

Town of Meridian Hills  
Town Council Meeting  
January 12th, 2015

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  
                                  Rick Batza, Town Officer for Town Marshall Mike Russo  
                                  John Taylor, Clerk – Treasurer  
                                  Jay Vorisek, Town Engineer

Residents & Visitors that signed in:

Bob Barrows  
Marcia Cassell  
Ellen Gregory  
Ruth Nelson  
Angela Arnold  
Trish Mong  
Eric Sponseller  
Dave Lucas  
Gene Valanzeno  
Alexander O'Neill

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Walter Freihofer greeted everyone.

**Residents Forum**

Resident Hassler had asked “What requirements are there to vote on a variance?” President Freihofer reported that typically the City will forward any request for Variance to the Town. The Land Use Committee meets as needed every month. The merits of the variance request are discussed with an emphasis on neighbor support. Typically a second meeting is held and the committee makes a recommendation to the Council that is either Yes – No or No Opinion. The Town Council will vote on the variance request at the next Council Meeting or under some circumstances at a Special Council Meeting.

Resident Hassler expressed concern that the Board is against change. Councilor O'Brien

stated that the Committee is established to address requests for change by reviewing variance requests.

President Freihofer stated that specific letters of support from neighbors are often influential in the committee's consideration. He stated that Front Setback Variance requests are rare and Side and Rear Setback Variance requests are more frequent. The City has now recognized the importance of the Town's Municipal Code.

President Freihofer asked Councilor O'Brien to report on the State of the Town of Meridian Hills. Councilor O'Brien submitted and read highlights of the accomplishments of the Council and Town over the past 12 months. President Freihofer thanks Councilor O'Brien for creating the report and thanked the Professionals that the Town works with to make the accomplishments possible.

Councilor O'Brien nominated Councilor Walter Freihofer to be President for the Council for 2015. After further discussion, the Council voted unanimously to confirm Walter Freihofer as President of the Town Council of Meridian Hills for 2015.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council waived approved of the November 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes until submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer.

### **Police Report**

Officer Rick Batza on behalf of Town Marshall Russo submitted the Monthly Police report and commented that there was an increase in calls to the Police over the past few months and that was a good thing.

Officer Batza reported that Richard Adams, a con-man who had contacted Illinois street residents was recently arrested and will hopefully be put back in jail.

Officer Batza reported that the administrative contact with the Town Police force was changing. The City was doing away with the MECA voicemail so that the Town Phone number won't be able to forward calls. The town police are considering a new answering machine to address the issue.

### **Report of Town Engineer**

Town Engineer Jay Vorisek stated that he did not have a formal report but could handle any questions on current projects.

President Freihofer asked whether the resident on Holliday Drive East and 75<sup>th</sup> Street ever contact the Town Engineer about the parking area that was installed on the street. Engineer Vorisek said he had not been contacted and that Town Attorney Sue Beesley will need to contact the resident to remove the parking area.

Councilor O'Brien commented that an invoice from the paving contractor, Globe for replacement of a Stop Sign that had been damaged during the Town paving project seemed excessively expensive and asked that the contractor be willing to reimburse the Town for these costs.

### **Town Attorney**

Nothing to report

### **Report of Clerk Treasurer**

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor asked that the Town Council formally approve the wages of the employees and professional service providers for the Town. The budget had been submitted and approved for 2015, but State Law requires that the Council formally approve the wages and retainer fees for service. There were no increases from the 2014 wage and fee rates. Council vote 3-0 to approve.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor reported an ending cash balance for the Town of \$289,117.23

### **Old Business**

President Freihofer opened the discussion to residents concerning the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street request for Speed Humps to address traffic calming. Resident Trish Mong stated that they had received every neighbor's signature.

Price quotes for the speed humps were estimated at \$4200-\$6700 for two humps while street closing would cost approximately \$75,000.

Resident Elizabeth Johnson owns the woods along Meridian St, 72<sup>nd</sup> St and Meridian Hills Blvd. There were comments concerning safety and Arborist Judd Scott was recommended to be contacted for providing Tree Service.

