Town of Meridian Hills

Town Council Meeting

September 8th, 2014

The meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council was called to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the library of the Early Childhood Learning Center at Park Tudor School

In Attendance: Walter Freihofer, Councilor

Kristina Frey, Councilor

Terry O’Brien, Councilor

Michael Russo, Town Marshall

Jay Vorisek, Town Engineer

Residents & Visitors that signed in:

Stephen Jay

Anne Jay

Tom Aschauer

Christine Duncan

Roger Meyerhoff

Linda Meyerhoff

Patrick Meloy

Laura Yeo

David Lucas

Bob Barrows

Frank Esposito

Jon Guy

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Walter Freihofer greeted everyone. There was a motion to modify the meeting agenda to accommodate people, seconded, and approved 3-0.

**Police Report**

Town Marshall Russo submitted the Monthly Police report. Marshall Russo made his annual request of $125 to purchase candy for the Town Police to distribute on Halloween night. He commented that it’s good for the community; it lets everyone know the Town Police are patrolling on Halloween night; and the kids love getting candy from a police car with flashing lights. There was a motion to approve the candy, seconded, and approved 3-0.

The city paging system is going away, so the Town will need to find a new method to forward calls. The ISA fee of $35/mo the town pays for the casework structure will be eliminated.

Residents on Central Avenue asked about an incident that occurred on their street on the evening of September 5th. A vehicle stopped for a routine traffic violation fled down Central. Four juveniles with a criminal history evacuated the vehicle and fled on foot. The driver was apprehended by Chief Deputy Batza, and reinforcements were called. Several police vehicles showed up on the scene. It was determined that the youths were simply passing through the Town with no ulterior motives, and made a bad decision to flee. There was discussion about how residents could be notified of an ongoing police activity within the Town. Neither the Town, without any full-time employees, nor the City, with their staff, are equipped to notify residents of ongoing activities. Residents were encouraged to look into the Neighborhood Crime Watch program that IMPD offers. The town website meridianhills.org does have links for Amber Alerts, sexual predator registry, and Crime View mapping where incidents have happened. The website safetown.org was also mentioned, and a link will be added to meridianhills.org. There are also several smartphone apps that allow residents to monitor police scanners.

**Committee Reports**

Development Standards Committee -

President Freihofer introduced a Variance Petition for 7480 N. Illinois regarding a 42” front yard fence at the Esposito residence. Jon Guy, the contractor brought samples of the material and illustrations of the fence. President Freihofer stated that the Development Standards Committee reviewed the project and supported the variance request. There was a motion to support the variance request, seconded, and approved 3-0.

**Residents Forum**

There were no resident comments presented at this time.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the July 14th Regular Council Meeting were presented. There was discussion of modifications. There was a motion to Table the approval of minutes until the next Council Meeting, seconded, and approved 3-0

**Report of Town Engineer**

Engineer Jay Vorisek presented the Town Engineer’s Report to the Town Council. With the exception of a small punch list, the Pennsylvania paving project is complete. The College Bridge is scheduled to be completed this year. The stop sign on the NW corner of 71st & Pennsylvania was hit by a contractor, who has been notified to repair the sign. Residents should notify the Town Engineer at [engineer@meridianhills.org](mailto:engineer@meridianhills.org) if they see any damaged traffic signs, or call 9-1-1 if a stop sign is down.

The drainage issue on Central Avenue, south of 75th Street was discussed. The issue has been discussed since it was brought to the town’s attention in March of 2012. It was explained that the City of Indianapolis is responsible for drainage within the Town of Meridian Hills. DPW reviewed this drainage issue and identified a pre-existing swale on the west side of the street that has not been maintained, and has been filled in with silt or by residents over the years. DPW will have Citizens Energy re-establish the pre-existing swale, however any trees that were planted or allowed to grow in the area of the swale would have to be removed or likely be damaged. Residents were concerned about the 50’ right-of-entry requested by DPW as well as the trees that would be removed. Residents discussed meeting with an engineer to determine if there could be alternative options that would be less invasive. The Town stated that no right-of-entry for the town right-of-way has been signed, and no work would be done at this time.

