

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
May 9, 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  
Mike Russo, Town Marshall  
Bernie Bruno, Asst. Clerk Treasurer  
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney  
Kay Ivcevich, Councilor  
John Taylor, Clerk Treasurer

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

### **Police Report**

Mike Russo, Town Marshall, submitted his report and highlighted a few items. There was a burglary reported at 274 West 75<sup>th</sup> Street and a rise in mailbox vandalism. Mike wanted to raise awareness to the vandalism that seems to be happening after 10 pm. The police have not yet apprehended the perpetrators.

Mike also mentioned that the radar machine and trailer will be permitted to be used on 75<sup>th</sup> street and at Pennsylvania Street near the Congregational church. The purpose is to slow speeding in the town. Resident Bill Mooney registered a complaint about the Washington Township school busses being the speeding culprits and requested that a letter from the Clerk Treasurer be drafted and sent to the School system. Mike committed to step patrolling during the school busing hours.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Monthly Meeting, April 11th, 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, discussed the drainage issues facing the town and recommended that items #3 and #7 on the Drainage report be removed, and that the report be approved by Council for submission to DPW. His efforts with the City will be more effective if the projects are broader in scope and clearly identified and defined. A meeting with DPW is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.

President O'Brien made a motion to accept Cecil's recommendation. Motion was seconded and the vote was approved 2 to 1. Councilors Ivcevich and O'Brien voting in favor and Councilor Hohman voting against.

Cecil reiterated that Capital projects are defined as projects located on public right away that are greater

than \$75,000. Projects located on public right away of less than \$75,000 are considered Maintenance projects. Projects that are located on private property are considered Home owner responsibility.

Cecil also recommended that if a group of individual residents want to solicit others to participate and get a project placed on towns list of identified projects that he would consider adding the project to the list submitted to DPW.

Cecil then discussed the issue of Traffic Sign replacement. Last month the town had approved \$4250 for Priority #1 Sign replacement, and Cecil recommended that the town council approve the Priority #2 and #3 signs. Cecil suggested that it was a safety and quality issue and that the recommended signs were needed to improve reflectivity. The list was presented and the cost was \$4545.

Council discussed the topic. A motion was made to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded and the vote to approve was 2 to 1. Councilors Ivcevich and O'Brien voting for approval. Councilor Hohmann voting against.

Cecil discussed ongoing projects and issues. Cecil agreed to check on a DPW sign barricade placed at 73<sup>rd</sup> and Penn on the northwest corner. He also would look into 75<sup>th</sup> street between Park and College where DPW had replaced or repaired a drainage pipe and not completed the pavement repair.

Cecil discussed the pot holes that had been repaired on the list that had been identified and submitted for repair. The expense of repair was under the budgeted amount and Cecil recommended it for approval. The council unanimously approved the payment of the invoice.

Cecil reported the approved drainage project at 7401 Holliday Drive East was to start the following week by the Quakenbush Construction Company and should be completed by the next town meeting.

An On-Call Agreement for traffic sign replacement was approved subject to no increase in pricing from vendor, Traffic Sign, Inc. Town Attorney, Sue Beesley agreed to review the document for any needed language changes. The Agreement will be discussed later in the committee reports.

Cecil agreed to submit a proposal to the town for a survey to locate culverts. Identifying the exact location of the drainage culverts for entry into the GIS is protocol requested by the City in order for DPW to work on the drainage issues.

## **Report of Town Attorney**

No projects currently working on for the town.

## **Old Business**

The Second Reading of Ordinance regarding At-Large Election of Town Council Members was read.

Terry O'Brien stated that he would abstain from voting on this issue as it had a direct impact on whether he could serve on the council in the future. Council members discussed the pros and cons of the issue. Discussion was open to the town residents.

Town attorney, Sue Beesley, stated that the council can change the By-Laws of the Town's Code for this purpose, as long as it is within the State Law. Sue confirmed that this may be done.

After lengthy discussion a vote was taken by the council. Councilor Ivcevich voted for the proposal. Councilor Hohman voted against the proposal. With Councilor O'Brien abstaining, Clerk-Treasurer Taylor broke the tie and voted in favor of the proposal.

The proposal to modify the By-Law changing the election of councilors on an At-Large basis passed 2-1.

## **New Business**

A motion for the On-Call Agreement for Traffic Sign Replacement was made. Motion was open for discussion. Changes were made to the language referring to date of pricing the services. The On-Call Agreement was approved as amended 3-0.

## **Committee Reports**

**Street and Thoroughfare Committee-** Councilor Ivcevich reported that a Safety Training meeting for interested residents was held April 28th at Park Tudor. The program was presented by the Town of Meridian Hills Police department and had 9 residents in attendance.

**Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee-** No written report was submitted. Councilor Hohman discussed the need for on sight drainage review of construction. Councilors had received some complaints of excess water as the result of some construction projects and their effect on drainage. Councilor Hohman will submit a list projects currently being reviewed by the committee after next committee meeting.

**Finance Committee-** Councilor Ivcevich announced the committee would meet on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Communications Committee Report-** Councilor O'Brien submitted a written committee report. A review of Town signs identified that some posts are rotting and that the committee recommended that the town either fix or replace. Clerk Treasurer Taylor agreed to make calls to fix.

**Resident Forum-** Resident Rose Scovel introduced herself as a certified development planner and is interested in helping the town.

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

Rose Scovel  
Frances Gharrett  
Fred McCashland  
Carol Terzo  
Fred Terzo  
Scott Cunningham  
Philip Genetos

**Approval of Claims and Warrants –****Submitted May 9, 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>
1231	Bingham McHale Retainer-May	1,000.00
1232	Schneider Corp Retainer-May	683.33
1233	John Taylor- Clerk Treasurer	650.00
	Bernard Bruno- Asst. Clerk	
1234	Treasurer	300.00
1235	IPL	625.01
1236	Speedway SuperAmerica	189.27
1237	U.S. Postmaster- Nora post office box fee	68.00
1238	Freije Lawn Care	200.00
1239	Prime Pay- Payroll Services Fee	244.35
1240	Vine & Branch-hazardous tree removal	1,690.00
	Terry O'Brien- postage for	
1241	newsletter	263.44
EFT	Police Payroll 4/28 - 5/11 estimated	3,900.00
	Police Payroll 5/12 - 5/25	
EFT	estimated	3,900.00
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		13,713.40

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John H.R Taylor  
Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Meridian Hills