

Town of Williams Creek

Minutes – Town Council meeting Monday, June 11, 2012

Attendance:

Present:

Robert Parrin, Clerk-Treasurer
Allen Kasper, Town Marshall
David Reese, Town Council Member
Steve Moss, Town Council Member
Scott Preston, Town Council Member
Fritz French, Town Council Member
Ellen Townsend, Town Attorney

Others present:

Gene Scott
Patty Hefner
Gene Deardorf, Builder

Absent:

Richard Dickinson, President

Agenda and discussion:

- 1 . Substituting for Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Reese called the meeting to order by at 7:30 pm.
2. Gene Deardorf, a builder representing resident Catherine Singleton, presented a layout for a house addition at 7779 Ridge Road. In turn, a neighbor to the property, Mark Foglesong, informed the Council of the background for the development on this property going back to 1993. The home is still not finished and the shared private drive has been destroyed by the construction traffic. Over the years, the property developer has made many promises about the construction that have not been met.

Mr. Foglesong suggested certain stipulations that would insure the road would be repaired satisfactorily. In addition a proxy was submitted to the Council by the Scheffsky's supporting the Foglesong position.

The Council asked Mr. Deardorf questions about the scope of the addition, the timing for completion, weight limit concerns for construction vehicles, and any required building ordinance variances required.

After much discussion, the Council asked Mr. Deardorf to advise C. Singleton that it supports the Foglesong concerns and hopes that she would set up a suitable escrow to reconstruct the shared private drive before the Council would consent.

Marshal Kasper suggested a construction route that would minimize damage to the newly paved Town streets approaching the building site. The route would enter the Town off of Meridian St. at Willow Springs Drive to Ridge Rd. Mr. Deardorf agreed to follow this route and advise the drivers to avoid the road edges as well hold to a safe speed while negotiating the route.

The matter was tabled pending a response from Ms. Singleton. The Council stated that they could act quickly when notified any time prior to the next scheduled Council meeting in August.

3. E. Townsend reported that the Town can pass any ordinance that is not in conflict with the ordinances of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis. Thus, certain building codes and requirements, street weight limits, etc. can be drafted by the Town and passed by the Town Council. As such, the Town of Williams Creek Municipal Code (1993) is in effect until otherwise modified or changed.

4. R. Parrin mentioned that DPW has agreed to resurface the remaining Town roads that DPW surveyed in the coming months as part of the Mayor's RebuildIndy initiative.

He also stated that he met with an IPL representative who agreed to the use of existing cable for the Town's new street lights. However, IPL stipulated that a cut-off switch panel be placed near the power source to which IPL can make a connection. IPL will remove the existing lights. In addition, each circuit that requires a switch will also include an IPL meter. This will enable the Town to take advantage of more efficient LED lighting with a significant reduction in monthly operating cost.

It is proposed that the Town proceed with installing new lights at a prominent location in the Town at Morningside and Forest and Ridge and Forest. This represents three lights on one circuit. The Town has sufficient funds of around \$20,000 to start the project in this manner. Mr. Fritz motioned that we proceed with this initial installation. It was seconded by Mr. Moss and passed unanimously. R. Parrin is to advise a schedule based on the lead time of the lights.

This will set the stage for a capital campaign to fund the remaining lights and signage in Town. E. Townsend will investigate the tax deductibility of such contributions to the Town.

5. A. Kasper briefed the group on public safety. Nothing of consequence to report. He explained to the new Council members the relationship between the Williams Creek Police department and that of Meridian Hills.

6. The Council considered the appointment of a Council president after Mr. Dickinson advised he would like to step down from the post. D. Reese agreed to serve as Council president for the remainder of this year. At that point the annual election for the position will take place. On a motion by S. Moss, seconded by F. Fritz, Mr. Reese was elected president by unanimous vote.

7. R. Parrin suggested that the Council members each take on a leadership role for a specific area of importance to the Town. Some areas that are open are:

Development/ordinances/zoning

Communications; directory, web site, newsletter

Town functions; picnic, periodic celebrations, seasonal Town decorations, etc.

Others with current oversight are:

Streets, lighting, signage: R. Parrin

Legal: E. Townsend

Landscaping: P. Hefner

8. Emerald Ash Borer. It was noted that the EAB is having devastating effects on ash trees in the area. It is thought that, uncontrolled, ash trees would be extinct within a few years. If treated, a tree's life can be prolonged but only as long as treatment is continued on a one or two year cycle. Residents are advised to consider treatment of their ash trees.

9. Town email list: A review of the Town email database shows that we currently have contact information for at least 50% of the households. The Council feels that we should promote this as a primary way to communicate with residents. In order to define those who are not currently on the address list, G. Scott offered to compare the Town directory to the email list and advise the Council. A. Kasper to provide Gene with an electronic version of the directory. It was added that the confidentiality of these lists must be well-managed.

There being no further business, F. Fritz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by D. Reese.

Minutes recorded by Robert Parrin, Clerk-Treasurer