



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, April 4, 2022 – Minutes

Members

Present: Renee Korrey, Bill Cawood, Tom Stanko, Peter Campbell, Supervisor Jackson, and Susan Fulk

Members

Absent: Don Romain, Jim Raynak, and Jim Spanos

Staff

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Township Manger Frank Walsh and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

Others

Present: Planning Commissioner Mark Blumer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Stanko called the meeting to order at 7:33am and read the mission statement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER KORREY. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

3. APPROVAL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2021

Director Clark stated the following updates needed to be made to the minutes. Member Campbell was not present and the date and time of the next meeting should be updated to April 4, 2022 at 7:30am. Page 4 of the minutes should be deleted. Looks like it was copied from the February minutes by mistake.

MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financials February

Director Clark reviewed the financials. The fund balance is \$94,454.94. The financials were placed on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

A. Consumers Energy Bill March 2022

MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE MARCH 2022 CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$128.22. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Major Construction Sign Campaign for M-43/Okemos Bridge Project

Discussion was had regarding signage to support small businesses in the DDA through the Okemos Bridge and M-43 Reconstruction Project. Director Clark shared sample designs for generic signs and DDA specific signs with logos. Each frame will cost \$99. The Township is exempt of the sign ordinance so these signs could remain throughout the construction projects. There was consensus to support the purchase of these signs for the DDA not to exceed \$5,000. Director Clark is hoping to have the signs placed within four weeks.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. REPORTS

A. Township Board

Supervisor Jackson reported on the following:

- Marna Wilson and Scott Hendrickson were appointed as Board Trustees
- The new full Township Board will meet for the first time on April 12th
- April 19th will be the Annual Township Board and Commissions meeting

B. Township Manager

- Finance Director has resigned
- Local Road Program bid is due by 5/5
- 4th Solar Project was approved for the Public Safety Building
- Board will be discussing ARP funds on April 26th
- IT infrastructure report will be complete on April 12th
- New Police Recruitment Plan-if you recruit an Officer that is hired, you will receive a \$1,500 bonus. Raising the Office wage to \$24 per hour.
- Working on a Stimulus Inflation Plan for employees
- Sparrow Water Main Project is progressing
- Working on new Township branding signage
- Working on new roof at Okemos Library

C. Planning Commission

Commissioner Blumer reported the Planning Commission has been reviewing an expansion of the Montessori School on Mt. Hope. The expansion will include classrooms and the kitchen. The total number of students in the school is expected to increase from 120 to 150. The Commission is also working on a revision of the sign ordinances.

D. Chair Report

None.

E. Staff Report

Director Clark shared the parking requirements for the Village of Okemos Project. During the Site Plan Review process, this will be reviewed again. The Township is working with the Village of Okemos Development Team on a \$5 million revitalization grant through the MEDC.

Director Clark reminded the DDA that the Match on Main application is currently open to any new or existing business.

Evergreen Clinic is scheduled to open in May in the old Second Time Around building. The Annual DDA Art Festival will be moved from the DDA to Marketplace on the Green.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

Tacoma Hills resident Sharon voiced her disappointment with the “bait and switch” regarding the Village of Okemos development. The residents in the subdivision are questioning the number of parking spaces required and the change in the project. She will work with Director Clark to get an update in the neighborhood newsletter for the end of May.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. May 2, 2022, 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38am without objection.