

**Council Meeting  
Town of Meridian Hills  
September 14, 2015**

**In attendance:** Walter Freihofer, Councilor  
Sherman McMurray, Absent  
Terry O'Brien, Councilor  
Mike Russo, Town Marshal  
Sue Beesley, Town Attorney  
Jim Rush, Clerk Treasurer  
Jennifer Hudson, Manager, London Witte Group, CPA  
Elisha Wenzel, Assistant, London Witte Group, CPA  
Jay Vorisek, Crossroad Engineers

**Residents & Visitors that signed in:**

David Lucas  
Steve Jay, Ann Jay  
Tom Aschauer  
Timothy Smith, Dobbie Smith  
Norm Ettinger

**Call to Order;**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Residential Forum:** No resident requested time to speak

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Council Meeting: July 13, 2015

Motion for approval of both minutes: Terry O'Brien,

Seconded by: Walter Freihofer

Vote: Terry O'Brien, Aye  
Walter Freihofer, Aye

**Police Report:** Town Marshal, Mike Russo, reported that Officer Andy Jacobs has announced that he would be retiring from the Meridian Hill Town Police at the end of 2015. Marshal Russo expressed his appreciation for the long tenure with which Officer Jacobs served with the Town. Also, Marshal Russo requested approval for the purchase of Halloween candy to be distributed by the officers who are on duty the evening of Trick or Treating in Town. With a motion of Walter Freihofer and a second by Terry O'Brien, the approval was granted for up to \$150.

**Town Engineer:** Engineer Jay Vorisek, Crossroads Engineer, fielded questions about the report that had been filed. (*See attached*). The project @ Central Ave. and southwest 75<sup>th</sup> was discussed. The plan is waiting on DPW to confirm the ROW before a final plan is determined. After a lengthy discussion on the issue, it was determined that there could be little comfort with the decision to go forward until a 'boundaries survey' was completed to define the

boundary parameters within which the Town had jurisdiction to act. Therefore, with a motion from Walter Freihofer and a second from Terry O'Brien, the motion was passed to authorize Crossroad Engineers to engage a surveyor and spend no more than \$5,000 that will hopefully produce a boundary survey for the entire Central Ave.

Councilor O'Brien reported that he had been working with the Town's engineers to put together an inventory of the Town's assets that included but is not limited to Town Street Signs, Lights, and Stop Signs etc. It is Councilor O'Brien's objective to include in the inventory a historical reference for technical specifications and standards of the entry signs, historical markers, street name signs, streetlights, and traffic signs.

It was agreed that TC Rush will meet with Lance Stahley; Engineer to review the maintenance schedule to determine if there should be any items addressed prior to the colder weather forth coming. The results of that meeting will be reviewed at the special meeting for the final approval of the budget September 28, 2015.

**Town Attorney:** Sue Beesley, Bingham Greenebaum Doll, as the Town's attorney: The public hearing on the additional appropriations was opened at 7:50. No one from the public spoke and the hearing was closed at 7:51. Ms. Beesley stated that the Town Council's agenda is stated within an Ordinance. She suggested that she address the order with which some of the agenda items be changed to accommodate the schedules of some of the Non-Council participants. She indicated those recommendations would be available for discussion at the next Council meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Clerk Treasurer Report:** Clerk Treasurer Rush

Rush thanked everyone for the prompt attention to the minutes that were distributed after the last meeting. A prompt review and corrections provide for more accurate records of the meetings.

Rush reported that he would be meeting with London Witte Group to monitor the progress for the transition to their services. LWG has been most helpful and their expertise has been appreciated by CT Rush and the Council.

Rush reported that a claim had been submitted to FEMA for \$1800. That amount was the total of the invoices that had been paid to Vine and Branch Tree Services to clean up storm damage throughout the summer. Rush reported that he had been informed by FEMA that, although the claim purpose qualified, the amount was below the threshold allowed by FEMA to be reimbursed. So, there will be no funds received from this claim.

The 2016 Budget has been completed and distributed to the Councilors for their review. The first of two public sessions that are a requirement for the budget approval was held at 6:30 PM prior the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting. The second meeting will be held at the First Congregational Church @7171 No. Pennsylvania Street at 5:30 on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

CT Rush reported that approximately 50 letters had been sent to property owners regarding tree conditions within their property suggesting that they may have either a personal or property risk. To date, we have received four calls from property owners who have followed up and have appreciated the letters. In addition, it was reported that the growth had been cut back at 75<sup>th</sup> and College.

#### **Old Business:**

A. Councilor O'Brien moved that (7) streetlights be changed from current style to the decorative Washington-style for a cost of \$9130.80, upon receipt of the pledged donations totaling \$7,000. Councilor Freihofer seconded. The motion passed 2-0.

## **New Business**

- A. First & Second Reading of Ordinance MH-2015-2
  - a. Motion to approve Ordinance MH-2015-2 Authorizing Certain Pre-Payment of Claims with an amendment. Move by T. O'Brien and Seconded by W. Freihofer. Vote was two Ayes resulting in an approval. With a motion from W. Freihofer and Second by T. O'Brien, the motion to suspend the rules to have the second vote was approved unanimously
  - b. Motion by T. O'Brien to approve MH-2015-2 was seconded by W. Freihofer and passed unanimously.
- B. First & Second Reading of the Ordinance MH-2015-4 Authorizing the Appropriations of Funds from the General & MVH Fund
  - a. T. O'Brien moved and W. Freihofer seconded by the motion to approve the Ordinance MH-2015-4. The following vote was unanimous for approval.
  - b. W. Freihofer moved for a suspension of the rules for the second reading of Ordinance MH-2015-4. The motion was seconded by Councilor O'Brien. The following vote was unanimous for approval.
  - c. T. O'Brien moved for the approval of the second reading of Ordinance MH-2015-4. Councilor Freihofer seconded the motion. Ordinance MH-2015-4 was passed unanimously by the Council.

## **Committee Reports:**

- A) Development Standards Committee: Chairman Freihofer reported that the committee had not met since the last Council meeting on July 13, 2015.

## **Approval of Claims: See attached**

Councilor O'Brien moved for the approval of the Vouchers totaling \$56,044.85. (For a specific listing please see attached.). Councilor Freihofer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the vouchers submitted by CT Rush and LWG.