**TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 14, 2025, 7:00pm, Park Tudor**

*GOVERNED BY ROBERT RULES OF ORDER*

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Council President Freihofer
2. Any Resident Issues - none
3. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2025
	* Council Member Marr moved to approve, and Council Member Jacoby seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the minutes passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Council President Freihofer than announced that the meeting was being recorded and that all Town Council meetings going forward will be livestreamed in accordance with Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5-2.9.
4. Clerk Treasurer Report
	* Approval of Claims
		+ Clerk-Treasurer Dillon introduced the Town’s claims and recommended approval by the Council. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon noted that the claims total $81,186.12. Council Member Marr moved to approve, and Council Member Gordon seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the claims passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Acceptance of April 2025, May 2025, and June 2025 Financial Packets
		+ Clerk-Treasurer Dillon recommended approval by the Council of the April 2025 and May 2025 Financial Packets. Council Member Jacoby moved to approve, and Council Member Huse seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the April 2025 and May 2025 passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Approval of the April 2025, May 2025, and June 2025 Bank Reconciliations
		+ Clerk-Treasurer Dillon recommended approval by the Council of the April 2025 and May 2025 Bank Reconciliations. Council Member Huse moved to approve, and Council Member Marr seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the April 2025 and May 2025 Bank Reconciliations passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Acceptance of the updated cash flow documents (as of 6/30/2025)
		+ Clerk-Treasurer Dillon recommended approval by the Council of the cash flow documents as of June 3.0, 2025. Council Member Gordon moved to approve, and Council Member Jacoby seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the April 2025 and May 2025 Bank Reconciliations passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Review of Dates for the 2026 Budget
		+ Introduction and Public Hearing
			- Town Account Higgins explained that the introduction of the 2026 budget will occur on September 8, 2025, at the Council’s regular meeting.
		+ Adoption
			- Town Accountant Higgins explained that the adoption of the 2026 budget will occur on October 13, 2025, which will be a special meeting of the Council.
	* Discussion of Impacts of Senate Enrolled Act 1 (property tax bill) – UPDATE
		+ Town Accountant Higgins explained at a high level the issues regarding Senate Enrolled Act 1. Town Accountant Higgins explained two things that the legislation will result in substantial property tax relief for property owners, which will cause a decrease in the Town’s estimated property tax revenue. He stated that the Town will have an estimated 10% drop in property tax revenue. Town Accountant Higgins explained that the Town won’t see the impact of the new legislation until 2028, as it will be reflected in the Town’s budget prepared in 2027. Council Member Gordon asked if the decrease could be as much as a 20% decrease in property tax revenue. Town Accountant Higgins confirmed Council Member Gordon’s question and stated that it could be a loss of up to $70,000.00 for the Town’s police department. He stated that the Town could petition Marion County for additional tax revenue. Town Accountant Higgins explained that the excluded towns within Marion County can make a determination on their own regarding whether to adopt a local income tax of to 1.2% because they have more than 3,500 residents, but the Town cannot adopt a local income tax because it does not have more than 3,500 residents. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon opined that the Town should wait to see how the legislative plays out. Council Member Jacoby asked about the next financial session for General Assembly, and whether a short session will occur in 2026. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon stated that the next financial session will occur in 2027. Town Accountant Higgins stated that the next financial session in 2027 is going into an election year.
	* Insurance Renewal Discussion
		+ Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained that the Town’s insurance renewed insurance on July 1 and that the Town’s insurance broker will attend the Council’s next meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon stated that the Town’s insurance premium for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, was $9,086.00. He stated that the insurance premium for July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, was $10,261.00 for 7/1/25-7/1/26. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon stated that the increase related to excess coverage and directors’ and officers’ coverage. He stated that the Town’s monument signs were also not covered under older insurance policy. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon recommended adding insurance coverage for the Town’s monument signs. Council President Freihofer stated that a monument sign cost $19,800.00 last time monument sign was damaged. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon stated that the insurance coverage for the monument signs would cost $350.00 to cover all monument signs. Council Member Jacoby stated that it is likely that one will eventually get hit. Council Member Marr said a monument sign will probably get hit every 10 years. Council President Freihofer indicated approval to Clerk-Treasurer Dillon to add insurance coverage for the monument signs for $350.00.
5. Town Marshal Report
	* Town Marshal Russo commented on small towns being affected by Senate Bill 1, as previously explained by Town Accountant Higgins. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon said he does not think small towns realize how much Senate Bil 1 will affect them.
	* Russo explained on the night of Friday, July 11, there was a police call regarding a man with a gun in Holliday Park trying to commit suicide. A Town police officer was able to deescalate the situation until IMPD arrived.
	* Council President Freihofer explained how much he appreciates what the Town’s police officers do and explained that Town Marshal Russo and the Town’s other police offers were making the Town a place better.
6. New Business – Town Engineer
* Updated Monthly Report Project Updates:
	+ 2024-01 CCMG Pavement Project – Midwest Paving completed with paving. The final walkthrough and punch list still outstanding. Town Engineer Borden explained that the 2024-01 CCMG Pavement Project is complete.
		- Minimal punch list work anticipated.
	+ 2024-02 CCMG Pavement Project – Baumgartner will begin the week of 7/14/25. Work is anticipated to take one week.
		- All milling completed on 7/14/2025. Sinkhole discovered on 73rd street just East of Meridian Street. CEG identified that it was due to a storm pipe that had come apart which they repaired prior to pacing at the approval of DPW. No cost to town was incurred.
		- Town Engineer Borden explained that 2024-02 CCMG Pavement Project started on Monday, July 14, and that all roads should be milled by the end of Monday, July 14. He stated that the project should be completed by the end of Friday, July 18.
* Funding Applications:
	+ 2024 Indy NIP Application (awarded) – DPW is in process of writing the agreement now.
		- Terms and funds for 2024 & 2025 INIP are being combined into one single agreement.
		- Town Engineer Borden explained that there’s still a delay in DPW processing and writing the agreement.
	+ 2025 Indy NIP Application - submitted on 2/13/25 includes 24-TOMH-01. DPW says that they are currently drafting those agreements as of 7/8/25.
		- Town Engineer Borden explained that there is still no agreement. He stated that the City of Indianapolis will combine this agreement and the 2024 Indy NIP Application agreement together. Town Engineer Borden said to expect the agreements shortly.
	+ 2025-2 CCMG Application – second call for projects on hold by INDOT until further notice (HB 1461).
		- Town Engineer Borden explained that the 2025-2 CCMG Application is still on hold. He stated that the Town was originally going to apply in the second round but that the second round is still delayed.
* Infrastructure
* 75th St speed limit signage – Morphey Co. ordered materials.
	+ - * Some of these signs are installed but should be fully completed this week.
			* Town Engineer Borden explained that the speed limit signs discussed during the May 12 Council meeting were ordered, and, once they arrive, they will be installed in their appropriate locations.
		- Pennsylvania St over Williams Creek – prefinal walkthrough completed on 7/7/25. Project complete.
* Residue and debris from 24-TOMH-01 contract has been included on the punch list for town

