



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, October 5, 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, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, 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. INTRODUCTION

Chair Fulk introduced Amber Clark, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director. She has served on the Township Planning Commission for the last year and has worked for the City of Jackson as Assistant to the City Manager. Director Clark resides in Haslett.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Fulk added agenda item 10B-DDA Annual Loan Payment.

MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2020

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

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff provided a summary update on the September 2020 Financial Report. Report on file. The Consumers Energy utility payment was made. Director Kieselbach will send the invoice out to the DDA for review.

7. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

None.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

Director Clark reported that the application for the Meridian Redevelopment Fund was received for the Village of Okemos project. Member Randle stated that demolition of both blocks will begin in November and should conclude by the end of the year/January. The State of Michigan and the developer will be contributing to the project.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Downtown Okemos-Eastside Businesses

Director Clark stated that this project will resume following the election. Also, a survey will be sent to businesses at that time.

b. DDA Annual Loan Payment

Director Kieselbach reported that the DDA paid \$25,000 on the loan last year to the Township. Based on the payment schedule, that allows for an interest only payment of \$3,735 this year. There was discussion about paying \$25,000 again and discussion on just paying the interest payment. Discussion centered on the idea of paying the interest only, and that may allow for the DDA to help struggling businesses in the future.

MOTION BY MEMBER WEAVER TO APPROVE THE \$3,735 INTEREST ONLY PAYMENT TO THE TOWNSHIP. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RAYNAK. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

10. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The 2021 Budget has been adopted.
- Investment in the Township has increased 9% this year.
- The Pine Village Haslett Brownfield Plan is being approved.
- The Andev-Senior Living project is moving ahead.
- The ribbon cutting for the Marketplace on the Green is on Wednesday at 4:00pm.
- We are enhancing the deer management program.
- Coal tar sealant ban has been adopted.
- An additional \$300,000 in solar projects are in the 2021 budget.
- The HVAC project is continuing in the Municipal Building.
- The diversity, equity, and inclusion plan is underway.
- The Township joined the county's absentee ballot counting system.

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Welcome to Amber Clark.
- The Village of Okemos redevelopment fund application is \$82,000.
- There will be a change of ownership announcement for Walnut Hills.

- We are opening the new large dog park.
- Harris Nature Center is constructing a new pavilion and restrooms.
- There are 3 millages on the ballot-Police, Fire, and Land Preservation.
- The Township Board has re-established the original \$700,000 Meridian Redevelopment Fund in the 2021 Budget.

11. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commissioner Trezise provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

12. CHAIR REPORT

None.

13. STAFF REPORT

Director Clark reported that 42 Meridian Township businesses received the LEAP restart grants. She will send out the list of businesses for your review. The Economic Development Corporation will be reviewing the Village of Okemos redevelopment fund application at a special meeting on Thursday at 7:30am. The DDA is encouraged to attend.

14. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

15. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

16. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. November 2, 2020, 7:30am

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection.