

**Council Special Meeting
Town of Meridian Hills
July 13, 2020**

In attendance:

Walter Freihofer, Councilor
Greg Jacoby, Councilor
Colleen Field, Councilor
Cole Marr, Councilor
William Hall, Crossroad Engineers
Cullen Cochran, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP
Jim Rush, Clerk Treasurer

Individuals in Attendance was representative of the Town's residents

A. Call to Order:

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

C. Residential Forum: No resident spoke at the Forum

D. Meeting Attendees: **See attached:** Attendees represented the demographics of the Town

E. Residents Forum: None offered

F. Minutes: Special Meeting June 10, 2020 Minutes. Motion for approval;
Colleen Field; Seconded Cole Marr, Motion approved unanimously

G. Vouchers: \$169,174.23. *Motion for approval: Colleen Field, moved for approval, seconded by Cole Marr; Vote: Walter Freihofer, yes; Colleen Field, yes; Cole Marr, yes; Greg Jacoby, yes.*

H. Police Report –

- a. Marshall Russo reported that there had been vandalism from four youths who were captured and are in process of being addressed.
- b. Also, Russo reported that there was an incident that resulted in the Town's Deputy on Duty joining in a chase through the Town that terminated at 61st and College. The Town's Deputy was not physically involved however may be included in the query regarding the outcome.

I. Report of Town Attorney :

- a. Attorney Cullen Cochran distributed a sample Ordinance for the Abandonment of the 77th Street west of N. Pennsylvania Street and east of N. Meridian
- b. Attorney Cochran reported on the protocol of conducting a 'Virtual Meeting' if necessary for the September meeting. He indicated that he would have a 'Virtual Meeting Resolution' prepared for consideration at the September Council meeting.

E. Report of Town Engineer- Willie Hall, Crossroad Engineers, E.

1. Engineer Hall reported that INDOT Grant/Contractor selection for 2021 Project Allocation would be delayed until September, 2020.
2. Hall reported that the 2020 INDOT project had been completed and authorized payment.

F. Clerk Treasurer Report:

- a. Reported that the East 7520 E. 75th Street property had been mown at the Town's request.
- b. The Town had received the Marion County Mileage Certificate for 2019.
- c. The Town and LWG is finalizing the 2021 Town Budget. It is anticipated that the initial review will be in a Special Meeting, as reported in a Public Notice on August 12, 2020. The Second reading of the approval Ordinance will be in the September 14, 2020 Town Council meeting.

G. Town Clean Up: At the direction of the Town Council, Councilor Marr requested bids for clean the Town's entrance monuments. Marr received two bids, one for \$1,650.00 and one for \$6,000. Councilor Marr, recommended that the lower bid be approved not only due to the amount difference, but also the description of the work appeared to be more professional. Marr moved for the acceptance of the My Guy Services \$1,650 bid. *The motion was seconded by Colleen Field. The motion passed as follows: Walter Freihofer, Yes; Colleen Field, Yes; Cole Marr, Yes; Greg Jacoby, Yes.*

H. Old Business:

a. **SERVICE AGEEMENT:**

- i. **SAVEATREE:** The service agreement for SaveATree was received and distributed to the Councilors for their review. All Councilors acknowledged that they had received it and was willing to vote. With a motion from Greg Jacoby and a second from Colleen Field, the approval for the SaveATree was approved unanimously. For the record, SaveATree is the successor of Vine and Branch, there prior arborist and service provider for the Town.
- ii. **Legal Review of Municipal Code:** no action was taken at this meeting

b. **St. Luke's Catholic Church: Expansion of the day care center.**

- i. As a result of discussion on this project in the prior meeting, there were additional discussions that resulted in a Motion to approve the request to expand the day care center. The motion included the following provisions: ([Please review for accuracy](#))
 1. The Day Care Center could only be used to accommodate services needed for the Church's parishioners and families whose children are attending the St. Luke's school.
 2. Any additional expansion and/or structural changes would need approval of the Council of the Town of Meridian Hills.

3. **Consent of adjoining property owners.** With a motion for approval from Walter Freihofer and a second from Colleen Field, the follow votes were recorded: Walter Freihofer, yes; Colleen Field, yes; Cole Marr, yes; Greg Jacoby, abstained. Let the record show that Field, Marr and Jacoby all reported that they were parishioners of the St. Luke's Catholic Church but had no material nor financial interest in the property under consideration.

I. New Business:

i. Development Standards Committee:

1. As a result of the inquiry and request from a new property owner regarding the 'set back' requirements of the town, it was determined that the property conformed to the Code with the exception that the 77th Street as initially included in the Town's plan was abandoned west of N. Pennsylvania Street. As a result, it was an inhibiting factor in compliance with the properties on the west side of N. Pennsylvania Street. As a result, the Development Standards Committee recommended that the Town support the residents with their request to the City of Indianapolis to 'Abandon 77th Street west of N. Pennsylvania Street and east of N. Meridian Street. The motion was made by Walter Freihofer, Chairman of Development Standards Committee. The motion was seconded by Greg Jacoby. The motion passed unanimously.
2. 7301 N. Meridian: The Development Standards Committee reported that the Committee supported the Variance Request for a setback amendment requested by the property owner. All neighbors have expressed their support by providing letters to the Committee. A motion for a vote was made by Walter for approval that was seconded by Colleen Field. The vote was Walter Freihofer, yes; Colleen Field, yes; Cole Marr, yes; Greg Jacoby, yes.
3. Sidewalk Committee: The Sidewalk Committee requested that the report that was made to the Council in the March 2020 meeting be accepted as presented. The purpose for asking for this approval of a Resolution was reported to communicate to the committee that the direction that was going and the work that it was doing was congruent with the will and guidance of the Town Council. With a motion from Cole Marr and a second from Walter Freihofer, the following vote was taken: Walter Freihofer, yes; Cole Marr, yes; Greg Jacoby, yes; Colleen Field, yes.

J. Committee Reports –

a. Development Standards Committee:

- i. **7520 N. Pennsylvania Street : Reconsideration**:History: Walter Freihofer reported that he had been notified about a variance inquiry for a house to be built at 7520 N. Pennsylvania. Freihofer suggested that the Code, as written was confusing because of the original 77th Street that had been abandoned south of the originally planned street. Therefore, it created a difficult compliance parameter because, if interpreted in general, the setback had to be 40% of the lot or the ‘average setback for the homes ‘within the two cross streets’. Since 77th street initially was planned to go to Meridian, Freihofer suggested that 77th Street should be the parameter of consideration and not Williams Creek Blvd. After discussion, a motion was made by Greg Jacoby and was seconded by Colleen Field to approve an Ordinance that would identify the north parameter for the west side of Pennsylvania Street north of 75th street to be the abandoned 77th street as shown on the Town maps. The motion was approved unanimously. Attorney Cochran agreed to draft an Ordinance with the cooperation of President Freihofer to address the amendment to the Town’s Municipal Code.

ii. St. Luke’s Catholic Church:

- b. **Sidewalk Report:** See New Business Action
- c. **Town Website Report:**

The next formal Meridian Hills Town Council meeting will be held **August 12, 2020**, at 7:00 PM in the Park Tudor ‘Lower Library’ subject to the State’s approval to use the campus facility. The primary purpose of the Special meeting will be for the initial reading of the 2021 Budget.

Meeting Adjourned.