

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
February 14, 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	Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer
	Abbe Hohmann, Councilor	Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
	Kay Ivcevich, Councilor	Mike Russo, Town

Marshal

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

Police Report

Mr. Russo reported that police activity last month was primarily weather related. The criminal incidents included a break-in at the Schneider residence in Woodmont that was thwarted do to the alarm and quick police response, and a "toilet paper incident" stopped in progress at 7155 Washington Blvd. by Deputy Matt Grimes, who had the juveniles remove the toilet paper. Mr. Russo also reported that Deputy Fred Cortez is now certified with the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Deputy Batza is continuing to research details on an Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) for the Town, and that Deputy Grimes is working on putting together a Safety Seminar for residents in the spring.

Approval of Minutes

Councilor Ivcevich moved to accept the minutes of the regular town council meeting held January 10th as amended. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 3-0. President O'Brien moved to accept the minutes of the Executive Session held January 10th as submitted. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 3-0.

Report of Town Engineer

Mr. Whitaker reported there was no interest from the grant administrators we contacted to assist the Town. He will contact a former Schneider employee that has grant writing experience on our behalf. He reported on a meeting with the City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works that included the City's new acceptance of the drainage issues within the Town of Meridian Hills. After ongoing meetings and communication, the City will assume our drainage issues including the items identified in the Town Drainage Study that represent over \$163,000. Mr. Whitaker indicated a response to their initial draft response will be initiated as well as an agreement with the City addressing permission on Town right-of-way, establishing a timeline, quality and permanency of work, and prioritizing the issues. Additionally, Mr. Whitaker will prepare an estimate for Schneider Corporation to prepare a Stormwater Drainage Infrastructure Study within the Town for the project. President O'Brien stated that having the City assume the cost of the drainage issues within the Town is a tremendous coup.

Councilor Ivceвич moved to appropriate funds for pothole repair not to exceed \$6,000, using either Grady Brothers or Globe Asphalt based a competitive bid, availability, responsiveness, and prior approval by Councilor Ivceвич. Councilor Hohmann seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Councilor Hohmann moved to appropriate funds for Schneider pre and post inspection of the work not to exceed \$250. Councilor Ivceвич seconded and the motion passed 3-0. The application for reimbursement for the FEMA declared snow emergency in late December has been submitted. Mr. Whitaker will survey Williams Creek Blvd at both 71st and 73rd to see if the road damage would qualify for the current and open FEMA declared ice and flooding emergency.

Report of Town Attorney

Sue Beesley requested direction from the Council regarding special projects that are outside the scope of the letter of engagement with the Town Attorney. She reported that Bingham McHale had to write off thousands of dollars in overages last year, and has generated and is submitting a \$3,200 invoice toward a redistricting ordinance. Updating the Municipal Code, estimated at \$10,000, would also be classified as a special project. Councilor Hohmann made a motion to approve the \$3,200 expense, seconded by Councilor Ivceвич, and the motion passed 3-0. President O'Brien stated that any work identified as a special project either prior to or during development of the work must be brought to the Council for prior approval before incurring any expense. The Council will not retroactively appropriate funds for work that becomes a special project.

The Chair moved to approve an updated letter of engagement that reflects the approved 2005 Town Attorney compensation. Councilor Hohmann seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Report of Town Clerk Treasurer

President O'Brien reported that the Republican Party has called a caucus for 6pm, February 24th at Tudor Hall on Park Tudor's campus to elect a new Clerk Treasurer. The resignation of two Clerk Treasurers and the current vacancy has created a difficult and lengthy transition for the Town. President O'Brien thanked Esther Schneider for continuing to do payroll and claims and warrants until the new Clerk Treasurer has been appointed. He introduced Jim Rush and John Taylor, two candidates that have submitted a declaration of candidacy for the position. President O'Brien also reported that Mr. Pride at the State Board of Accounts was aware of the vacancy and gave assurance that neither the Town nor the newly appointed Clerk Treasurer would be cited or penalized in any way for submitting the annual report after the February deadline.

Old Business

There was no Old Business reported.

New Business

Councilor Ivceвич made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds to the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$29,000. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion and the resolution passed 3-0.

Councilor Ivceвич submitted a written report for the Streets & Thoroughfares Committee and the Police

& Safety Committee. Councilor Ivcevich made a motion to renew the on-call agreement with Vine & Branch as the tree consultant. Councilor Hohmann seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Councilor Ivcevich also reported that she will solicit a bid regarding reseeding an isolated area in Wellington. She reported that the Police Committee recommends acquiring an AED and scheduling a Crime Prevention seminar. The Streets & Thoroughfares Committee will recommend a road and sign program once the obligations of the drainage issues are resolved. She also reported that the City repair work on the College Ave. bridge north of 75th has been delayed indefinitely. They have modified the project from repair to replace. The Town will continue to monitor the project in the interest of maintaining the character of the Town.

Councilor Hohmann submitted a written report for the Development Standards and Residential Construction Committee. She made a motion to recommend support of the Carter residence wall variance, seconded by Councilor Ivcevich and the motion carried 3-0. The next committee meeting is February 24th.

President O'Brien submitted a written report for the Communication Committee. He reported that the newsletter and changes to the website have been delayed until the appointment of the new Clerk Treasurer. New yard signs reflecting "Council Meeting" and the new time "7pm" were produced and given to the Town Police to place prior to the regular meetings.

Approval of Claims and Warrants

President O'Brien moved to accept the following claims as amended. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 3-0.

<u>Claim#</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
243	Bingham McHale	Town attorney monthly fee	\$1316.67
244	Schneider Corporation	Town engineer monthly fee	\$683.33
245	Police Payroll	Police payroll	TBA
246	Police Payroll	Police payroll service	TBA
247	IP&L	Street lights	\$623.80
248	Prime Pay	Police payroll service	\$148.12
249	SBC	Police telephone	TBA
250	Speedway SuperAmerica	Police fuel consumption	\$189.05
251	Indianapolis Star	Legal advertising	\$9.61
252	Rejuv Tec	Street repairs	\$6348.96
253	Bedwell Construction	Snow removal	\$24935.00

Adjournment

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence W. O'Brien
President
Town of Meridian Hills