 contractor to clean up.

* Town Engineer Borden explained that the bridge is complete and that the construction

 barricades are down. He stated that there was some residue left on the bridge’s deck that the

 construction firm is going to clear the residue.

* 75th St. Sidewalks: Penn to Washington Blvd. – survey completed.
* Exhibit of proposed sidewalk also complete and can be shared with the full council.
* Town Engineer Borden explained that the topographical survey is complete and was provided to

 Council President Freihofer

* Radar Speed Sign – cost for replacement estimated.
* Town Engineer Borden explained that he received an estimate for a speed limit sign for Pennsylvania St.
* Council approved a motion to spend up to $8,000 on solar powered flashing stop signs at 75th & Illinois as well as Pennsylvania Street in addition to a solar powered radar speed limit sign to replace the inoperable

 one along Pennsylvania Street

* Utilities & Work in R/W
* Water/Gas service installed at 35 W 72nd St.
	+ - Town Engineer Borden explained that Citizens Energy Group installed water and gas utilities for the Meridian Pointe Development at the intersection of Meridian St. and Meridian Hills Blvd. Town Engineer Borden stated that he went in person to the site and witnessed the roadway cut.
	+ Metronet boring completed at Meridian Hills Blvd (Meridian Pointe Development)
		- Town Engineer Borden explained that the Metronet boring for the Meridian Pointe Development is complete
* CEG dirt cuts @ 7575 N Penn, 7375 N Penn & 1 W 73rd St
	+ - Town Engineer Borden explained that Citizens Energy Group performed dirt cuts at 7575 N Pennsylvania, 375 N Penn & 1 W 73rd Street
		- No impact to roadway
* President Freihofer requested that the town engineer look into the CEG work at 73rd Street & Meridian Street

 as well as pass along to CEG that they have a leaking water valve at Illinois North of 75th Street.

He said Meridian St. has been reduced to one lane. Council President Freihofer commented that he’s not sure what is occurring. He explained there’s a significant project with Citizens Energy Group.

