

Town of Meridian Hills  
Minutes of Town Council Meeting  
July 10th, 2006

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  
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney  
Mike Russo, Town Marshal  
Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer

Following the pledge of allegiance,

**Police Report**

Mike Russo, Town Marshall submitted the monthly Police Report.

Marshall Russo commented on highlights for the month of June. He reported that several cars were broken into at Meridian Hills CC. The Police Dept is looking into the matter.

Marshall Russo also commented on the July 5<sup>th</sup> arrests of 4 juveniles apprehended for smashing residence mailboxes. He commended Officer Matt Grimes along with a town resident that observed the incidents and reported the activity immediately to the police. Marshall Russo advised strongly that residents who see suspicious activity call 911.

Marshall Russo updated the Town Council on the estimate for repair of the Town's police car that had been damaged by hail in a recent storm. The estimate was \$4469 and Assistant Clerk Bernie Bruno will expedite the claim.

Marshall Russo requested that the Council consider a "On-Call Vendor List" for emergency tree issues that occasionally occur. The City of Indianapolis had been called in the past and is the first option, but in the case of extensive storms the Town needs to have a quick response list for emergencies that the City cannot respond to in a timely manner.

Marshall Russo also asked the Town to consider buying signs for high water that could be placed by the Police Dept in the case of emergency. This item would be brought up to the Streets & Thoroughfares committee for recommendation.

No further questions.

## **Approval of Minutes**

After discussion, the June 12<sup>th</sup> Town Council Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 3 to 0.

## **Report of Town Engineer**

Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer submitted the monthly report.

Town Engineer Whitaker referred to the Roadway Management Program report that had been presented to the Town Council during the prior months. The report was a comprehensive list of the streets of the Town and proposed recommended maintenance and improvements projects to be considered in the future. .

Town Engineer Whitaker recommended that the Town adopt a 15 year plan for Roadway Management. He will have the recommendation for consideration at the August Town Meeting. He commented that he is working on the patching and paving proposal and will also submit this fall's projects to consider at the next Town meeting.

Town Engineer Whitaker had not received a response to his email request considering drainage issues and asked that President O'Brien write the new head of DPW to inquire.

Councilor Hohmann submitted the name of additional vendors for Town Engineer Whitaker to consider.

## **Report of Town Attorney**

Sue Beesley, Town Attorney, had nothing to report

## **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that the Finance Committee will review the budget and budget calendar at the July 18<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Assistant Clerk Treasurer Bernie Bruno will be working on the budget and will be meeting with DLGF (Department of Local Government & Finance) to review the assessments and tax levies to insure that the town has accurately submitted the proper information.

Clerk –Treasurer requested items for budget be submitted prior to the Finance Committee meeting.

## **Old Business**

No Old Business to discuss.

## **New Business**

President O'Brien presented the First Reading of the Appendix to the Speed Limit Ordinance.

Discussion followed. Safety and the adoption of a consistent speed policy with posted speed limits was the first step to address speed and safety concerns that had been expressed by Town residents.

Questions on enforcement and the guidelines for Speed enforcement by the Police Dept were discussed by the Council, Residents, and Town Marshall Russo. Marshall Russo commented that police officers have the latitude to 1) give out tickets or 2) warnings and are encouraged to use good judgment in considering all of the factors that can occur in stopping a vehicle.

The Streets and Thoroughfares Committee is making recommendations to

1. Increase Enforcement
2. Contact Schools about Bus speeds and Routes
3. Communicate or encourage communication with Parents & Students
4. Research ways to reduce speed through the Town
5. Reduce speed on 75<sup>th</sup> and reduce cut-through or short cuts between higher traffic streets.

Marshall Russo commented that the Police can't enforce without posted speeds. This led to discussion on the cost of new speed signs. The Streets & Thoroughfares Committee will prepare a list for the next Council Meeting.

President O'Brien read the Appendix and requested a vote on the first reading. Councilor Hohmann suggested that the Committee review the entire list of Town signs required.

