



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
Economic Development Corporation
May 29, 2020 7:30 am
5151 Marsh Road, Town Hall Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. MISSION: Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture; be the example for revitalization of our business districts and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes – May 13, 2020
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Small Business Relief Grant—review committee recommendations
 - B. June meeting discussion
7. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. NEXT MEETING DATE
 - A. June 4, 2020, 7:30am
10. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, May 13, 2020– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Jade Sims, Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, Mikhail Murshak, David Ledebuhr, Brenda Chapman, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Tom Conway, Kimberly Thompson, and Adam Carlson

Members

Absent: Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland

Others

Present: Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Alex Newman, John Esser, and Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:31 am and Member Thompson read the mission statement.

2. **MISSION:** Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture, be the example for revitalization of our business districts, and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-May 7, 2020

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Business Grant Discussion

Director Lane presented the proposed application materials, which were created with input from the documents that Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) and the City of East Lansing used for their own grant processes. The proposal for the Township is to fund \$148,000 in grants which would consist of 37 grants of \$4,000 each.

Director Lane would work with the Communications Department to promote the grant process via a press release, Township website and social media. He will also reach out to the Meridian Township businesses that applied for LEAP funding and were denied. Those businesses will be able to submit their LEAP application to enter the Township grant process.

Grant scoring criteria will consist of 100 total points including economic distress, community impact/history in Meridian, working capital need, uniqueness, and Township residency. A five person review and deliberation committee consisting of the Chair of the MTEDC, a member of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees, the Chair of the Meridian Township Downtown Development Authority, the Township Manager, and the Township Economic Development Director, will be responsible for application review and scoring. The 37 finalists will be brought to the EDC for final approval.

\$100,000 of the proposed funding would come from the Meridian Redevelopment Fund, \$50,000 would be reimbursed from the \$50,000 donation the EDC made to the Farmers' Market.

Chair Sims suggested keeping \$10,000 of funding with the Farmers' Market to show the EDC's support of the project and taking \$10,000 from the EDC current account balance of \$46,000. This way, the reimbursed amount would be \$40,000.

Manager Walsh encouraged EDC members review the list of applicants carefully for any potential conflict of interest and sign waivers where needed. Following EDC approval of the grant process, the item will be before the Township Board on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 to act on.

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM, AS PRESENTED, WITH FUNDING OF \$100,000 FROM THE MERIDIAN REDEVELOPMENT FUND, \$40,000 FROM THE FARMERS MARKET DONATION, AND \$10,000 FROM THE EDC'S ACCOUNT, AND HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020 at 7:30AM TO APPROVE THE FINAL GRANT RECIPIENTS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

8. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 4, 2020 at 7:30am

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 8:53am.



May 15, 2020

Mr. Dan Irvin
General Manager
Meridian Mall Management Office
1982 West Grand River Avenue
Okemos, MI 48864

RE: 2020 Chinese New Year Celebration

Dear Mr. Irvin:

Since 2013, the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation (the "MTEDC") has contributed to the Chinese New Year Celebration event hosted by the Greater Lansing Chinese Association and held at the Meridian Mall. The MTEDC views this annual contribution as a way to support the cultural and business contributions that Chinese-American residents bring to Meridian Township. The MTEDC contributed \$1,000 in support of the 2020 event. The 2020 contribution was intended to offset rental expenses and was paid directly to the Meridian Mall.

Due to the devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis, we understand the 2020 Chinese New Year Celebration event has been cancelled. Accordingly, the MTEDC is requesting that its 2020, \$1,000 contribution be held as a deposit by the Meridian Mall and applied next year to the 2021 Chinese New Year Celebration.

Please let me know if it is possible to approve the MTEDC's request. Thank you for your consideration and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jade Sims", written over a white background.

Jade Sims
Chair, Economic Development Corporation
Meridian Charter Township
(517) 819-6988
sims@broad.msu.edu

cc: Greater Lansing Chinese Association
MTEDC Members
Meridian Township Economic Development Director