



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, August 3, 2020 – Minutes

Members

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

Members

Absent: Jim Spanos

Staff

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

Others

Present: Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson and Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER RANDLE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK.
MOTION APPROVED 9-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2020

**MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK.
MOTION APPROVED 9-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

a. Reviewed the July 2020 Consumers Energy bill totaling \$82.20.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL OF
\$82.20. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.**

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

Member Randle reported that a joint press release was sent out last Friday detailing the project status. He discussed that the project has changed slightly due to funding issues. The commercial space has been reduced 20% and the residential space has increased by 20%. The Village of Okemos is planning on submitting an application for use of the redevelopment fund for the demolition in the right of way. They have plans to begin the demolition in September and conclude in mid-December. There was discussion regarding the Meridian Redevelopment Fund. Director Lane reported the balance in the fund is \$532,000 to be used for public improvements. The application process would include an approval needed from the Economic Development Corporation along with Township Board approval.

Member Korrey inquired about how MDOT reductions may impact the Village of Okemos project. Director Lane reported that Deputy Manager Perry has not been informed about any changes from the Ingham County Road Department. Additionally, the project has federal dollars associated with it that should not be reduced.

b. Update on 2020 State Tax Commission Invoice

Director Lane reported the Township Treasurer's Office sent the checks out on July 22, 2020, so we are in compliance with the invoice from the State Tax Commission.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Downtown Okemos-Eastside Businesses

After discussions with eastside businesses, Director Lane mentioned they are struggling and that folks do not necessarily realize they are still open with so much focus on the empty buildings across the street. As a result, Director Lane suggested visiting those businesses and getting their input and sharing information. Member Korrey suggested the possibility of organizing some food trucks in the parking lot behind the eastside businesses with outdoor seating to attract folks to that area. She will work on organizing this for the period of a month or so.

9. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The Township has put together a task force for diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Three millages are being considered for the November ballot: land preservation, police and fire.

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Working with Walnut Hills to demolish the dangerous buildings on the property.
- The Marketplace on the Green will be opening in August.
- The 2021 budget process is underway.
- The election is tomorrow.
- A new Human Resources Director will be joining us next Monday.
- A new pavilion and restroom being constructed at the Harris Nature Center.
- A new restroom and footbridge being constructed near the Historical Village.
- The large dog park will be constructed in Central Park
- The final report regarding the firefighters posts on Facebook is posted on the Township website.
- Local road work is underway.

10. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commissioner Trezise 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; however, they do have hope to possibly resurrect the site in a few months. 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 which will include 402 total grants. 125 grants will be awarded to businesses with 9-50 employees, 200 grants for businesses with 9 or fewer employees, and 77 grants for nonprofits. Director Lane will serve on the review committee for these grants, but will not review grants of businesses in Meridian Township.

Director Lane reviewed other current development projects including construction in progress at Aspen Dental building at Grand River and Okemos, Anna's House hopes to open in the fall, the Elevation 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. September 14, 2020, 7:30am

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:23 am.