

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
June 11th, 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 hired a new part time Deputy Police Officer, Jason Lietse. Officer Lietse has worked with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Dept and has worked since 2002 with the Indianapolis Sheriff's Dept. Officer Lietse is originally from Bloomington, Indiana and will fill a Day Shift position for the Town of Meridian Hills.

Marshall Russo also informed the Council of activity earlier in the day at 71st and College where a drunk driver had taken out a signal light. The driver took flight and was pursued and arrested on Holliday Drive. The driver resisted arrest.

President O'Brien commented that a coyote had been seen in the Town. Marshall Russo suggested that if a resident is concerned that the City Animal Control or Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) be called.

Approval of Minutes

After discussion, the approval of the May 14th, 2007 Town Council Minutes were tabled to give Councilors more time to review the minutes. Vote was unanimous, 3-0.

Report on Town Engineer

Town Engineer, Jay Vorisek, P.E. of CrossRoad Engineers, PC submitted his monthly report on activities and projects of the prior month.

Engineer Vorisek mentioned that he did speak with the residents on drainage problems on Pennsylvania Street. He will speak in more detail about in the Streets & Thoroughfares Committee report.

Engineer Vorisek today, submitted electronic bid proposals for professional services for Town Entry Signs. President O'Brien commented that the \$11,500 fee for engineering locations for sign seemed unnecessary and permits could be attained at no cost.

Councilor Hohmann commented that the Council hadn't considered this when the signs were approved and was also concerned about the landscaping costs. President O'Brien commented that he would be surprised if other towns' spent that much money to design the location for entry signs. He also commented that landscaping costs should be minimal and he intended to use Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to keep costs down.

Resident Mr. Jim Schick questioned the cost and location. President O'Brien responded that no further discussion would be entertained. The Council had approved the money and locations for 4 signs at an estimated cost of \$7,000.

President O'Brien made a motion to modify the amount approved for each sign to \$7500. for a total of \$30,000. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Councilor Hohmann suggested that the Council wait for the total budget and then approve and should include landscaping.

Councilor Ivceovich recommended contacting Jud Scott of Vine & Branch for the landscaping and questioned if we approved the money do we need to have the full engineering estimate including the cost of surveying each site.

President O'Brien called the question. Motion was approved by a vote of 2-1 with President O'Brien and Councilor Ivceovich in favor and Councilor Hohmann opposed.

Councilor Hohmann commented that when the City of Indianapolis and the Town of Meridian Hills Code are different and that the City will not enforce the Town's code. She asked whether the Council should consider modifying the code for the height requirement for a fence of 42 inches to comply with the City.

Resident and former Clerk-Treasurer Bloor Redding commented that the Town should enforce the code and issue stop work orders when residents or builders are in violation. Set backs have been incorporated into the Indianapolis Dwelling Ordinance for the purpose of providing clarification and set the standards with which residents and builders should comply.

Report of Town Attorney

Attorney Sue Beesley, submitted a memo to the Council about the issue of “Indemnification for damage due to construction traffic”. She had been working with the Town of Williams Creek Attorney for indemnification from contractors through the City’s permit process. Issues were:

- The City of Indianapolis does not receive indemnification for damage through their permitting process.
- They enforce through City Code enforcement division and process.
- The City will only enforce City streets and will not enforce Town Ordinances for Town streets.
- City will provide insurance policy information on contractors in even the Town wishes to pursue a claim.
- Documented evidence of condition of Street before and after construction would be necessary.

Discussion followed. This issue is resolved as far as the City is concerned. From a practical matter, construction is done with many sub-contractors and identifying the damage from any one contractor would be problematic unless it could be proven that a specific contractor had done damage.

Attorney Beesley she is continuing research on encroachments on Town Right of Ways and supply some supporting information. This topic will continue to be discussed.

Councilor Hohmann commented that the Driveway permit issue is still active.

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. He commented that the Census request was for information on Town wages and salaries and will be fairly simple to complete.

Clerk Treasurer Taylor reported on the Town DLGF Audit for 2005 and 2006. He mentioned that the auditor had requested that the Town retroactively approve the wages for 2005 and 2006. He also asked that in a separate vote that the Town approve the wages for 2007.

Attorney Sue Beesley commented that in looking into this before that the approval of wages had not been necessary as a separate resolutions. Clerk – Treasurer Taylor commented that he assumed that as the Town had approved the Budgets for each year and the wages were in the Budget were listed that the Town had indirectly approved the wages. He commented that the DLGF auditor had requested this as one of the items needed to complete the Audit.

Councilor Hohmann made a motion to retroactively approve the Town’s wages for 2005 and 2006. Motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0.

A similar motion was made to approve the 2007 wages. Motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer commented that he will be going to the Clerk – Treasurer training later in the month. He reported that he would follow up with mowing contractor Frieje on 75th and College to clear view of the town sign. He also mentioned that we will start the 2008 Budget process in the coming month and will seek to have Barry Wood a former Marion County property tax assessor to speak to the Finance Committee about property tax impacts on the Town’s budget. Councilor Hohmann asked that Committees receive more budget detail per committee for this years 2008 budget.

Councilor Hohmann asked for Clarification on who was to provide “copies of Town Set Backs”. She commented that she received multiple requests for this item. With further discussion, it was agreed to create a separate document from the municipal code that details just the section on set backs for properties. It was agreed to list this separately on the web site as well.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor commented that he would be happy to send copies to fulfill requests but stated that the web site should list these items for contractors and residents to obtain at their convenience. He also commented that any requests for calculations of set backs would be referred to the Development Standards Committee or the Town Engineer.

