

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
July 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 Marshall
	Kay Ivceovich, Councilor	Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer
	John Taylor, Clerk Treasurer	

Following the pledge of allegiance, President O'Brien allowed resident Rosalea Lavelle to speak on an issue that would have been presented during the resident forum. Ms. Lavelle spoke to express her disappointment with a \$ 69 million bond issue for the Metropolitan School district of Washington Township. She expressed the desire to have support and considered the bond excessive. She encouraged the town to speak up and for the topic to be debated in open discussion. Anyone interested in further information can contact her at 257-0760.

Police Report

Mike Russo, Town Marshall, submitted his report and highlighted incidents over the prior 30 days

Mike introduced Officer Jeff Lumpkin, who had been responsible for picking up the radar trailer and placing it in the town to deter speeding.

Mike sadly informed the council of a fatal accident on Saturday, July 9, 2005 around 11pm on Meridian Street. Officer Matt Grimes was on the promptly on the scene.

Mike also highlighted the apprehension in the Arden neighborhood of 2 suspects breaking into cars.

Officer Chuck DeBasso responded to a call from a resident of the neighborhood of suspicious activity. The seriousness of the incident is that one of the apprehended suspects was a convicted felon and the other was in possession of a firearm.

Mike expressed the importance the awareness to lock cars and doors of residence and to call police in the event of suspicious activity.

Mike additionally commented on 2 thefts in the Town during June. One occurred at 77 E. 73rd Street and the other at 22 Williams Creek

Mike reported that the Radar Trailer was placed at 7100 North Pennsylvania to deter speeding on Pennsylvania Street. Mike mentioned that it is available to those that are interested and that he was looking to place it along 75th Street.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting, June 13th, 2005 Minutes were approved as amended by the Town Council by a vote of 3 to 0.

Report of Town Engineer

Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer, submitted his written report to the council.

Cecil reported on the status of the GIS protocols with the City of Indianapolis. Cecil sent TSC surveyors out to prepare an estimate of costs. Cecil mentioned that the GPS locating systems would not work because of the concentration of trees that would block the signal. The surveyors estimated that it would take between \$23,000 and no more than \$30,000 to complete this work. Cecil could not recommend to the council to appropriate the funds at this time, because of the cost. Cecil said he would contact Carlton Ray at DPW for assistance and recommendations on locating the projects per the GIS protocols.

Cecil recommended that DPW speak to the town in a separate special town meeting to discuss the issues of drainage.

The Council debated the topic of a special meeting with DPW. Councilor Hohman expressed the desire to have the Development Standards Committee to outline a plan of meeting with DPW. President O'Brien expressed the desire to go ahead and schedule a special meeting per the Town Engineer's recommendation. The purpose of the special meeting will be communication with the outcome to 1) Obtain information 2) Assessment of Status and 3) Express the frustration with pace or lack of progress.

Traffic sign replacement was discussed as the need to repair or replace a bent sign at 75th and Illinois Street near St. Luke Church and graffiti painted sign at 70th and Pennsylvania.

President O'Brien made a motion to replace the four posts on town signs that had decayed. The price was to not exceed a quote of \$740 that had been received by email prior to the meeting. Councilor Ivcevich seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Judd Scott with Vine & Branch conducted a 4 hour review of the town foliage with Councilor Ivcevich. This is a review of the yearly obstruction of signs by trees and shrubbery that have grown over the summer months. 116 locations were sighted and a letter was to be drafted by the Streets and Thoroughfares committee to inform residents of the need to clear the obstruction. The letter will go out on Clerk-Treasurer and Town letterhead.

Report of Town Attorney

Sue Beesley, Town Attorney reported that she had prepared the disclaimer for posting the Municipal Code on the town website. Sue also mentioned she had done research for the Drainage Study for Councilor Hohmann's Development Standards committee to determine who actually owns the Storm Water sewers.

Report of Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor, Clerk Treasurer, apologized for the delay in getting June minutes to the council in a timely manner. Summer vacations had caused some communication conflicts and John promised to work toward getting information in a timely manner. John also promised to get the prior month's minutes and financial statements posted on the web, when the webmaster returns from his vacation.

John also mentioned that the coming month will be active with budget activity and as soon as Bernie Bruno, Assistant Clerk Treasurer, gets back from his vacation a Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled.

