



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, August 3, 2023– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Chair Kim Thompson, Brenda Chapman, Adam Carlson, Shawn Dunham, Trustee Kathy Sundland, and Manager Frank L. Walsh

Members

Absent: Dave Ledebuhr

Others

Present: Communications Manager Sam Diehl, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist Rachael Stohlin, Township Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order and read the mission statement at 7:30 am.

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

Manager Walsh made an amendment to add item 7E-Top of the Town to the agenda.

MOTION BY MEMBER WALSH TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting May 4, 2023
- b. Financial Report
- c. Economic Development Projects Report

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

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Duties of Meridian Economic Development Corporation

Chair Thompson lead a discussion around what programs are available including grants, loans, and training that the EDC may be interested in. Discussion included making long term goals for the EDC including development of a program that would make an impact in the community. Chair Thompson, Director Clark, Member Chapman and Member Dunham will participate in a work session to develop possible programs and funding opportunities and report back to the EDC.

b. Training for Economic Development

Chair Thompson discussed the training that was provided in this month's packet. There is a link to view the Robert's Rules Training and a document to read from MEDC titled Building Strong Communities. Please review both training items and respond to Director Clark with two comments. This is a requirement for the Redevelopment Ready Communities Recertification.

c. Branded EDC Shopping Bags

Chair Thompson discussed options of providing reusable bags to the Marketplace on the Green and reviewed a possible logo for the bags. Discussion was had to include the Farmers' Market Manager and Vendors in the discussion to provide a discount or an incentive to bring the bags back with you when you shop.

d. Proposed 2024 Budget

Discussed total revenue of \$66,437.81 and total expenses of \$24,600. The remaining fund balance would be \$41,837.81

MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

e. Top of the Town

Manager Diehl discussed having a quarterly program where the township would identify top local businesses in different sectors. The Communications Team would then highlight those businesses through a video on social media.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Trustee Kathy Sundland reported the following:

- Working on medical and recreational marihuana ordinances

- Working on Redevelopment Ready Communities Recertification
- Pride Event Saturday, August 26th from 4pm-10pm at the Marketplace on the Green
- Discussion regarding building a Senior/Community Center. Received a \$5 million grant from the State of Michigan
- Discussion on the township's Renewable Energy Plan
- Holding six listening sessions across the community in the fall

b. Township Manager

- New Finance Director Dante Ianni will start on Monday
- 2024 Budget is due to the Board on 8/25. Budget hearing will be on 9/5.
- New entry signs are up
- Road projects are going well. Chip and Fog roads have been fixed.
- Police Chief Plaga will be retiring on 8/25
- Working on recruitment for the next Chief of Police
- Director Maiser will be retiring and has agreed to stay on and assist through June 2024
- Municipal Building renovation is delayed due to out of stock fabric for the 2nd floor cubicles
- Ribbon cutting and re-dedication to the Municipal Building will happen on 8/30 and employees who work on the 1st floor will move in that day

c. Planning Commission

Manager Walsh reported that the Commission is working on the Master Plan Update.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

None.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

- New store KPOP opened
- Shinn's Taekwondo moved to the Mall
- Jackson Popcorn is opening
- A retailer will be renovating the former Bed Bath & Beyond space

b. MABA

None.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Manager Diehl reported that the EDC is a major sponsor for the Pride event and all communications marketing for the event has the EDC listed including on the website, flyer, and social media.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- September 7, 2023 at 7:30am at the Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:50am.