

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Town Council Meeting
October 9, 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
Mike Russo, Town Marshal
Bonnie Jagoditz for Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
Alex Sanders for Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer

Following the pledge of allegiance,

Police Report

Mike Russo, Town Marshall requested \$150 for candy to be distributed by Police officers on Halloween. Council approved the request by a vote of 3-0.

Marshall Russo submitted the monthly Police Report.

Marshall Russo commented that the Month of September was relatively quiet. The number of solicitors seemed to increase and the Police department had received calls about them. Marshall Russo commented that is exactly what the Police Department needs to know and encouraged residents to call when this occurs.

Marshall Russo reported on the Police Departments review of speeding school buses or moving through stop signs problems that had been reported to them in the prior council meetings. The Police officers were unable to find buses speeding but did find many violations of stop signs by automobiles when they studied the reported problems. Marshall Russo requested that residents continue to report any issues on this topic so that the department can continue monitoring.

Marshall Russo reported that effective January 1st, 2007 there will be some changes from the county wide consolidation of Police and Sheriff's departments that will require the Town to probably spend some money. The uniform changes from brown to blue will be one of the changes and Marshall Russo showed some of the new patches that the officers will be wearing.

Marshall Russo reported on two car break-ins around 7800 block of North Illinois. He commented that residents should be reminded that unlocked cars and open garages are

statistically the primary rationale of thieves in break-ins. Marshall Russo reiterated that residents should lock their cars, not leave keys in cars, and close their garage doors to prevent crime.

Approval of Minutes

After discussion, the September 11th Town Council Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 3 to 0. The Special Budget Meeting minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Report of Town Engineer

President O'Brien announced that Town Engineer Cecil Whitaker had recently resigned from Schneider Corporation. As a result, Cecil Whitaker will no longer be serving as Town Engineer. Alex Saunders will serve in Cecil's capacity until a Town Engineer is selected by the Town Council.

Mr. Saunders submitted the monthly Town Engineer's report. He mentioned that Globe Paving will be trying to complete the fall paving project before the weather turns. The company will be patching and providing surface patches and crack sealing during the month.

The installation of the approved "Stop Bars" at intersections came up and Alex agreed to look into the matter.

Council discussed the Speed limit reduction proposed and reviewed in the prior August and September Council Meetings. The Council discussed other speed calming methods and provisions for other speed limiting equipment.

President O'Brien stated that with the Town Engineer position in transition that the Town should consider selecting a 25 MPH Town Speed limit rather than conducting a Traffic study.

Councilor Hohmann questioned the need for new signs for only a 5 MPH difference. The Council discussed that the speeding issue was important on 75th Street and on Pennsylvania Street which remain at 30 MPH. Other traffic issues needed to address "cut through" streets and inconsistency of speeds for enforcement.

Engineer Saunders mentioned that he had briefly looked emails about the drainage issues on Pennsylvania and is aware of the need to keep track of the issue and the work of the City.

President O'Brien had talked with Cecil's supervisor and confirmed that the Town's contract is with Schneider Corporation. Councilors Ivcevic and Hohmann agreed to discuss engineering priorities and firms for consideration with their committees and forward any thoughts to President O'Brien.

Report of Town Attorney

Sue Beesley, Town Attorney, had nothing to report

Council discussed several items for Attorney Beesley's review.

- A web agreement subject to review with modifications.
- Issues regarding Property development at 79th and Springmill Road was still being reviewed
- Councilor Hohmann requested an update on Bonding request for builders. Attorney Beesley mentioned that she hasn't looked into it. Council Hohmann expressed concerns that builders pay for any damage to Town property from new construction. Attorney Beesley talked about enforcement and practical tactic of writing letters as an alternative.
- Fry property on 75th and Pennsylvania was discussed. Councilor's mentioned that they had received numerous complaints about the status of this property. Attorney Beesley agreed to write a letter to the developer demanding action.

Report of Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, reported he will be meeting with DLGF to obtain approval of appeal for an excessive levy due to a Math Error. The amount of \$11,076 will be reinstated to the Town's 2006 budget. The approval is pending a hearing on Oct 12th, 2006.

