**TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 12, 2025, 7:00pm, Park Tudor**

*GOVERNED BY ROBERT RULES OF ORDER*

1. President Freihofer called the meeting to order at 7:02PM ET after confirming Quorum. The following were in attendance:
	* Walter Freihofer, Town Councilmember—President
	* Craig Huse, Town Councilmember
	* Greg Jacoby, Town Councilmember
	* Cole Marr, Town Councilmember
	* John Dillon, Clerk Treasurer
	* Mike Russo, Town Marshall
	* David Borden, Town Engineer (CrossRoad Engineers, PC)
	* Ryan Mann/Sloan Schafer, Town Attorney (Dentons)
2. Pledge of Allegiance—Led by Council President Freihofer
3. Confirmation vote of Craig Huse to be a Council member— Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained deficiencies related to Council Member Huse’s appoint as a Council Member regarding the failure to timely file the Oath of Office with the Marion County Clerk’s Office and the insufficient notarization of Council Member Huse’s Statement of Economic Interests. Council Member Jacoby moved to confirm Council Member Huse as a Council Member, and Council Member Marr seconded. The motion to confirm Council Member Huse as a Council Member passed with a 4-0 vote. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon administer the Oath of Office to Council Member Huse.
4. Any Resident Issues
	* Sandra Welsh (160 E 75th St) asked the Town Council about a wooden stake located in the corner of her property. Ms. Welsh stated that it has been there a few months. Council President Freihofer explained that a survey was performed in the area to see if we had the necessary right of way to continue the sidewalk further east on 75th street in the area surveyed. Town Engineer Borden stated he would look into why the wooden stake is still there. Ms. Welsh explained that she was concerned about putting in improvements in the area near the wooden stake. Ms. Welsh also noted that certain Williams Creek Bridge signs around Pennsylvania St are covered by vegetation and that she believes view of the signs is being obstructed. Town Engineer Borden stated that he will look into the issue. Council President Freihofer said the signs will come down in next six to seven weeks once Williams Creek Bridge construction is complete. Town Engineer Borden said the Williams Creek Bridge should open before Memorial Day.
	* Mitchell Kampman (7499 N Illinois St) explained that there are vegetation issues at 75th St and College Ave and that certain vegetation is growing over into the road, which makes turning at that intersection challenging. Council President Freihofer stated that he will reach out to the new property owner at that intersection and request that they cut the vegetation back.
	* Anna Depaoli Roach (6834 N Pennsylvania St) stated that her property is adjacent to the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (6501 N Meridian St). Ms. Depaoli Roach explained that no one has been cleaning a certain area of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation’s property near a ditch. Council President Freihofer asked if Ms. Depaoli Roach reached out to the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and Ms. Depaoli Roach said she did and that the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation stated that the subject property is the Town’s property. She said that the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation put “no dumping” signs on the south portion of its property but not on the north side of its property near where Ms. Depaoli Roach lives. She said she bought a “no dumping” sign herself to use. Council President Freihofer stated that someone from the Council will discuss the issue with the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation regarding who is obligated to clean the area. Council Member Gordon explained that the Town does not put “no dumping” signs in the Town. Council President Freihofer requested that Council Member Marr communicate with the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation to discuss the issue, and Council Member Marr acknowledged that he would do so. Ms. Depaoli Roach asked who maintains the right-of-way in the area. Council President Freihofer explained that the property owner adjacent to any right-of-way is obligated to maintain such right-of-way. Council President Freihofer explained that there are areas at 75th St and College Ave where the Town put in a sign regarding who is obligated to maintain it.
5. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2025—Council Member Jacoby moved to approve, and Council Member Marr seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the minutes passed with a 5-0 vote.
6. Clerk-Treasurer Report
	* Approval of Claims—Clerk-Treasurer Dillon introduced the Town’s claims and recommended approval by the Council. Council President Freihofer requested the amount of claims. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon noted that the claims total $55,939.13. Council Member Jacoby moved to approve, and Council Member Gordon seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the claims passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Acceptance of February 2025 & March 2025 Financial Packets—Clerk-Treasurer Dillon recommended approval by the Council of the February 2025 and March 2025 Financial Packets. Council Member Marr moved to approve, and Council Member Huse seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the February 2025 and March 2025 Financial Packets passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Approval of the February 2025 & March 2025 Bank Reconciliations—Clerk-Treasurer Dillon recommended approval by the Council of the February 2025 and March 2025 Bank Reconciliations. Council Member Marr moved to approve, and Council Member Gordon seconded. No discussion. The motion to approve the February 2025 and March 2025 Bank Reconciliations passed with a 5-0 vote.
