

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
September 12, 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
Kay Ivceovich, Councilor
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer
John Taylor, Clerk Treasurer
Bernie Bruno, Asst Clerk Treasurer

Following the pledge of allegiance,

Report of Town Engineer

Town Engineer Cecil Whitaker submitted his monthly report. Cecil announced paving projects for the fall will be similar to the spring patching program the town previously authorized. Cecil has asked police officers to identify any locations that require immediate attention. . Unit pricing has already been established and Cecil recommended Grady Bros, the company contracted in the spring, be contracted to complete the work. Cecil will submit the list of locations and proposed total cost at the October Town meeting.

Town Council discussed locations that need attention. Councilor Hohman noted a possible drain restriction at the NW 73rd & Pennsylvania Street caused either by paving or size of drain. A location at 6441 Holliday Drive West was also noted for possible erosion. Engineer Whitaker agreed to look into the locations and asked that any suggested locations be submitted within the next two weeks so he can report at the October meeting for approval.

Engineer Whitaker stated that the Town needs to develop consensus on two issues of Paving and Drainage as a maintenance deficit is building up by deferring projects to future years.

Cecil did introduce Alex Saunders from The Schneider Corporation, who will be supervising the paving construction. Alex Saunders will help prepare a prioritized list of locations for the town's approval.

Police Report

Town Marshall, Mike Russo submitted his monthly report and commented that with the start of school, August Police efforts were focused on reducing speed.

Marshall Russo reported that the town continues to have thefts in vehicles and that the perpetrators seem to be a more aggressive. He reminded all residents to lock cars and garages to possibly prevent or deter future occurrences.

Marshall Russo sadly reported that Officer Rick Batza was the first on the scene of a tragic automobile accident at 82nd & Meridian where a child was killed. The accident involved a drunk driver.

Marshall Russo was requested by a resident to consider closing a street for neighborhood party. After discussion, the council agreed to not take a position on this request as there were concerns expressed over liability and that the town doesn't have proper signage for handling the request. For future reference the correct action would be to contact the City of Indianapolis –Dept of Transportation.

Approval of Minutes

After discussion, the Regular Monthly Meeting, August 8th, 2005 Minutes were approved as amended by the Town Council by a vote of 2 to 1. President O'Brien and Councilor Ivceвич voting for and Councilor Hohman voting against.

Report of Town Attorney

Town Attorney, Sue Beesley submitted a list of Cumulative Funds for the town to consider. The funds can be considered in future budget years as vehicles to set aside money for specific purposes.

Attorney Beesley recommended that the Town Council hire legal representation for a lawsuit where town police officer, Andrew Jacobs, was called as a witness. Attorney Beesley recommended hiring Indianapolis attorney, Jim Stevenson. After discussion, a motion to hire an attorney and not to exceed cost of \$2500 was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Report of Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor, Clerk Treasurer, reported the first publication for the Town of Meridian Hills Budget in the Indianapolis Star was completed on August 26th, and second publication of the budget was completed on Sept 2nd. The pre-adoption budget hearing was held on September 6th and the formal Town Council approval will be on Friday, September 16th, 2005.

Old Business

There was no old business to report.

New Business

Committee Reports

Street and Thoroughfare Committee-

Councilor Ivceвич reported work would start soon on tree trimming that was approved at the August meeting in accordance with the approval of the Hazard-Tree Risk Management Policy and allocation of \$5000.

Councilor Ivceвич commented that the Clerk Treasurer will be seeking bids on Snow Removal for the coming November through April season.

The council discussed a safety issue and the need to move a light at 71st and Pennsylvania as it blocks vision. There was considerable discussion on whether to use a standard light at no cost or consider a \$2400 decorative light. A motion to approve was tabled and Councilor Ivceвич agreed to contact land owners and work with IPL to resolve.

Councilor Ivceвич reported on the progress made on the tree trimming letters to residents that had been sent out in August. Resident Libby Somerville requested clarification on the request made for “canopy lifting” at 7036 n. Pennsylvania. Councilor Ivceвич agreed to contact Vine & Branch for clarification assistance.

Councilor Ivceвич reported that the City of Indianapolis will provide black paint on the back of the fluorescent yellow green replacement signs to match our sign standard and the sign posts approved at the August meeting.

Councilor Ivceвич recommended 2 “Stop Ahead” signs and 2 “Traffic Does Not Stop” signs at the intersection of 71st and Pennsylvania. Motion was made not to exceed \$900 in cost and approved by a vote of 3-0. Councilor Hohmann requested a price on paint strips for this intersection. Other options were discussed by the council in order to make this intersection safer.

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –

Councilor Hohman submitted the committee report.

Councilor Hohmann reported complaints on the size of an Acorn Realtors sign, on Meridian Street. The realtor has agreed to change to a smaller sign.

Councilor Hohmann commented on the 2006 proposed budget having zero \$ dollars for drainage projects. Councilor Hohmann discussed the possible use of a reserve fund to handle the remaining

projects on the Schneider list of drainage projects.

President O'Brien asked for a recommended Drainage Policy to provide guidance for the town. Resident Don Matson suggested a one page planning guidance.

Finance Committee - Councilor Ivcevich reported and welcomed the addition of two residents as committee members, Jim Rush and Scott Cunningham.

Communications Committee Report -

President O'Brien submitted the committee report. President O'Brien submitted the draft of the Town September newsletter for printing and mailing. Motion to approve, print and mail the newsletter and not exceed a cost of \$600 was approved by a vote of 3-0.

President O'Brien commented that the newsletter is soliciting resident input regarding town entry signs. A local architect has volunteered to design the signs and an application for a Project 180 Keep Indianapolis Beautiful grant has been submitted to raise funds for the project.

Resident Forum

Residents in attendance were:

Barbara Hamilton
Bob Barrows
Don Matson
Libby Somerville

Libby Somerville complained about the litter and debris on the Meridian Street Bridge. The council recommended that she call the Mayor's Action Line to address as a street of the city.

Resident also expressed a complaint over the minutes of the Town not being updated on the Website. Clerk Treasurer Taylor apologized and agreed to correct as soon as possible.

Approval of Claims and Warrants

Assistant Clerk Treasure, Bernie Bruno, submitted the Town financial statement for August 31st 2005

and the accounts payable vouchers of \$13,246.65 for approval

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted September 12, 2005

EFT	Town Payroll 9/1/05- 9/14/05 (estimated)	\$4,400.00
EFT	Town Payroll 9/15/05- 9/28/05 (estimated)	4,400.00
1288	SBC	88.51
1289-1298	Clothing Allowance Payments	2,000.00
1299	Freije Lawn Care	320.00
1300	Motorola	98.00
1301	MECA (MTS battery for Jeff Lumpkin)	50.58
1302	Indianapolis Newspapers	102.54
1303	Speedway	103.69
1304	Bingham, McHale	1,000.00
1305	Schneider Corp	<u>683.33</u>
		\$13,246.65

Adjournment

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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