* + - Council President Freihofer also noted that the water service on Illinois St. immediately north of 75th contains some dark brown discharge where it is constantly leaking. He told Town Engineer Borden that it might be worth it to look into this issue with Citizens Energy Group. Town Engineer Borden explained that he would be happy to fulfill Council President Freihofer’s request.
		- Council President Freihofer also noted that the water service on Illinois St. immediately north of 75th contains some dark brown discharge where it is constantly leaking. He told Town Engineer Borden that it might be worth it to look into this issue with Citizens Energy Group. Town Engineer Borden explained that he would be happy to fulfill Council President Freihofer’s request.
		- Town Engineer Borden stated that he noticed a sinkhole in the Town and that Citizens Energy Group repaired it. He explained that Citizens Energy Group found a hole in certain stormwater infrastructure and that the City of Indianapolis authorized Citizens Energy Group to repair it. Town Engineer Borden noted that Citizens Energy Group prevented any type of damage to the roadway. Near the stormwater infrastructure
		- Council Member Jacoby asked about the cost to repair the radar sign at the Meridian St. and Pennsylvania St. intersection. Town Engineer Borden said that it would cost $10,000.00 for everything related to the radar sign. Council Member Jacoby then asked about issues about certain speed limit signs and intersections. Council President Freihofer said he discussed light radar speed signs and programming what those signs can say from a company in Florida via email. Council Member Marr opined that the $10,000.00 cost could be too much, but $3,400.00 could be spent for a cheaper alternative and recommended putting a cheap sign on a pole to at least increase safety to some extent. Council President Freihofer said he is open to using other funds to get the radar speed signs up and running. Council President Freihofer asked Town Engineer Borden to look into it and address it during the September 8 Council meeting. Council President Freihofer then asked for motion to use up to $7,500.00 for any speed signs that would be needed. Council Member Jacoby asked about the effectiveness of flashing stop signs. Council Member Marr explained that he thinks people are just disregarding signs and that the flashing feature of the stop signs do not increase safety. Council Member Marr asked about whether flashing stop signs would cause issues for residents at those intersections, but he does not think the Town would receive complaints from residents at those intersections. Council Member Huse said the residents at those corners would be more interested in getting them because it increases safety near their homes. Council President Freihofer said he does not think flashing stop signs need to be north and south on Pennsylvania St. but that they need to be east and west on 75th St. Council President Freihofer asked Town Engineer Borden to identify potential costs for those flashing stop signs. Council Member Jacoby moved to set aside up to $8,000.00 to install flashing stop signs on east and west of 75th St. and Pennsylvania St., to research and install radar signs on Pennsylvania St, and to add flashing stop signs at the Illinois St. and 75th St. intersections. Council Member Gordon seconded. No discussion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
		- Council Member Jacoby asked Town Engineer Borden why the sidewalk on the Pennsylvania St. bridge was not milled. Town Engineer Borden explained milling the sidewalk was not in the plans. Council Member Gordon said he requested that the milling initially be in the plans but that he retracted that his request. Town Engineer Borden confirmed that the sidewalk was not in the plans.
		- Clerk-Treasurer Dillon asked for Council President Freihofer to comment on all the Town’s projects and how the projects work well with what the City of Indianapolis is doing. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained how well everything is going with the Town’s streets and the infrastructure. Council President Freihofer stated that the Council and the other Town officials are doing great job and that Community Crossings program has helped upgrade the Town’s infrastructure and that the Council has done a great job taking advantage of it.
		- Clerk-Treasurer Dillon said there have been questions about why the Town does not put in sidewalks everywhere in the Town. Council Member Marr said people do not realize how expensive sidewalks are to put in. Council Member Jacoby asked Town Engineer Borden about sidewalk surveys. Council Member Jacoby asked how residents can figure out where the sidewalks that are being put in will be. Town Engineer Borden stated that he provided an exhibit to Council President Freihofer and that Council President Freihofer will share it with the other Council Members.
* Reviews
	+ None at this time
* Council President Freihofer explained that he spoke with Mary Elizebeth Seger (55 Williams Creek Blvd) regarding a potential variance for building setback.
* Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained to the Town Council that there are state forms that he provided that to the Council Members that each of them has to complete. He explained that the form was supposed to be submitted by July 1. Council Member Marr asked if the prior forms that the Council Members completed are sufficient, and Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained each Council Member should fill out the new form. Council President Freihofer made a note explaining that each Council Member should classify as an independent on the form and encouraged the other Council Members to classify as independents to prevent political parties from naming who would fill Council Member vacancies.
1. New Business - None
2. Adjournment - With no other business to come before the Council, Council Member Marr moved to adjourn the meeting, and Council Member Gordon seconded. The meeting was adjourned with a 5-0 vote at 7:40PM ET.