



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, August 5, 2021– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Tom Conway, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Shawn Dunham, Henry Kwok, Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland, Adam Carlson, David Ledebuhr, and Brenda Chapman

Members

Absent: Kimberly Thompson

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Carmine Avantini, President CIB Planning, Eric Heltzer, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions, and Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair chapman called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and 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 DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONN. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-June 3, 2021
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Celebrate Meridian Motor Days-Meridian Cares

Director Clark discussed that High Caliber Karting will be hosting the Meridian Motor Day event on Saturday, September 4th. The event is expected to bring 200 cars. They are requesting a sponsorship from the EDC for the event. This would help pay for the costs of the trophies and portable toilet rentals needed for the event.

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO SUPPORT THE MERIDIAN MOTOR DAYS WITH A \$3,000 DONATION. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONN. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

b. Village of Okemos Approval of Request of Reimbursement

Eric Heltzer mentioned the restoration portion of the project is now complete and they are requesting the final reimbursement from the Meridian Redevelopment Fund. The total reimbursements from the Meridian Redevelopment Fund were under budget for this project.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE SECOND REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE MERIDIAN REDEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,327.96 TO THE VILLAGE OF OKEMOS LLC/TRU NORTH DEVELOPMENT. SUPPORTED BY CONN. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Treasurer Sundland reported the following:

- Approved the rezoning at Jolly and Kansas for Sparrow.
- Approved a traffic study for Mt. Hope.
- Discussed railroad quiet zones.
- Approved the DDA loan forgiveness.
- Finalized the citizen's survey.
- Approved the Pathway Master Plan Update.
- Discussed SmartZone.
- Approved COVID appreciation pay for Police and Fire.
- Approved paramedic school sponsorship for a potential candidate.
- Approved ballot language for recreational marijuana.

b. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Local road projects are underway. Check the website for details on projects.
- The solar project at the Service Center is complete.
- Working through the 2022 Budget process.
- The Township will receive \$4.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds.
- Issues with political signatures at the Farmers' Market.
- Pine Village has their building permit.
- Thinking about enhancing the Meridian Redevelopment Fund through the 2022 Budget.

- Working with the Village of Okemos to secure the needed funding for the project.

c. Planning Commission

Director Clark mentioned the planning commission is working on updates to the sign ordinance. They will be holding a joint meeting with the Township Board on Monday, August 9th to discuss the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development Ordinance.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

Director Clark reported the following:

- The citizen survey is out to the community and there will be a presentation to the Township Board on the results in a few weeks.
- DDA is working on programs that could enhance DDA businesses.
- The libraries are working on a volunteer fair.
- House of Soles is hosting a shoe donation.
- Haslett Marathon construction is underway.
- Joe's on Jolly is also underway.
- The old Burger King site has been demolished in preparation for the new Buddy's restaurant.
- A new bakery is coming to the Township.
- Working on potential Mall development.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham reported that shoppers are using caution with the COVID variant. High Caliber Karting continues to work on their expansion.

b. MABA

Director Clark reported that MABA is meeting at Lake Lansing South. She is serving on the Board and they are working on brand recognition and membership.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Member Conway recognized Manager Walsh and how well he is respected across the state. Manager Walsh mentioned that the website is being overhauled and the new site will be unveiled in October.

Member Kwok discussed the difficulties of finding staff for small businesses. Some are offering signing bonuses. There is hope that when the MSU students return they will possibly fill some of those vacancies. There may need to be future discussion regarding more small business grants.

Member Ledebuhr stated the residential housing market is hot. However, there is a downturn in office space.

10. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

- September 2, 2021 at 7:30am

12. ADJOURNMENT

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