	* Acceptance of the updated cash flow documents (as of 12/13/2024)—Clerk-Treasurer Dillon requested that the acceptance of the updated cash flow documents be tabled to next Council meeting due to the need to review dates for the 2026 budget. Council President Freihofer accepted the request.
	* 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)—Town Accountant Higgins explained at a high level the issues regarding the homestead exemption related to Senate Enrolled Act 1. He explained the mathematics related to the lower tax base and an increased tax rate. Town Accountant Higgins also talked about the net property tax credit next year equal to either 10% of a property tax bill or $300, whichever is less, and that this is shared with all taxing entities within a jurisdiction. Town Accountant Higgins explained that the Town’s revenue could decrease by 10% as a result of Senate Enrolled Act 1, which could equate to roughly $20,000 to $30,000. Council President Freihofer brought up a prior legislative adjustment to assessed value related market value that occurred several years ago. Town Accountant Higgins explained that the bill was passed primarily to benefit property owners. Ms. Depaoli Roach asked about how it is different from what residents pay to Marion County. Town Accountant Higgins explained that it is no different but that the Town will receive less money. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon said that property tax will go down and that income tax may go up. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained how the September 8, 2025, Council meeting is important for next fiscal year's budget.
	* IN Dept of Transportation –Summary of Certification (see attached)—Clerk-Treasurer Dillon explained the INDOT report certifying that the Town has 10.454 miles of roads report (attached to these meeting minutes as Attachment A). Clerk-Treasurer Dillon requested acknowledgement by Council President Freihofer of the report. Council President Freihofer acknowledged the INDOT report. He explained the discrepancies three years ago and that the INDOT report is a great practice regarding reconciliation of road mileage.
7. New Business – Town Engineer
	* Inventory Report—Town Engineer included the Inventory Report (attached to these meeting minutes as Attachment B) in the meeting agenda packet for the Council’s review.
	* Updated monthly report project updates.
		+ 2023-02 CCMG Pavement Maintenance Project – striping at raised cross walk replaced on 3/13/2025 (warranty work). Black border still required. Town Engineer Borden stated that all warranty work for 2023-02 CCMG Pavement Maintenance Project is completed, remedied, and rectified. This work was completed on 4/30/2025.
		+ 2024-01 CCMG Pavement Project – pre-con with Midwest Paving held on 3/20/2025. Waiting to begin until after bridge is complete. Town Engineer Borden explained that a pre-construction meeting was held on March 20, 2025, for 2024-01 CCMG Pavement Project, and that the project was pending the completion of the Williams Creek Bridge. He stated that the Williams Creek Bridge should be open by the end of May and that the 2024-01 CCMG Pavement Project should start by mid-June.
		+ 2024-02 CCMG Pavement Project – awaiting PO from INDOT. PO has been received. Town Engineer Borden explained that the preconstruction meeting for the 2024-02 CCMG Pavement Project is on May 13, 2025, and that schedule will be obtained and construction started soon thereafter.
	* Funding Applications:
	* 2024 Indy NIP application (awarded) – DPW is in process of writing the agreement now. Town Engineer Borden said DPW is still processing the Town’s 2024 Indy NIP application, which has been awarded and will be sent over for execution once DPW has finished processing it. Town Engineer Borden stated that the person in charge of the program left DPW, so that is the reason for the delay.
		+ 2025 Indy NIP Application – submitted on 2/13/2025 includes 24 -TOMH-01 (no update).

Town Engineer Borden explained that the 2025 Indy NIP Application was submitted on February 13 and that he is still waiting for a response.

* + - 2025-2 CCMG Application (July 2025) – begin discussions in May. HB 1461 is being evaluated by INDOT to determine how it impacts the CCMG applications. Typical call for projects in July is on hold until further notice. Town Engineer Borden explained that INDOT is currently seeing how the new property tax legislation plays out with Community Crossings. He explained that there are typically two callings per year. One at the beginning of the year and one mid-way through the year. Town Engineer Borden anticipated a July calling but that the calling is being delayed. He stated that he is putting together suggestions on what projects the Town should consider.
	+ Infrastructure
		- 75th Street speed limit signage exhibit submitted on 4/23/2025. Engineer recommended 7 EA new speed limit sign assemblies. Council approved the expenditure up to $3,500 for contracting to get these installed per the exhibit. The exhibit was also to be resent to councilors for review. Town Engineer Borden said he previously provided the Council with a $3,500 estimate for seven speed limit signs for the 75th St corridor.