Old Business

There was no old business to report.

New Business

Resident Dr. Carter Wolf presented to the Council a detailed plan for a request for variance to obtain a building permit for the addition of a two car garage. The Development Standards and Residential Construction Committee had not approved the plan, and Dr. Wolf didn't expect the council to override the committee.

Councilor Hohmann, who heads the committee, stated that no one on the committee who could support the variance and the major issue, among others, was the fact that the garage addition would stick out well beyond the front of the house and not be in alignment with the front of other homes.,

Dr. Wolf said that he would consider re-petitioning the committee a revised proposal addressing the alignment issue and the Council encouraged him. Councilor Hohmann suggested that the July 28th committee meeting would approve the request as long as the proposal addressed the issue.

Council commended Dr. Wolf on his presentation and professional approach to his seeking the Town's approval.

Councilor Hohman made a motion for the Council to accept the recommendation from the Development Standards & Residential Construction Committee to oppose the Wolf residence setback variance as submitted, and to authorize the Committee to review an amended variance application for the project and to formally oppose or support on behalf of the Council in an effort to accommodate the Wolf's construction schedule. The motion was seconded and the Council voted 3-0 for approval of the motion.

Committee Reports

Street and Thoroughfare Committee- Councilor Ivcevich reported nothing to add that had not already been discussed.

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee – Councilor Hohman submitted the committee report.

Councilor Hohmann reported that the Town of Meridian Hills pays to DPW approximately \$21,000 per year in storm water drainage fees. Abbe estimated that the contribution per house is approximately \$35 per year.

Councilor Hohmann also addressed the ownership of the storm water sewers referring to the June 22nd letter from Town Attorney, Sue Beesley that outlines that DPW is responsible for capital improvements and maintenance of infrastructure.

Councilor Hohmann reported on June 30th to Jim Garrard the storm water drainage structure at 73rd and Pennsylvania had collapsed, and requested assistance. It was recommended that the Town obtain a quote to fix it as well as make sure it was noted to DPW as an emergency,

With the significant rains this year from tropical storms and hurricanes coming from the Gulf of Mexico, the issue of drainage and proper use of sub-pumps in basements was discussed among council members.

Last item noted was that grates along the streets had been blocked with muck from debris from the storm. Residents were encouraged to clear any muck and the street committee agreed to look into the matter.

Finance Committee - Councilor Ivcevich announced the committee would meet when the budget process starts and the Clerk Treasurer is ready to present 2006 budget forms and information. The Clerk Treasurer will announce the meeting date for late July.

Communications Committee Report -

President O'Brien mentioned that the webmaster will be out until July 26th and the website will be updated when he gets back. Terry also solicited input for the Town Newsletter.

Resident Forum

Mrs. Hamilton asked for the information on the setbacks required for buildings in the town.

Perry Jordan restated the concern over the issues with the Bond for the MSDWT Schools. She stated that taxes will go up and that residents need to be aware. She recommended that the town conduct a forum to discuss the pros and cons of the bond issue.

Bloor Redding inquired about completion of 75th street projects approved in prior years.

Mr. Redding also asked for a copy of last year's financial statement that had been submitted and published in prior months. Mr. Redding also complained that the website had not been updated recently and wanted to make sure that was done in a timely fashion.

Residents in attendance at meeting that signed the sign in sheet.

Perry Jordan
Rosalie Lavelle
Barbara Hamilton
Bloor Redding
Don Matson
Carter Wolf

Approval of Claims and Warrants –**Submitted July 11, 2005**

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

<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
-		
EFT	Police Payroll 7/7/05- 7/20/05 (estimated)	\$3,950.00
EFT	Police Payroll 7/21/05- 8/3/05 (estimated)	3,950.00
1259	IPL	625.01
1260	IACT	85.65
1261	Freije Lawn Care	220.00
1262	IQUEST	105.00
1263	SBC	87.46
1264	Butler Ford	29.95
1265	The Waymire Group	53.00
1266	Traffic Sign, Inc.	8,423.81
1267	Speedway	222.50
1268	John Taylor	650.00
1269	Bingham, McHale	1,000.00
1270	Schneider Corp	683.33
1271	Bernard Bruno	300.00
		<hr/>
		\$20,385.71

-
-
-
-

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

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