

**Council Meeting
Town of Meridian Hills
May 11, 2015**

In attendance: Walter Freihofer, Councilor
Kristina Frey, Councilor
Terry O'Brien, Councilor
Mike Russo, Town Marshal
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney
Greg Ewing, Land Planner for Bingham Greenebaum Doll
John Taylor, Past Clerk Treasurer
Jay Vorisek, Crossroads Engineers & Town Engineer
Jennifer Hudson, Manager, London Witte Group, CPA
Elisha Wenzel, Assistant, London Witte Group, CPA

Residents & Visitors that signed in:

Roy Chamberlin	Angela Arnold
David Locks	Thomas Krukenmeier
Bob Bairoive	Katheryn Densborn
Mike & Patty Miller	Steve and Anne Jay
Tom Hschauer	Bryan Chandler
Misha Rabinowitch	Malcolm Bundy

Call to Order;

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation of Awards for Service

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Freihofer presented awards for service to John Taylor, outgoing Clerk-Treasurer for 10 years, Bernie Bruno, Assistant Treasurer for 10 years and Kristina Frey, outgoing Councilor.

Residential Forum: No resident requested time to speak

Approval of the Minutes:

Council Meeting: April 13, 2015
Special Council Meeting: April 20, 2015

Motion for approval of both minutes: Terry O'Brien,
Seconded by: Kristina Frey
Vote: Terry O'Brien, Aye
Kristina Frey, Aye
Walter Freihofer, Aye

Police Report: Town Marshal Mike Russo reported that the MH Town's car will be used to accommodate the coverage with Williams Creek since that Town's car was down for repairs. The timeline is expected to be a week. Other reports had been forwarded to the Councilors as previously done.

Town Engineer: Engineer Jay Vorisek, Crossroads Engineer submitted a report to the Council with updates on various projects (*See attached*). The only action item was the 'Traffic Calming Measures for 72nd Street' that was official addressed in the 'Old Business'.

There was a discussion of the need to have some trees trimmed. It was recommended that Mr. Vorisek contact Jud Scott, Vine and Branch who is under contract with the Town to address the need for tree trimming.

It was mentioned that with the large homes being built in the neighborhoods that we reinstate the practice of taking pictures of the streets in front of the construction sites to assure that the Town had a way of tracking any damage to the streets that may result from bringing large equipment to these respective sites. Mr. Vorisek agreed that his firm would initiate recording these sites for the protection of the Town.

Town Attorney: Sue Beesley, Bingham Greenbaum Doll, as the Town's attorney, asked about the encroachment and code enforcement. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Beesley and Mr. Russo, the Town Marshall would meet to discuss code enforcement and would make recommendations to the Town Councilors.

Ms. Beesley also suggested that the *Council needed to meet to appoint a replacement for Kristina Frey*, Town Councilor, whose letter of resignation had been received regretfully so that she could pursue the position that would be considered a 'conflict of interest' and thus required her resignation from the Council. It was agreed that the Special Council meeting would be set for June 1, 2015 at the First Congregational Church, on N. Pennsylvania @ 8:30 AM. Ms. Beesley requested that the Clerk Treasurer send out the appropriate notices and letters to officially set the meeting.

Clerk Treasurer Report: Clerk Treasurer Rush *introduced Jennifer Hudson, Manager for London Witte Group CPAs (LWG) and Elisha Wensel, Ms. Hudson's Assistant who will be working actively on the Town of Meridian Hills account.* The London Witte Group, CPA has been approved to provide accounting services to the Town that will replace the serviced of Bernie Bruno, the outgoing Assistant Clerk Treasurer. James Higgins, Partner of LWG was not available for the May 11th meeting but plans on attending the next Town Council meeting to be held July 13, 2015. LWG is a firm that specializes in providing accounting services to municipalities throughout Indiana.

Mr. Rush also reported that *the transition from Mr. Bruno and LWG had been substantially completed the prior Friday, May 8th.* In doing so, Mr. Bruno was able to pass the books over to LWG three boxes of information that he believed would be useful. Included, in one box was the germane information that is expected to be used for the Indiana State Board of Accounts audit that he anticipates next year.

Mr. Rush submitted a *resolution for approval of signors for the Town's bank account at National Bank of Indianapolis.* The Signors include Mr. Rush, for which a bond had already been acquired, Mr. Higgins, Partner of LWG and Walter Freihofer, President of the Town Council. It was noted by Mr. Rush that this resolution was being submitted with the acknowledgement that the Town's insurer, Scottsdale Insurance, had responded to the inquiry regarding the need for more than one signor for the Town and that the insurer indicated that one was acceptable but two was acknowledged as being safer against embezzlement.