Clerk- Treasurer Taylor reported that the State of Indiana had paid the first payment from the States' Major Moves initiative involving the Northern Indiana Toll Road Lease. The Town received \$10,799 in its first of two payments.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor also commented on the recent grand opening of the new Holliday Park Playground that had recently been installed and welcomed all residents to visit exciting new facilities.

President O'Brien mentioned that he had called to confirm the continuation of the Snow removal contract with John Bedwell Construction. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor will follow up with a written proposal to present at future Council meeting.

Old Business

No Old Business to discuss.

New Business

No New Business to discuss.

Committee Reports

Police and Law Enforcement-

Nothing further added to the Marshall's report.

Street and Thoroughfare Committee-

Councilor Ivceovich mentioned a combined committee meeting with Development Standards Committee to discuss the property issues at 79th & Springmill.

Finance Committee –

Nothing Further to report.

Development Standard and Residential Construction Committee –

Councilor Hohmann provided the Committees report.

The committee voted not to approve the request for cut at 79th & Springmill Road. The builder / homeowner have asked to come to the next Council Meeting to present. Adjacent homeowners are opposed. Council Hohmann is targeting a committee meeting later in October.

Ad Hoc Election Committee

Clerk-Treasure Taylor announced a committee meeting for Thursday, October 11th at 5:30 at St. Lukes Catholic Church.

Communications Committee Report -

President O'Brien submitted the committee report. He reported that the newsletter was completed and mailed.

President O'Brien announced that Mike Reynolds of Spinweb will be serving as web master for the Towns website. Mike is intending to add some new features that will allow schools and churches to post upcoming activities. Residents will also be able to post their services on a Town Resource feature. Additional search features are intended to be added.

President O'Brien add his thanks to resident Mike Reynolds in volunteering to provide web services at no cost to the Town..

Planning Committee Report –

President O'Brien recommended that the Town Ad hoc Planning committee be dissolved and thanked committee members for their participation. In closure to the committee's efforts, President O'Brien submitted the committee's recommendations for Town Entry Signs and Street Name signs as displayed in the Town newsletter.

Council discussed the costs and the size of the signs. The approximate cost of the entry signs was \$6000 as submitted. The cost of the Street signs was approximately \$25 more per sign. President O'Brien mentioned that an architect was willing to do a pillar design for locations where a small entry sign was more appropriate.

No action was taken.

Resident Forum

Several residents commented on the question of sidewalks for 75th Street and stated that they didn't think it was a bad idea. The Council restated the status of this issue and that there was no action taken to put sidewalks or activity paths on 75th Street. Even though the Planning committee had received support there were issues of cost and location and design and impact on properties that would need further study. No action has been taken to further the advancement of sidewalks on 75th Street.

Councilor Hohmann asked President O'Brien if he supported sidewalks on 75th Street. President O'Brien stated if the majority of residents want it and if funds are available he will support what residents want.

A question of a referendum on this topic was brought up and Attorney Beesley stated that this was a cumbersome and frankly unsophisticated way of addressing the issue and didn't recommend this as a way to decide the topic of sidewalks. There were other ways of obtaining similar information such as "Signed – returned forms" that would be more effective than putting the issue on an election ballot.

Approval of Claims and Warrants

Clerk Treasurer, John Taylor, submitted accounts payable vouchers of

\$ 14,435.24 for approval. Vouchers were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted September 11, 2006

EFT	Town Payroll	8/31/06- 9/13/06 (estimated)	\$4,600.00
EFT	Town Payroll	9/14/06- 9/27/06 (estimated)	5,800.00
1078	AT&T		93.70
1079	IPL		625.01
1080	Speedway SuperAmerica		394.21
1081	Bingham McHale		1,085.55
1082	Schneider Corp		1,385.50
1083	The Indianapolis Star		131.28
1084	US Uniform & Supply		49.99
1085	Freije Lawn Care		270.00

\$14,435.24

Adjournment

There being no further business, President O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Residents in Attendance:

Virginia Marten
Ann O'Rourke
Perry Jordan
Don Mattson
Julie Bower
Tom Hutchinson
Jim Rush
James Carmody
Marion Kister
Bart Kister