2014 Street Maintenance Options were presented. There was discussion. A motion was made to approved roadwork, including thermal stop bars at 74th and Holliday Drive West, not to exceed $19,000, seconded, and approved 3-0.

**Town Attorney**

There was nothing to report from the Town Attorney.

**Report of Clerk Treasurer**

The Clerk Treasurer’s report was given by Councilor O’Brien in Clerk-Treasurer Taylor’s absence. The first publication of the Town Budget - which was distributed - was published on September 5th, and the second publication will be on September 12th. On Tuesday, September 16th, there will be a public hearing at First Congregational Church at 8am.

The scheduled Council Meeting to approve the 2015 budget will be on Tuesday, October 21st at First Congregational Church at 8:30am. As a reminder, the public notice reflects the maximum amount that the budget could be approved for to maximize our request for funds. More than likely, the levy and budget will be approved for less, but publishing these amounts ensures that we are not shorted funds.

There is no update on the FEMA reimbursement. The DLGF audit review is being scheduled for the end of October.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**New Business**

There was a motion to waive the restrictions and have both the First and Second Reading of an amendment to Ordinance MH-2014-1 regarding the Town Encroachment License, seconded, and approved 3-0. The amendment states that the Town Engineer will record the Encroachment License and a fee of $100 will be charged for the cost of the recording. There was a motion to approve the amendment as read, seconded, and approved 3-0.

**Claims & Vouchers**

There was a motion to approve July vouchers for $25,898.63 and August vouchers for $20,210.21, seconded, and approved 3-0.

President Freihofer thanked all those in attendance and for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry O’Brien

Town Councilor

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|  | Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted August 11, 2014 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EFT | Town Payroll 8/7/14- 8/20/14 (estimated) |  |  |  |  |  | $5,000.00 |
| EFT | Town Payroll 8/21/14- 9/314 (estimated) |  |  |  |  |  | 5,000.00 |
| 2685 | AT&T |  |  |  |  |  | 118.64 |
| 2686 | Speedway |  |  |  |  |  | 391.87 |
| 2687 | Verizon (air card monthly usage) |  |  |  |  |  | 30.01 |
| 2688 | Stavros Lawn Service |  |  |  |  |  | 1,284.00 |
| 2689 | Crossroad Engineers |  |  |  |  |  | 3,665.50 |
| 2690 | Bingham Greenebaum Doll (Aug retainer plus invoice 4301950) |  |  |  |  |  | 4,623.69 |
| 2691 | ERS Wireless Communications |  |  |  |  |  | 96.50 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $20,210.21 |

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|  | Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana |  |  |  |  |
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| Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted July 14, 2014 |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EFT | Town Payroll 7/10/14- 7/23/14 (estimated) |  |  |  | $5,000.00 |
| EFT | Town Payroll 7/24/14- 8/6/14 (estimated) |  |  |  | 5,000.00 |
| 2675 | AT&T |  |  |  | 118.63 |
| 2676 | Redding-Troy Insurance |  |  |  | 9,968.00 |
| 2677 | Speedway |  |  |  | 402.73 |
| 2678 | Verizon (air card monthly usage) |  |  |  | 30.01 |
| 2679 | IPL |  |  |  | 545.09 |
| 2680 | Penske Chevrolet |  |  |  | 43.67 |
| 2681 | Stavros Lawn Service |  |  |  | 1,200.00 |
| 2682 | Roundpeg |  |  |  | 75.00 |
| 2683 | Crossroad Engineers |  |  |  | 2,515.50 |
| 2684 | Bingham Greenebaum Doll (July retainer) |  |  |  | 1,000.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  | $25,898.63 |