

TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
JULY 12, 2021

<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>WALTER FREIHOFFER</b>	<b>COUNCILOR-PRESIDENT</b>
	<b>GREG JACOBY</b>	<b>COUNCILOR</b>
	<b>COLLEEN FIELD</b>	<b>COUNCILOR</b>
	<b>COLE MARR</b>	<b>COUNCILOR</b>
	<b>ZACK GORDON</b>	<b>COUNCILOR</b>
	<b>MICHAEL RUSSO</b>	<b>TOWN MARSHAL</b>
	<b>WILLIE HALL</b>	<b>CROSSROAD ENGINEERS</b>
	<b>JIM RUSH</b>	<b>CLERK TREASURER</b>

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES: NINE ATTENDEES WERE REPRESENTATIVE OF TOWN RESIDENTS**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3) RESIDENT FORUM : NO RESIDENT SPOKE**

**4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. May 10, 2021: Motion for approval with the addition of the Service Provider's \$250 estimate of clearing the proposed sidewalk; Greg Jacoby, seconded by Zack Gordon. Motion for approval: 5-0

**5.) Approval of Claims and Warrants: \$92,485.50**

Motion for approval: Zack Gordon, seconded by Greg Jacoby. Motion passed 5-0

**7.) POLICE REPORT**

- A. No additional report from Marshal Russo other than filed on website

**8.) REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY:**

- A. No progress had been offered for the Municipal Code update.  
B. JAKE BONIFIELD, TOWN ATTORNEY PRESENTED AN ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION THAT WOULD ALLOW THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS TO BE DEPOSITED INTO A DESIGNATED ACCOUNT. THE ESTIMATED DEPOSIT WILL BE \$306,510; \$153,255 IN 2021 AND \$153,255 IN 2022.

**9.) REPORT OF TOWN ENGINEER (SEE PROJECT INVENTORY)**

- A. Updated Inventory discussion

- B. Engineer Hall reported the NIP Grant amount was \$357,278. The final approval of Bid plans and were tabled until the September Council meeting.
- C. 2021 Paving Project Status: Engineer Hall reported that the project on 71<sup>st</sup> Street was substantially complete and was being finished within the week.
- D. Discussion included maintenance of the Sidewalk.
  - a. Council voted 5-0 to table the final approval until the September 2021 Council meeting when all of the information would be available to discuss and approve.
- E. Hall recommended that the Town not apply for a CCMG (Community Crossing Matching Grant) for 2022. With the Sidewalk project plans for implementation, it was Hall's recommendation to forgo an INDOT project due to the Town's funds being committed to that project. He further provided guidance that the Town had benefited in the last five years from INDOT's grants that were used for street maintenance and the streets were in good condition and should not require major work in 2022.

## 10.) Clerk Treasurer Report

- A. C/T REQUESTED THAT THE TOWN COUNCILORS ADDRESS UPDATES ON THE MUNICIPAL CODE.
- B. C/T REPORTED THAT JIM HIGGINS, CPA, LWG HAD REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NO MATERIAL CHANGES FROM HIS MAY, 2021 REPORT INCLUDING HIS GUIDANCE OF THE SIDEWALK FUNDING.
- C. C/T REPORTED THAT, PER THE REQUEST OF THE SIDEWALK COMMITTEE, ALAN WHITACRE, ARW TRUCKING HAD PROVIDED GUIDANCE FOR THE COSTS AND PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR THE SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE. IT WAS HIS GUIDANCE FOR THE TOWN NOT TO ENTER INTO THE COMMITMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL. THE OPINION WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
- D. C/T REPORTED THAT THE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN REQUESTED THE TOWN'S INSURANCE.
  - a. FOUR AGENTS HAD BEEN INCLUDED
    - i. 1. ONE AGENT DID NOT RESPOND WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE TOWN'S PREMIUM WAS LOW.
    - ii. 2. ONE AGENT FOUND THAT HIS RESOURCES WERE NOT INTERESTED WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT THE TOWN HAD PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS
    - iii. 3. THE AGENT THAT HAD THE TOWN'S CURRENT PLAN LEARNED THAT ADDITIONAL COMPANIES WERE NOT INTERESTED IN PROVIDING A PROPOSAL BECAUSE OF THE PART TIME POLICE SITUATION.
    - iv. 4. ONE AGENT WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE REPLACEMENT INSURANCE WITH A COMPANY THAT HAD AN 'A+' RATING, ABOVE THE CURRENT CARRIER'S 'B+' RATING. THE NEW CARRIER ALSO PROVIDED MORE COVERAGE WITH A SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,000 UNDER THE CURRENT CARRIER'S PROJECTED PREMIUM. WITH NEGOTIATIONS, THE CURRENT

