. A motion was made to approve painted stop bars at

listed locations not to exceed \$1000. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Councilor Ivceвич announced that she and Jud Scott, Tree Arborist and Consultant will be touring the town streets and thoroughfares during the month with Clerk Treasurer Taylor. The team will be viewing trees and shrubbery for recommended trimming by the town and by town residents.

#### **Finance Committee –**

Nothing Further to report.

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

Councilor Hohmann provided the Committees report. Three requests came to the committee for approval during the past month. A storage shed on E.73<sup>rd</sup>, an additional driveway cut on N. Pennsylvania Street, and subdividing a lot on N. Pennsylvania Street.

Councilor Hohmann stated that no one is issuing driveway variances or approval in Meridian Hills. In Indianapolis, the city charges \$95 to file. Councilor Hohmann stated that there is no oversight because the city doesn't own the town streets.

The Committee recommended to check with the City rather than gearing up the Town's development committee to provide or issue approvals. The committee is waiting for an answer from the City.

Councilor Hohmann reported that the Fry property at 7495 N. Pennsylvania agreement was filed and recorded, and the variance for the Lerchen property was approved.

#### **Communications Committee Report -**

President O'Brien submitted the committee report.

President O'Brien reported that the Town Webmaster could no longer volunteer his time with his new job responsibilities and asked to be replaced and the Town is looking for a replacement.

President O'Brien reported that a newsletter would be coming out later this summer.

#### **Planning Committee Report –**

President O'Brien submitted the committee report.

President O'Brien reported that the committee met May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Special Town Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the results of survey.

The committee approved and submitted the Resident Survey Summary and recommended it be posted on the Town's website. A motion was made and approved by a vote of 2-1 with Council Hohmann voting against.

The Committee recommended:

- Investing in an Engineering Feasibility Study for town walkways and burying of utility lines.
- Adopting new entry signs and recommending a priority to install
- Adopting decorative street lights in the Washington Style
- Adopting new decorative Street signs for the Town Streets.

Other items from the survey suggested that any Street closures would be based on further survey of the residents of the area affected. ( ie. Wellington and Meridian ) and that if desired that work could be done with prior street repairs plans.

From the survey the committee recommended no roundabouts or decorative stop signs at this time.

President O'Brien made a motion to approve. Councilor Ivceovich seconded. The motion was to authorize Schneider Corporation to get an estimate, at no cost, to estimate the cost of a Feasibility Study. No money has been spent or authorized. The need for an estimate of the feasibility study is to plan for budgeting purposes to study the feasibility in 2007.

After further discussion, President O'Brien withdrew his motion and made a new motion to accept the recommendations of the Town Planning Committee, to solicit a bid - at no cost - for a feasibility study and that the committee will recommend a design for town entry signs and street signs. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

## **Resident Forum**

Comments from Residents on survey was the main topic of discussion.

One resident complained about the adoption of the decorative street lights in regard to light pollution. He suggested that unless engineering study recommended old "Cobra" lights or to forget about it. Councilor Hohmann agreed with him for more energy efficient lights as approved with current standard.

Resident inquired about the status of the Baxter sewer. Town Engineer Whitaker met with residents and the Ashby property and reported that he may require easements for DPW to address. Indianapolis doesn't recognize.

Resident commented that the survey was wonderful and suggested that Town residents think as a community and consider how issues presented can raise property values.

**Approval of Claims and Warrants**

Clerk Treasurer, John Taylor, submitted accounts payable vouchers of

\$14,002.36 for approval.

## Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

### Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted June 12, 2006

EFT	Town Payroll 6/8/06- 6/21/06 (estimated)	\$4,600.00
EFT	Town Payroll 6/22/06- 7/5/06 (estimated)	5,800.00
1040	AT&T	90.80
1041	IPL	625.00
1042	Speedway SuperAmerica	279.30
1043	Bingham McHale	1,000.00
1044	Schneider Corp	1,000.00
1045	Freije Lawn Care	270.00
1046	US Uniform & Supply	44.90
1047	I-Quest	105.00
	Rose	
	Scovel	187.20
		<u>\$14,002.36</u>

**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

Residents in Attendance:

Fran Gharrett  
Colleen Schneider  
Stacie Reamer  
Don Mattson  
Bill McGowan  
Malcolm Mallette  
Jim Schick  
Kathy Finley

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