The resolution was passed unanimously after a motion from Councilor O'Brien that was seconded by Councilor Frey.

Old Business:

- a. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES FOR 72ND Street and ONE WAY EAST BOUND CONVERSION ESTIMATE recommendations.

After further discussion from Jay Vorisek, Town Engineer and a discussion by the Councilors, Councilor Frey made the following motion:

The Motion to approve implementation of the traffic pattern/curbing/signage plan (Plan 1) presented by Crossroads Engineering. Approval is contingent upon approval from DPW, and receipt of 80% of the estimated cost from the residents. Total cost approved not to exceed \$8000 (\$1600 town expense).

If City approval is not granted by September 15th, 2015, or Plan 1 becomes otherwise unfeasible, then the Council approves the speed hump plan (Plan 2), as presented by Crossroads Engineering, in lieu of Plan 1. Approval is contingent upon receipt of 80% of the estimated cost from the residents. Total cost approved not to exceed \$8000 (\$1,600 town expense).

The motion was seconded by Councilor O'Brien. The vote was Frey, aye; O'Brien, aye, Freihofer, aye. The motion was passed as made.

- b. Central Ave. Drainage Update: There was a discussion that future the dialog on the Central Avenue drainage issue. It was recommended by Councilor Freihofer, that the parties meet at the site along with Engineer Vorisek and hopefully a member of DPW to discuss alternatives. Hopefully, as a result, there can be a consensus formed to resolve the issues that could be used to move this project forward. It appeared that there was a consensus to meet in the near future. Councilor Freihofer will be coordinating the scheduling of that meeting.
- c. IPL Light Pole

Councilor O'Brien reported that he had met with the officials at IPL who acknowledged that the initial pole was place inappropriately however, to have it moved; the Town would have to incur the cost of \$1,241.

After a discussion, Councilor O'Brien moved for the approval of the expenditure. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frey. The motion passed three votes, aye, no negative votes were made.

Development Standards Committee:

Councilor Freihofer reported that the Committee had met and considered two requests for variances.

1. Misha Rabinowitz, Attorney representing *Malcom Bundy* was asked to explain the request that was described as a 'corrective' action on the property located at 7701 N. Pennsylvania Street. The request was to establish the lot parameters for the property that had not been established since its inception in 1937. Apparently the property was the homestead for a large parcel of land that had eventually been parceled off and sold as lots. In doing so, however, the lot on which this

home was built on this property was never formally established. So the request was to establish designation as a lot thus defining the lot, the front, the back and all other parameters attached thereto. In addition, it was explained that the lines of the plat that appeared to be an extension of Washington Blvd were, in fact, designation the easement for sewer and water and were not intended to designate the extension of the street of Washington Blvd.

In addition to the recognition of the need to establish the property as a lot, representations were made regarding two minor variances that would allow the owners to make small additions that would include a covered porch and a two story addition to the home. It was noted that the initial request that included adding a pole barn for storage had been amended to exclude that pole barn structure out of respect for concern that had been voiced by the neighbors.

It was noted by Councilor Freihofer, that the 'Committee' had met and discussed and acknowledged the need for this corrective action and therefore made the motion to accept this request including the request for the two variances. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frey. The motion passed three ayes. There were no dissenting votes.

2. At the request of President Freihofer, *Bryan Chandler*, representing himself and his wife, Mary Chandler, discussed the request for a variance for the property of located at 7777 N. Pennsylvania St.
 - a. The first variance request was to be able to add a free standing garage structure to the street side of the new home being built at this location. Adding this structure would violate one of the Meridian Hills codes that prohibited the construction of a free standing structure between the home and the street. Because of the large property size and constraints imposed by the site's 40 foot drop to a ravine, the location of the structure was limited to this site.
 - b. The second variance requested was to allow the construction of living quarters above the new garage structure, also a violation of the Meridian Hills Code.

The Committee had met to consider this variance as well the first request and approved the recommendation for approval by the Council for both variances.

With a motion from Councilor O'Brien and a second from Councilor Frey, the motion passed with three ayes. No negative votes were recorded.

Approval of Claims and Vouchers: (See attached)

With a motion from Councilor O'Brien and a second from Councilor Frey, the vote for approval was unanimous, three ayes.

With no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted



James A. Rush, Clerk Treasurer