President O'Brien made a motion to approve and amend the appendix on Second reading based on the recommendation and sign study of the Streets and Thoroughfares Committee. Motion was approved 3-0.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Police and Law Enforcement-**

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

### **Street and Thoroughfare Committee-**

Councilor Ivcevich added that the annual letter to residents recommending tree trimming around Town signs will be sent out during the coming month.

### **Finance Committee –**

Nothing Further to report.

### **Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –**

Councilor Hohmann provided the Committees report. She reported that the next Committee meeting will be on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Hohman informed the council of a City Zoning request at 6917 N. Pennsylvania Street where a developer wishes to build three houses on the existing location. She mentioned that the committee decided to take a position of not getting involved on this topic as it is not in the Town but across Pennsylvania Street in the Arden subdivision.

The council discussed this topic and recommended that any resident interested in the topic attend the City zoning meeting. Other discussion suggested a possible continuance or postponement of the zoning meeting and a general support for neighboring areas that are next to the Town of Meridian Hills.

Councilor Hohmann reported that she had attended a public meeting for revisions to Dwelling ordinances. Items that she reported and expressed interest in are:

1. Setbacks for the Town Meridian Hills supported by the City of Indianapolis.
2. Parking in Front Yards & Set Back Ordinance - She reported that the City was addressing the issue by stating that no more than 50% of Front SetBack could be used for Parking and Garage Access.
3. DPW is rewriting Driveway Standards

Councilor Hohmann inquired whether the Council would consider hiring someone to read the ordinances and make a proposal to work on an hourly basis to update the Towns ordinances with the City.

Town Council requested the recommendations to Councilor Hohmann's questions and comments come out of the Development Standards and Residential Construction Committee.

### **Communications Committee Report -**

President O'Brien submitted the committee report.

President O'Brien reported that the Town Webmaster position is available and suggested that it would take approximately one hour per month to update the Town's website. Anyone interested should contact President O'Brien.

President O'Brien reported that a newsletter would be coming out later this summer.

### **Planning Committee Report –**

President O'Brien submitted the committee report.

President O'Brien reported that the committee met in a special meeting with residents of 75<sup>th</sup> Street to address their concerns and interests. The residents at the meeting emphasized the priority of speed control and enforcement along 75<sup>th</sup> Street.

President O'Brien reiterated that nothing had changed and nothing had been spent towards creating activity paths as some residents expressed concerns to their property.

Councilor Ivceovich commented that of the residents on 75<sup>th</sup> street, ten of the residents had commended the committee for taking the survey and asking for their opinion.

Councilor Hohmann commented on Traffic Calming on 75<sup>th</sup> street and the decision to study the flow of traffic before doing and study on activity paths.

Town Engineer Whitaker provided the estimated costs to study activity paths or sidewalks were approximately \$18,000. The funds for such a study would be from Federal Enhancement Grants that the Town would apply for. No action was taken.

### **Resident Forum**

Residents commented on the possibility of 5 members on the Town Council and on issues to contact the Mayor's Action Line.

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### **Approval of Claims and Warrants**

Clerk Treasurer, John Taylor, submitted accounts payable vouchers of

\$24,416.18 for approval. An additional amount not to exceed \$50 for reimbursement to Terry O'Brien to cover costs of postage and copies at Kinkos was also approved. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

## Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

### Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted July 10, 2006

EFT	Town Payroll 7/6/06- 7/19/06 (estimated)	\$4,600.00
EFT	Town Payroll 7/20/06- 8/2/06 (estimated)	4,600.00
1049	AT&T	90.71
1050	IPL	625.01
1051	Speedway SuperAmerica	389.46
1052	Bingham McHale	1,000.00
1053	Schneider Corp	1,000.00
1054	Redding-Troy Insurance	12,111.00

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\$24,416.18

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Residents in Attendance:

Fran Gharrett

Tom Walters

Barbara Hamilton

Virginia Marten

Ann O'Rourke

Don Hargadon

Jim & Cynthia Schick

Dennis Dallade

Kathryn Densborn

Perry Jordan

Don Mattson

Bob Barrows

