

TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
SEPTEMBER 13, 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>JACOB BONIFIELD</b>	<b>DENTON, BINGHAM, GREENEBAUM,</b>
	<b>JIM RUSH</b>	<b>CLERK TREASURER</b>

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

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3) Public Meeting:** President Freihofer hoped a public meeting at 7:05 pm for the purpose of having a discussion on the Town's 2022 proposed Budget. There was no comments. The public meeting was then closed at 7:08 pm.

**4) RESIDENT FORUM :** SHANNON JOHNSON, CLAIMANT OF TIRE DAMAGE FROM 71ST STREET POT HOLES SPOKE OF HIS DAMAGE AND HOPE THAT SOMEONE WOULD PAY FOR HIS REPAIR COSTS. THE COUNCIL ADVISED MR. JOHNSON THAT IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COVERING HIS REQUESTED EXPENSE BECAUSE OF THE CITY ORDINANCE THAT STATED THAT THE THOROUGHFARE WAS WITHIN ITS RESPONSIBILITY. MR. JOHNSON LEFT A COPY OF THE EXPENSES THAT HE HAD INCURRED BUT ACKNOWLEDGED VERBALLY THAT HE WOULD NOT LIKELY RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THE TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS.

**5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. July 12, 2021 Minutes: 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: \$371,804.82 (Amount included \$329,528.59 payment to Harding Group for 71<sup>st</sup> Street work)**

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 AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE THAT CORRECTED THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE REGARDING PAYMENT OF CHIEF DEPUTY MARSHAL TO COMPLY WITH STATE STATUTES: MOTION WAS OPENED FOR DISCUSSION AND CLOSED WHEN THERE WAS NONE. THE MOTION WAS THEN MADE FOR ADOPTION BY ZACK GORDON FOR APPROVAL AND SECONDED BY COLE MARR. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0

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

- A. Updated Inventory discussion
  - 1. 73 & Illinois Drainage issue
  - 2. 73<sup>rd</sup> & Pennsylvania Sink Hole issue
  - 3. 2021 Mileage Determination: Get resolved
  - 4. Town Permits should not be affected for INDY Delays.
  - 5. 71<sup>st</sup> Street Tree measure

**10.) Clerk Treasurer Report**

- A. C/T NOTED THAT THE ORIGINAL AGENDA POSTED STATED THAT THE OCTOBER SPECIAL MEETING WAS INCORRECT. THE DATE IS OCTOBER 11, 2021 NOT OCTOBER 22, 2021.
- B. NEW INSURANCE POLICY HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND C/T WILL BE REVIEWING.
- C. AMERICAN RECOVERY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND APPROVED. THE TOWN HAS RECEIVED \$193,599.95, AN AMOUNT THAT REPRESENTS HALF OF THE COMBINED GRANT. THE OTHER HALF WILL BE RECEIVED IN 2022.
- D. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: JULY AND AUGUST 2021 HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED
- E. CPA HIGGINS, LWG HAS AGREED TO PREPARE A PROJECTION FOR THE TOWN THAT WILL INCLUDED 3-5 YEAR ESTIMATES OF THE FINANCIAL PICTURE FOR CONSIDERATION.
- F. THE TOWN HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF THE NEW 'METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'.
- G. NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN REGARDING THE 'TRUST IN IANNA GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL
- H. MUNICIPAL CODE UPDATES: ZACH GORDON, COUNCILOR, HAS AGREED TO LEAD THE COORDINATED EFFORT TO UPDATE THE TOWNS MUNICIPAL CODE
- I. SAVATREE PROPOSAL:
  - 1. C/T INFORMED SAVATREE TO GO FORWARD WITH THE TREE IN THE ROW SOUTH OF GREGG STREET.
  - 2. C/T ASKED SAVATREE TO INFORM DPW REGARDING THE DEAD TREE IN THE CITY'S ROW NORTH OF GREGG STREET
  - 3. CT SENT A LETTER, AT THE COUNCIL'S REQUEST, TO 7629 N. CENTRAL STREET INFORMING THEM THAT THE DEAD ASH TREE COLD CAUSE DAMAGES.