CARRIER REDUCED ITS PREMIUM BY \$1,500, AN AMOUNT THAT WAS STILL ABOVE THE NEW PROPOSED CARRIER WITH THE 'A+' RATING.

- b. C/T REPORTED THAT IT WAS DECIDED AFTER THE REVIEW AND DISCUSSIONS WITH JIM HIGGINS, LWG, THAT THE TOWN WOULD IMPROVE IT'S INSURANCE COVERAGE BY MOVING TO THE NEW CARRIER, ASTRA INSURANCE. THAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON JUNE 30, 2021 AND THE NEW CARRIER'S POLICY WAS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.
- c. THE PROCESS OF INSURANCE REVIEW REVEALED A NEED TO ADDRESS THE 'EMPLOYMENT MANUAL'. THE DISCLOSURE FROM THE VARIOUS RESOURCES THAT CREATED A HESITANCY TO OFFER A PROPOSAL REVEALED A NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. AS A RESULT, C/T COMMUNICATED THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE REQUESTED DOCUMENT.
  - i. 1. THE UNDERWRITER FOR ASTRA INSURANCE OFFERED A 'TEMPLATE' THAT CAN BE USED AS A FOUNDATION DOCUMENT TO MEET THE 'MANUAL REQUIRMENT'.
  - ii. 2. COLE MARR. TOWN COUNCILOR, ALSO OFFERED HIS SERVICES TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS. HE INDICATED THAT, AS A CONSULTANT, HE IS REQUESTED TO ASSIST COMPANIES IN THEIR EFFORT TO WRITE SUCH MANUALS.
- E. C/T REPORTED THAT REVISED DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN SIGNED AND SUBMITTED FOR THE INDOT CCMG GRANT.
- F. C/T REPORTED THAT HE IS RESEARCHING THE TRUST INDIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL AS AN OPTION FOR INVESTING THE TOWN'S EXCESS FUNDS. NO RECOMMENDATION YET
- G. C/T REPORTED THAT THE TOWN HAD RECEIVED NOTICE THAT THEY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$306,510 GRANT FROM AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN; ½ WOULD BE RECEIVED IN 2021 AND ½ WOULD BE RECEIVED IN 2022. TO RECEIVE THE FUNDS, THE TOWN WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE SPECIFIC USE OF THE FUNDS WITHIN THE GUIDELINES. THE ORDINANCE NECESSARY TO RECEIVE THE FUNDS WAS APPROVED DURING THE TOWN ATTORNEY'S PRESENTATION.
- H. SAVATREE, TOWN'S SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTED THREE TREES TO BE REMOVED. C/T APPROVED ONE, ONE WAS REFERRED TO DPW AND ONE WAS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE ISSUE WAS THE COST OF CONFIRMING THAT THE TREE WAS IN THE TOWN'S RIGHT OF WAY. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE C/T SEND A LETTER TO THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY SUGGESTING THAT THEY REMOVE THE TREE. C/T AGREED TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT GUIDANCE.
- I. C/T REPORTED THAT THE TOWN HAD RECEIVED TWO REPORTED TIRE DAMAGE FROM PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO ENCOUNTERED DEEP HOLES ON 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET. THE COUNCIL SUGGESTED THAT THE CONTACT BE GIVEN TO THE INDIVIDUALS ALONG WITH THE LANGUAGE PROVIDED BY W. HALL EVIDENCING THE INITIAL DESIGNATION THAT 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET WAS AN INDIANAPOLIS THOROGHFARE.