Old Business

There was no Old business to discuss.

New Business

Committee Reports

Street and Thoroughfare Committee-

Streets and Thoroughfare Committee recommended the Road Proposal of Town Engineer for the estimated \$43,530.

Engineer Vorisek commented on a productive meeting with residents near 73rd and Pennsylvania on June 11th. He recommended that we take the 73rd St. drainage project issue off of the Road Proposal list to address this as a separate project. That brings the Road Proposal project to an estimated \$35,430. He would recommend a not to exceed \$35,000 for Councils consideration.

Councilor Ivcevich made a motion to accept the Road Proposal project not to exceed \$35,000. President O'Brien seconded the motion. After further discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Councilor Hohmann asked about the status of the stop bars that had previously been approved last fall. President O'Brien will forward last year's bids to Engineer Vorisek to update.

Councilor Ivcevich reported that the committee recommended the Council appropriate \$2350 for Sign replacement and additions throughout the Town. A motion was made and seconded and after further discussion the Town Council approved Sign repair throughout the Town, not to exceed \$2500. Vote was 3-0.

Councilor Ivcevich reported that Jud Scott, Vine & Branch is continuing to work with the City and reported that the City is scheduling the work on City thoroughfares.

Councilor Hohmann asked Engineer Vorisek about providing a cleaning service for drainage inlets that get blocked after heavy rains. Engineer Vorisek will propose to committee a recommendation for the clean service.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor will contact Jud Scott on letters that need to go to residents with pending tree maintenance.

Police and Law Enforcement-

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

Finance Committee

Finance committee will contact Barry Woods, retired County assessor, to discuss impacts of property tax changes on Town revenues and impacts to residents.

The committee will begin scheduling Budget Planning for 2008.

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –

Mrs. Baldwin representing First Congregational Church spoke to the council to update them on the rezoning petition that had been considered. Mrs. Baldwin mentioned that the Church has been operating on a zoning variance since 1957 as residential property, when the Church was built. Three years ago the Church built a memorial garden and sought a special use variance at that time and was granted a variance.. The Church does have plans to upgrade the signs and was looking into rezoning to SU1 in recognition their existence of 50 years at this location.

Mrs. Baldwin mentioned that after receiving feedback from local neighbors over the issue, the church decided to not pursue the SU1 rezoning and will seek a special use variance for the sign.

Councilor Hohmann reported on the following Town projects:

- 110 E 73rd St. – House was to be remodeled but ended up demolishing the structure. Permit change resulting in taking down wall and this created setback issues that delayed the construction. The Town received new plans and acted quickly to help complete the review and expedite the construction.
- Property Owner on Pennsylvania Street had been provided wrong setback information by the City. The third party website provider for the City had not updated with ordinances from Meridian Hills Setback guidelines as planned. City staff has been notified and will pursue updates.

Communications Committee Report -

President O'Brien presented the 8th Town Newsletter that had been mailed to residents in late May. He commented on the Vine & Branch advertisement that generated \$250 of revenue to the town. The next newsletter will be sent in September.

President O'Brien commented that the website changes were unfortunately taking longer than expected. A new resident had offered to help.

Resident Forum

Resident and former Clerk-Treasurer Bloor Redding requested that the Council immediately approve painting a double line on 75th street for safety considerations. He also recommended that the Council consider Pennsylvania as well.

After further discussion the Council approved by a 3-0 vote, painting the double yellow lines on 75th street at a cost not to exceed \$2500. Council directed Engineer Vorisek to initiate the project. Engineer Vorisek would also obtain a quote for Pennsylvania Street painting as well.

Resident commented on drainage issues at St. Luke's property along 75th street where a lake of water had occurred earlier in the year. Further discussion on Drainage issues occurred. Resident Redding commented on a historical perspective of the continuing issues.

Councilor Hohmann encouraged resident's discussion. President O'Brien commented that resident discussion is welcome but the Council should be conducted in a civil and appropriate manner, not a personal platform.

Residents in Attendance:

Ann O'Rourke
Virginia Marten
Jim & Cynthia Schick
Barbara Hamilton
Syd & Pam Steele
Dennis Dallape
Peter Buck
Wendy Baldwin
Phil Drew
Bloor Redding

Approval of Claims and Warrants

Clerk – Treasurer John Taylor submitted Accounts Payable Vouchers for \$17,449.04 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted June 11, 2007

EFT	Town Payroll 6/7/07- 6/20/07 (estimated)	\$4,700.00
EFT	Town Payroll 6/21/07- 7/4/07 (estimated)	4,700.00
1174	AT&T	96.48
1175	IPL	625.01
1176	Speedway	354.01
	Bingham, McHale-	
1177	retainer	1,000.00
1178	Express Service Print	292.80
1179	Crossroads Engineers	4,974.88
1180	Butler Ford	39.06
1181	Freije Lawn Care	245.00
1182	Hall Signs	24.98
1183	Steven R. Jenkins Co- (uniforms)	54.82
	Liberty Mutual- WC funds	
1184	surcharge	3.00
1185	John Taylor (reimburse IACT conf. fee)	140.00
1186	Waymire Group	199.00
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		<u>\$17,449.04</u>

Adjournment

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