- J. TIRE ISSUES FROM 71 ST. POTHOLES WERE REPORTED. THE ISSUE OF DPW' RESPONSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED AGAIN. IN ADDITION TO MR. JOHNSON, ANOTHER DAMAGE REPORT WAS RECEIVED BY JANET KLEINSHMIDT, 5892 COMPTON STREET. AGAIN, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE DAMAGE OF \$181 WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS.
- K. CT FORWARDED THE 'GENERIC EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK' RECEIVED FROM ASTRA INSURANCE, THE TOWN'S NEW INSURANCE PROVIDER. MARSHAL RUSSO AND COLE MAAR WILL BE WORKING TO DEVELOP A NEW 'HANDBOOK' FOR THE TOWN.

## 11.) OLD BUSINESS

### A. SIDEWALK PROJECT:

- 1. SIDEWALK FUNDRAISING PROJECT:
  - i. PRESIDENT FREIHOFER AGREED TO LEAD THE FUND RAISING EFFORT.
- 2. REPORT ON SIDEWALK CLEARING:
  - i. -C/T FORWARDED AN OPINION FROM ALAN WHITAKER, ARW TRUCKING AND SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE TOWN STATING AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF CLEARING A NEW SIDEWALK WAS APPROXIMATELY \$250. ALSO, MR. WHITACRE'S UNSOLICITED\* 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 ON THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS ORDINANCE 431-105 OUTLINING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS. THE ORDINANCE STATES THAT THE HOME OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE TO CLEAR ALL SIDEWALKS THAT AFRONT A STREET THE MORNING OF A SNOW. FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THAT NOTEED THE COUNCIL ESTIMATED THAT THERE MAY BE APPROXIMATELY SIX (6) SNOWS IN A YEAR, THE ESTIMATED COST TO THE TOWN MAY BE APPROXIMATELY \$1,500. IT WAS SUGGESTED, AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS WHO HAD NO EXPECTATION OF HAVING A SIDEWALK, AND THAT AS NO OTHER MERIDIAN HILLS' RESIDENTS SHARE IN ANY OF THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING THE TOWN PLACE A SIDEWALK ON THEIR PROPERTY, THAT THE TOWN PROVIDE SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS.
  - iii. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG JACOBY FOR THE TOWN TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL AS AN OFFSET OF THE SIDEWALK BEING BUILD IN FRONT OF THE HOMES FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COLLEEN FIELD. THE MOTION VOTE WAS YES...2...JACOBY, FIELD. NO ...3...FREIHOFER, MARR, GORDON MOTION FAILED TO PASS
  - iv.

\*10.11.21 MOTION BY JACOBY AND SECOND FROM FIELD, MOTION PASSED 4-1 TO INCLUDE THE WORD 'UNSOLICITED'.

3. 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
4. ENGINEER HALL WILL UPDATE THE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER REGARDING UPDATED COSTS FOR THE APPROVED SIDEWALK AS PART OF THE BUDGET REVIEW.

## **12.) NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. ORDINANCE NO. MH 2021-4:** SECOND READING FOR THE ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 SALARY ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS, IN. THIS ORDINANCE WAS OFFERED TO CORRECT THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE APPROVED FOR 2021. THE ORDINANCE ADDRESSES THE MANNER USED TO COMPENSATE DEPUTY MARSHAL BATZA TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE OF INDIANA STATUTES. THE MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG JACOBY AND SECONDED BY ZACH GORDON. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0.

## **13.) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

### **B.) SIDEWALK REPORT:**

1. SEE 'OLD BUSINESS'.

### **C.) TOWN I/T:**

1. COUNCILOR FIELD REMINDED THE COUNCIL THAT THE CURRENT CAPACITY QUOTA IS 1000 MB.
2. COUNCILOR FIELD RECOMMENDED THAT PASSWORDS BE CHANGED IF OVER TWO YEARS OLD.
3. COUNCILOR FIELD NOTIFIED THE COUNCIL THAT A NOTICE WAS ISSUED BY THE SERVICE PROVIDER THAT NETWORK SOLUTIONS, THE TOWN'S SERVICE PROVIDER ISSUED A DEADLINE OF 9.22.2021 TO REINSTALL EMAILS IN ALL 'APPLE DEVICES'. AS NO ONE IS UTILIZING THE TOWN'S ADDRESS VIA THIS METHOD, THERE WERE NO REINSTALLATIONS REQUIRED.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: OCTOBER 11, 2021**

**ADJOURNMENT**