



Charter Township of Meridian  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
Monday, July 13, 2020 – Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Susan Fulk, Peter Campbell, Will Randle, Renee Korrey, Jim Raynak, Scott Weaver, Bill Cawood, and Supervisor Ron Styka

**Members**

**Absent:** Jim Spanos and Tom Stanko

**Staff**

**Present:** Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Township Manager Frank L. Walsh

**Others**

**Present:** Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson and Treasurer Deschaine

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Fulk called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK.  
MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2020

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK.  
MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff provided a summary update on the June 2020 Financial Report. Report on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

a. Reviewed the June 2020 Consumers Energy bill totaling \$90.87.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL OF  
\$90.87. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

Director Lane reported that the Township is working with the developer on collecting bids for demolition of the buildings in block two. Those bids should be in by the end of July or beginning of August. Once those numbers are available, the Township and the developer will meet again.

Director Lane shared a letter that the Township Manager sent a letter to the Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG) requesting additional funding to support the transportation infrastructure needs for the Downtown Okemos area.

b. DDA Annual Report

Director Lane reported the 2019 DDA Annual Report was approved by the Township Board on June 16, 2020. On June 18, 2020 it was sent to the State Treasury Department and the taxing jurisdictions.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Purchase of Flowers for DDA

Director Lane stated, as we were turning on the irrigation for the flowers this year, we realized there was no power to the irrigation. Bids were collected in the amounts of \$4,500 and \$6,995 to repair the electrical issue. There was consensus, that due to the additional costs, the flower project in the DDA will be bypassed this year.

b. DDA Budget

There was discussion regarding the 2021 budget preparations. In the past, the DDA budget has consisted of the electricity bills from Consumers Energy for roughly \$1,400, flowers \$2,000, and the interest payment of \$3,775 for a total budget of roughly \$7,175. There were no other items suggested for 2021.

c. 2020 STC Invoice

In May, the State Tax Commission met and approved the request to revise the assessment for King Custom Homes by \$135.98. As a result, the DDA must cut refund checks back to the taxing jurisdictions in the amounts of the following: Ingham County \$56.70, Meridian Township \$41.73, CATA \$15.03, CRAA \$3.49, and LCC \$19.03.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA TO AUTHORIZE THE DDA CHECKS TO BE CUT AND SENT TO THE TAXING JURISDICTIONS, AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER KORREY. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

9. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- The brownfield plan was approved for the Haslett Marathon.
- The Manager, Trustee Jackson and Supervisor Styka will have a meeting with MSU President Stanley today.
- The Haslett Pine Village project has been approved.
- The Board will be discussing the expiring Police, Fire and Land Preservation millages.
- An investigation of a December 2018 Police accident found the officer was at fault. The victim later passed away. A settlement was made in the amount of \$2 million from our insurance company to the victim's family.

- The 2021 budget process is underway.
- The final report regarding the firefighters posts on Facebook is posted on the Township website.
- The Marketplace on the Green will be opening in August.
- Local road work is underway.
- The outdoor service pods are working at the Municipal Building.
- Working with Walnut Hills to demolish the dangerous buildings on the property.
- Interviewing Human Resources Director candidates this week.
- The large dog park will be opening soon.
- Reminder to please complete your Census.
- Supervisor Styka mentioned the Board is working on a diversity, equity and inclusion plan.

10. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Director Kieselbach provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

11. CHAIR REPORT

None.

12. STAFF REPORT

Director Lane reported that LaFontaine dealership on the NE corner of Powell and Grand River has stopped its construction. We have received news that the JC Penney at the Meridian Mall will not be closing. The State of Michigan will be offering another business grant program. LEAP will administer the program for the tri-county area. They will have \$5.5 million to distribute to roughly 400 small businesses and nonprofits. They will focus on businesses with under 50 employees. The grant application period will run from July 15-August 5, 2020. Businesses that have already received grants will not be eligible. Director Lane reviewed other current development projects including construction in progress at High Caliber Karting, Anna's House and Klingerman's. Also, Cheezy D's Deli and Dogs opened in the old Cone Zone building in Haslett.

13. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. August 3, 2020, 8:10am

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:23 am.