

Town of Meridian Hills
Town Council Meeting Approved Minutes
November 4, 2024, 7:00 PM

GOVERNED BY ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

1. President Freihofer called the meeting to order after confirming the presence of a quorum. The following were in attendance:

- Walter Freihofer, Town Council President
- Greg Jacoby, Town Council Member
- Collen Field, Town Council Member
- Cole Marr, Town Council Member
- Zach Gordon, Town Council Member
- Mike Russo, Town Marshall
- Ryan Mann, Dentons - Town Attorney
- Willie Hall, Crossroads Engineering – Town Engineer
- Jim Higgins, LWG CPAs & Advisors – Town Accountant

Clerk-Treasurer John Dillon was absent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Freihofer

3. Resident Forum

- a. Alan Hall (_____) inquired as to the traffic issues caused by individuals avoiding the traffic control signal at 64th & Meridian by cutting through the Wellington subdivision. After some discussion, Willie Hall was tasked with researching and recommending speed reduction options. Councilor Freihofer will reach out to the Town's insurance carrier about any liability issues associated with the use of any speed reduction measures.
- b. Teresa O'Brien (7738 N. Illinois) addressed the Council with the properties at 7775 N. Illinois and 7777 Holiday East Drive concerning their apparent short-term rental use. After discussion, the Town Attorney was tasked with a review of the relevant Marion County Ordinances and State Statutes concerning the matter.

4. Approval of the Minutes of October 14, 2024, Council Meeting. With a motion by Councilor Field and a second by Councilor Jacoby, the minutes were approved 5-0.

5. Clerk-Treasurer's Report:

- a. Council Freihofer presented the Voucher Packet and Claims in the amount of \$281,610.63. With a motion by Councilor Marr and a second by Councilor Gordon, the Voucher Packet was approved 5-0.

- b. Councilor Freihofer presented the Bank Reconciliation Report for the month ended August 31, 2024, for consideration. With a motion by Councilor Field and a second by Councilor Jacoby, August 31, 2024, Bank Reconciliation Report was approved 5-0.
 - c. Councilor Freihofer presented Ordinance 2024-09 (2025 Salary Ordinance) noting that all pay amount remained unchanged from 2024 other than a \$1 per hour increase in the hourly rate for the police officers. With a motion from Councilor Jacoby and a second from Councilor Field, Ordinance 2024-09 was approved 5-0.
 - d. Jim Higgins requested Council consideration of the approval for the Clerk-Treasurer to make any necessary adjustments to the appropriations which may be required. Those changes would be presented to the Council at the January 2025 meeting for their review and ratification. This is a similar request that has been made in prior years. With a motion by Councilor Gordon and a second by Councilor Jacoby, the request was approved 5-0.
6. Police Report:
- a. Marshal Russo appreciated the support of the salary increase for the officers.
 - b. The October monthly report was forwarded to the Councilors earlier in the day.
 - c. Will direct speed enforcement and directed patrols in the Wellington subdivision.
7. Report of the Town Attorney:
- a. No update at this time. Will review and report back on short-term property rental matters.
8. Report of the Town Engineer:
- a. Discussion of the 71st Street signage (speed control)
 - b. Paving Project – Howard Companies has been paid and will be working on the CCMG close out, which need to be completed by December 1st.
 - c. CCMG there are two (2) projects scheduled for 2025 and will look at proposing projects in the July call for projects for 2026.
 - d. Penn Street Bridge – may start in 2025 – depending on timing of utility relocation.
 - e. Signage Update:
 - i. Sign-A-Rama – reflective material should last 5-7 years.
 - ii. Blades can be reused/repared.
 - iii. Will prepare and seek quotes for repair/replacement work.
 - f. Provided an update on the Penn St. Radar Sign
 - g. A discussion then ensued concerning the private drainage pipe at 7401 Holliday Drive West. There was an error in the issuance of the permit by the City of Indianapolis. The city issued a stop work order which was ignored by the property owner. The city will not take the pipe into its inventory. Council, Town Engineer, and Town Attorney will look into possible enforcement/remedy options.

9. New Business:

- a. There was a discussion of the process and timing of filling an upcoming vacancy on the Town Council as Councilor Field will be moving and no longer reside in Meridian Hills. Councilor Jacoby is seeking the names of individuals that might be interested in serving the remainder of the term.

The Town Attorney indicated that once the position has been vacated (by a letter delivered to the Clerk-Treasurer and Council President) the position must be filled within 30 days by the remainder of the Council. The meeting to fill the vacancy is called by the Clerk-Treasurer with a written notice 10 days prior to the meeting.

Councilors Jacoby and Gordon shall serve as the nominating committee. Councilor Field will resign on or about November 18th and the Council will tentatively hold a special meeting on December 17th at 7:00 pm to consider filling the upcoming vacancy.

10. Committee Reports:

- a. Development Standards Committee:
 - i. Potential of an additional to the property located on 7401 Holliday Drives West to be considered by the City DMD on November 13th.

With no other business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.