		- 7030 N. Penn (flooding) – city responsible to address drainage but no stormwater projects are currently programmed for the town. Town Engineer Borden explained flooding related to existing drainage complaints came in again due to recent weather. He reminded the Council that drainage is the City's responsibility and that the City does not have any capital projects planned for the Town.
		- 510 E. 75th Street (flooding) – city responsibility to address drainage but no stormwater projected are currently programmed for the town. Engineer and President Freihofer explained that DPW has a scoring/priority ranking system for selecting drainage capital projects and that currently there are no drainage projects programmed within the town limits. Town Engineer Borden explained flooding related to existing drainage complaints came in again due to recent weather. He reminded the Council that drainage is the City's responsibility and that the City does not have any capital projects planned for the Town.
		- Pennsylvania Street over Williams Creek – bridge structure complete, cofferdam removed, roadway/ sidewalk/drainage infrastructure underway. Bridge is anticipated to be completed and roadway opened up by 5/22/25. bridge structure complete, cofferdam removed, roadway/ sidewalk/drainage infrastructure underway—Town Engineer Borden explained that the Williams Creek Bridge construction had been tracking ahead of schedule and that he anticipates that it will open on May 22, 2025. Town Engineer Borden anticipates a week in between the construction completion and the resurfacing commencing. He explained that construction crews will still be in the area for miscellaneous items, including tree stump removal. Council Member Gordon asked about timing and how long the road will be closed. Town Engineer Borden said the road will not be completely closed at any time during resurfacing and that it will take two weeks total to get everything done. Council President Freihofer explained that a certain portion of the street will be done as part of the overall project in the area. Council President Freihofer said the Town delayed the repaving due to the delay in the construction project for Williams Creek Bridge so as to not damage the new pavement.
		- 7655 Westfield Blvd Culvert Replacement – DPW has a capital project at this location that is scheduled to close the road on or after June 2 and will be closed for 21 days or less. The detour route will be 75th St., to College to 86th St.
		- 160 E 75th St – resident at this location asked if the survey stake could be removed that was left after the survey of 75th St. The engineer assessed the location and determined, and notified the resident, that it could be removed.
	+ Project reviews
		- No Update
			* Council Member Huse asked Town Engineer Borden about the drainage issues and how the Council submits drainage requests to the City. Town Engineer Borden said the City collects information and assigns an initial priority rating to determine how severe the drainage issue is. He said it would probably take a petition from the Council to the City to have the City act on any request. Council President Freihofer said, in his experience, there are two buckets of money that the City uses. One for capital improvements and one for maintenance, which are operated by two separate entities. He said this issue has been discussed before. Council President Freihofer said these issues will not go to the top of the initial priority rating list with the City to receive capital improvements. He explained it is easier to get a maintenance request from Citizens, which is the entity in charge of drainage issues. Citizens will only make improvements related to the Town's original condition from 1937. Council President Freihofer said that when the homeowners put in drainage pipes without permission, Citizens will not fix the drainage pipes. He explained that water needs to be preliminary treated before it can go through further treatment. Council Member Jacoby agreed that Citizens will only fix drainage issues back to the original condition from 1937. Council President Freihofer said that residents have petitioned the Council to add parking spots in their front yard so they can put stone in their yard to allow water to drain. Clerk-Treasurer Dillon mentioned drainage swales north of the 75th St and Pennsylvania St intersection and that those drainage swales were constructed well. Council Member Jacoby mentioned that drainage swales work well with mowing. Council Member Huse asked for clarification regarding certain homeowners’ maintenance, and Council President Freihofer confirmed such maintenance.
			* Council Member Jacoby asked Town Engineer Borden about the north side of Westfield Blvd being closed for culvert maintenance. Town Engineer said he is not familiar with the maintenance. Council Member Jacoby noted that the closure of Westfield Blvd will push people to use Pennsylvania St.
			* Council Member Jacoby requested that the Town Engineer resend the email related to the speed limit sign proposal and estimate. Town Marshall Russo asked about the speed limit sign exhibit being approved by the Council. President Freihofer asked for motion from the Council to spend $3,500 for seven new speed limit signs along 75th St. Council Member Gordon moved to authorize the Town’s purchase of seven new speed limit signs to be placed along 75th St for $3,500, and Council Member Huse seconded. No discussion. The motion to authorize the Town’s purchase of seven new speed limit signs to be placed along 75th St for $3,500 passed with a 5-0 vote.
			* Council President Freihofer stated that he received an email on May 12, 2025, from a person who is entertaining the idea of buying the property at 501 E 75th St asking about the right-of-way, which was previously discussed during the meeting.
1. New Business – Town Marshall Russo stated that he had no updates.
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 7:45PM ET.