

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
January 5, 2017 MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: Chris Buck, Shawn Dunham, David Ledebuhr, Lyn Rowlee (arrived at 7:37), Frank Walsh, Mark Epolito, Trustee Phil Deschaine

ABSENT: Malinda Barr, David Olson, Adam Carlson, Josh Hundt

OTHERS: Treasurer Julie Brixie (Ex-Officio); Planning Commission Representative John Scott-Craig, Jade Sims, Trustee Pat Jackson, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Senior Planner Peter Menser, Economic Development Coordinator Ben Motil

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buck called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. and asked Member Epolito to 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 AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER EPOLITO TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Minutes – December 1, 2016

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Chairman Buck used this time to allow for introductions of those present.

6. Presentation

None.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie distributed and reviewed the financial report dated 1/5/17. Report on file.

MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

8. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

None.

9. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commission Representative John Scott-Craig reported the following:

- Updated cases heard at Planning Commission and upcoming hearings including the proposed Hannah Farms East project and the outdoor smoker for the proposed Saddleback BBQ project.
- Provided update that the first draft of the Master Plan has been approved and forwarded to the Township Board for review.
- Planning Commissioner John Scott-Craig responded to questions from Chair Buck regarding their tone for student housing projects, density issues, and the proposed Walnut Hills project.
- Discussion was held regarding the proposed Forsberg-Elevation at Okemos Point project and the proposed Costco project.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Chair Buck discussed the 2017 Budget in relation to the core values of the EDC represented in the Budget.
- Discussion was held regarding the budget item for MABA membership and dues.
- Budget was amended to reflect \$75 MABA Dues instead of \$50 MABA dues.

MOTION BY TRUSTEE DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE 2017 BUDGET AS AMENDED. SUPPORTED BY MANAGER WALSH. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Corridor Improvement Authority applications were discussed.
 - Treasurer Brixie would like to see the 7 submitted applications as well as the 3 names of the individuals who have expressed interest in the CIA be recommended to the Township Board for approval.

- The process for EDC recommendation of CIA applications was discussed.

ROLL CALL VOTE BY CHAIRMAN BUCK TO RECOMMEND APPLICANTS TO TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR APPROVAL. ROLL CALL VOTE FOUND IN SUPPORT 7-0. RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.

- b. Tinkerlabs funding request was discussed.
 - EDC Members discussed several funding options for the request to provide \$1,800 to fund Tinkerlabs for a 3D printer supplied to Haslett schools.
 - Option proposed by Chair Buck to supply Tinkerlabs with \$900 matching funds only, with option to review for future potential funds.

MOTION BY MEMBER WALSH TO APPROVE REQUEST IN SPIRIT OF PROPOSAL BY CHAIR BUCK OF UP TO \$900 MATCHING FUNDS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER ROWLEE. MOTION PASSES 6-0, MEMBER DUNHAM ABSTAINED.

12. CHAIR REPORT

- Chair Buck expressed gratitude to several past and current EDC members.
- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 60th Anniversary Gala-attended by Chair Buck.
- Attended the LEAP Annual Board meeting and provided update to the EDC.
- Provided summary of a Lansing State Journal article regarding East Lansing Food Co-op (ELFCO) and interactions with parties involved in ELFCO relocation.

13. STAFF REPORT

- a. Development Projects Update – EDC staff provided updates on the status of proposed and ongoing projects within the Township. Report on file.
- b. Election of EDC officers- EDC staff provided an update on the bi-annual election of EDC officers, according EDC bylaws and articles of incorporation.

14. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Manager Walsh provided updates regarding the following:
 - Township year-end numbers from 2013 to 2016 for value of construction.
 - Status of the Costco project.
 - Meeting with Evergreen Companies regarding potential Tavern and Tap project.
 - General brownfield plans
 - Provided an update of annual 2017 Goal Setting and Action Items of the Township Board.
 - Ongoing efforts to meet and build relationships with MSU administration.

- Efforts to revamp the Township pension fund and efforts regarding the rebranding/logo unveiling.

15. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Member Deschaine provided an update on Township Board activities and also recognized efforts by Manager Walsh to keep the newly elected Board up-to-date before and after the election. He would like to see more recognition to the citizens who volunteer their services on all the boards and commissions of the Township.

16. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

EDC discussion:

- Chair Buck asked a question regarding filling vacancies on the Planning Commission.
- Member Deschaine was glad to see all the interest from the public in serving on the numerous boards and commissions in the Township, especially on the Planning Commission.
- Discussion was held regarding the application for public service process, how applicants are notified, and the procedure to let applicants know if they have been selected for service.
- Manager Walsh stated the application for public service process needs to be examined and overhauled.
- Chair Buck emphasized that the recruitment process in both private and public sectors is an important part of the face of the organization.
- Member Ledebuhr attended the New Year's Eve celebrations and was impressed by the event.
- Discussion was held regarding the price of the cinema event and its fundraiser purposes.
- Staff was requested to provide an updated EDC member roster.

17. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

18. NEXT MEETING DATE:

- a. February 2, 2017, 7:30 am, Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Buck adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.