



Charter Township of Meridian  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
Monday, June 6, 2022 – Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Don Romain, Bill Cawood, Tom Stanko, Supervisor Jackson, and Susan Fulk

**Members**

**Absent:** Jim Raynak, Renee Korrey, Peter Campbell, 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 7:31am and read the mission statement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CAWOOD.  
MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

3. APPROVAL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2022

**MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR JACKSON.  
MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financials

Director Clark reviewed the financials. The fund balance is \$94,723.13. The financials were placed on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

A. Consumers Energy Bill April 2022

**MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE APRIL 2022 CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$104.85. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FULK. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

B. Consumers Energy Bill May 2022

**MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE MAY 2022 CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79.52. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FULK. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Village of Okemos Update

Director Clark reviewed the current status of the Village of Okemos development. Last Friday, the developers submitted a revitalization and placemaking grant to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Working with our legal team on the draft agreement between the developers and the Township for the Meridian Redevelopment Fund dollars. Township Community Planning and Development Office is still awaiting a complete site plan from the developer to review. The developers are addressing the parking shortfall with a parking deck. Discussion that they may have difficulties meeting the landscaping requirements for the project.

B. Shop Local Major Construction Sign Campaign Payment

Director Clark mentioned the 11 signs that were created for a total of \$395 of which four signs belong to the DDA. The DDA will reimburse the EDC \$144 for those signs.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO THE MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR \$144 FOR THE COST OF THE SHOP LOCAL SIGN CAMPAIGN IN DOWNTOWN OKEMOS. SUPPORTED BY MANAGER ROMAIN. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Economic Development Strategy

Director Clark stated that an updated Economic Development Strategy is needed to stay in compliance with our Redevelopment Ready Certification with MEDC. The last study was produced in 2018 for Haslett. Director Clark is suggesting a study is needed for the entire township to support future redevelopment. She will be working on developing a Request for Quote (RFQ) for a company to update the strategy utilizing regional and local data. The Master Plan update occurs this year and it may be possible to combine this project with that one, when seeking a consultant.

**MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO SUPPORT STAFF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING AN UPDATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH RRC STATUS WITH MEDC AND SUPPORT FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CAWOOD. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

B. Authorization of Payment 2164 Hamilton Streetlight

**MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF \$5,000 TO H & R ELECTRIC FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE DDA STREETLIGHT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FULK. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

### C. DDA Streetlight Maintenance and Contract

Discussion was had that H & R Electric have a lot of knowledge of the DDA Streetlights and the infrastructure in that area. If further electrical work is needed, it was suggested to contact H & R Electric; however, no agreement will be formed.

## 9. REPORTS

### A. Township Board

Supervisor Jackson reported on the following:

- Tomorrow night there will a public hearing for the Commercial Rehabilitation District for the Haslett Development Project
- At the Board meeting they will support Pride Month, Gun Violence Prevention, and Juneteenth
- The 2021 Audit will be reviewed

### B. Township Manager

- The local road projects costs are up 40%
- Honoring the Haslett Robotics Club at the next Board meeting
- Sponsorship of a paramedic candidate and two police candidates
- ARP funds will be spent on local roads and IT infrastructure
- June 25<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Meridian Event
- Juneteenth will be celebrated on Saturday at Studio C and Sunday at the Historical Village
- The Township Offices will close at noon on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> to recognize Juneteenth with an event at the Marketplace on the Green
- Recreational marijuana will be on the August ballot
- Police awards will be at the Marketplace on the Green on June 16<sup>th</sup>
- New Finance Director has been hired with a CPA

### C. Planning Commission

Commissioner Blumer reported the Planning Commission approved the Haslett development project. It is supposed to be built in phases over the next six years and will include ties to the trail, pickleball, commercial space and residential townhomes.

### D. Chair Report

Chair Stanko and Director Clark will be checking in with members who have not attended a meeting recently.

### E. Staff Report

Director Clark shared there will be an upcoming ribbon cutting for the new Evergreen Clinic.

There was discussion regarding the old Hydroponic building that is for sale.

## 10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

## 11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. July 11, 2022, 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57am without objection.