Resident Trish Mong asked whether 72<sup>nd</sup> St was the appropriate width for 2-way traffic. President Freihofer commented that an estimated 50% of the Town has narrow streets. He also commented that Illinois St is 20 ft wide and gets enormous amount of traffic.

Councilor Frey suggested that the Town and Residents consider one step at a time and to see if the Speed Humps address the traffic issue.

Town Engineer prepared and distributed a plan for location of the speed humps. Councilor O'Brien questioned whether the speed humps were preformed as recommended and that the Town had contributed 20% of the cost if the residents had collected 80% of the expected expense to install.

Resident Al Hall had requested an updated response on the past discussions on Wellington St.

### **New Business**

Council made a motion to transfer \$30,000 to the Rainy Day Fund from the General Fund. Current balance of the Rainy Day Fund is \$58,000. The Town is allowed to transfer up to 10% of its budget to the Rainy Day Fund and has done so in the prior years.

Gene Valanzano and Alexander O'Neill presented information on DPW's plans to remove trees along the White River as a part of the White River Levee project by the Corp of Engineers. They expressed concern that the project to create a certified levee would move forward without a public hearing and they expressed concern over the north side of the river trees that would be removed.

President Freihofer stated that he had gone to meetings last year over fears of the levee project moving forward without Town input. Councilor O'Brien thanked them for bringing up the topic and suggested that they keep the Town informed. Discussion continued as residents expressed the desire for other groups like the Friends of White Rive or Friends of Holliday Park or the Art Center being made aware. Some wondered whether the project could be decertified for the north side of the river.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Development Standards Committee -**

President Freihofer reported that there were no recent committee meetings over the past holidays. He commented that there were three properties with requests and the committee had taken no positions on these requests.

Councilor O'Brien asked about the Holliday Drive parking spot and Spring Mill Road

Fence that had been built and were in violation of the Town Municipal Code. Attorney Sue Beesley was to contact these residents.

### Claims & Vouchers

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor submitted Vouchers for November 2014 for \$27,211.12 and December 2014 for \$22,859.95. Claims were approved by Council 3-0.

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted November 10, 2014

EFT	Town Payroll 10/30/14- 11/12/14 (estimated)	\$5,000.00
EFT	Town Payroll 11/13/14- 11/26/14 (estimated)	5,000.00
2715	AT&T	127.62
2716	Beering Enterprises (police car cleaning)	225.00
2717	Speedway	375.95
2718	Verizon (air card monthly usage)	30.07
2719	Stavros Lawn Service	1,536.00
2720	AES Indpls. Power & Light	10,621.00
2722	Crossroad Engineers	2,715.50
2723	Bingham Greenebaum Doll (Nov. retainer)	1,000.00
2724	Info. Services Agency	34.89
2725	IPL	545.09

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\$27,211.12

Town of Meridian Hills, Indiana

Accounts Payable Vouchers Submitted December 8, 2014

EFT	Town Payroll 11/27/14- 12/10/14 (estimated)	\$5,000.00
EFT	Town Payroll 12/11/14- 12/24/14 (estimated)	6,800.00
EFT	Prime Pay- Clothing Allowances	2,250.00
2726	Liberty Mutual (work comp renewal premium)	3,358.00
2727	AT&T	124.69
2728	Speedway	422.25
2729	Verizon (air card monthly usage)	30.01
2730	Stavros Lawn Service	285.00
2731	Crossroad Engineers	874.00
2732	Bingham Greenebaum Doll (Dec. retainer)	1,000.00
2733	IPL	545.09
2734	ARW Trucking (14-3291; 14-3292)	1,625.00
2735	Mike Russo (Halloween Candy)	145.91
2736	Enoch Frank (police car computer repairs)	400.00
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		\$22,859.95

President Freihofer thanked all those in attendance and for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Taylor  
Clerk Treasurer