## **11.) OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. SIDEWALK PROJECT:**

- a. SIDEWALK FUNDRAISING PROJECT: NO REPORT
- b. REPORT ON SIDEWALK CLEARING:
  - i. -C/T FORWARDED AN OPINION FROM ALAN WHITACHER, ARW TRUCKING AND SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE TOWN STATING AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF CLEARING A NEW SIDEWALK. ALSO, THE OPINION RECOMMENDED THAT THE TOWN ADHERE TO THE COVENANTS FOR THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS THAT CHARGES THE RESIDENTS TO CLEAR THE SIDEWALK ON THEIR PROPERTY.
  - ii. -THE TOWN’S ATTORNEY, CULLEN COCHRAN, REPORTED THAT THE REPORTED ON THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS ORDINANCE 431-105 OUTLINGING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS. FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, A MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG JACOBY FOR THE TOWN TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL, AT LEAST FOR A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME THAT WAS NOT DESIGNATED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COLLEEN FIELD. THE MOTION VOTE WAS YES..... NO ..... TABELD...?
- c. ENGINEER HALL REVIEWED THE PLANS FOR THE SIDEWALK. MUCH DISCUSSION RESULTED. WITH A MOTION FROM GREG JACOBY AND A SECOND FROM COLLEEN FIELD, THE ROUTE WAS APPROVED AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE TOTAL PLAN. VOTE WAS 5-0 FOR APPROVAL
- d. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SEPTEMBER 13, COUNCIL MEETING WILL EXTEND FOR AN EXTRA HOUR TO ADDRESS THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SIDEWALK PROJECT. ALSO, IF TIME PERMITS, THERE MAY BE SOME ISSUES FOR THE MERIDIAN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE THAT MAY BE ADDRESSED.
- e. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF FUNDING FOR THE SIDEWALK. IT WAS REPRESENTED THAT THE TOWN CURRENTLY HAD FUNDS TO COMPLETE PHASE 1 WITH FULL RECOGNITION THAT THERE WOULD BE PRIORITY DECISIONS TO BE MADE LATER.
- f. COMPLETION FOR THE SIDEWALK PROJECT INCLUDES AN EXTRAORDINARY 2022 EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR CROSSROAD ENGINEERS OF \$55,000 SUBJECT TO LEGAL OPINION. THE MOTION WAS MADE BY ZACK GORDON AND SECONDED BY COLE MARR FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGET ITEM. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0

**12.) NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. A RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED BY CULLEN COCHRAN, DENTON’S ATTORNEY, THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL TO RAISE DONATIONS FOR THE TOWN’S SIDEWALK PROJECT. MOTION FOR APPROVAL FROM GREG JACOBY AND SECONDED BY COLLEEN FIELD PASSED 5-0.
- 2. THE ORDINANCE MH 2021-01 THAT ESTABLISHES AN ACCOUNT INTO WHICH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS CAN BE DEPOSITED WAS APPROVED WITH SPECIAL READING FOR SECOND VOTE WITH RESPECTIVE MOTIONS BEING MADE BY WALTER FREIHOFFER AND A SECOND BY ZACK GORDON. MOTION PASSED (FIRST VOTE: 5-0).

AFTER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, THE SECOND VOTE WAS MOVED BY COLLEEN FIELD AND SECONDED BY COLE MARR. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

**13.) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A.) DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS COMMITTEE (DSC):**

**B.) SIDEWALK REPORT:**

a. SEE 'OLD BUSINESS'.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

**ADJOURNMENT**