

RESOLUTION FOR 120-DAY MORATORIUM  
LIQUOR LICENSES – MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION FOR 120-DAY MORATORIUM OF LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL

At the regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held in said Township on the 23rd day of January, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: NONE

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Wilson and supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission manages the sale of alcoholic beverages through an approved licensing process through Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). LARA sets approved quotas or amount of available liquor licenses each community in Michigan can designate at a given time. Quotas for licenses are determined by population and may increase or decrease after population counts are tabulated; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the number of active Class “C” Liquor License quotas for Meridian Township increased; and

WHEREAS, after the 4 new Class “C” licenses were allocated to Meridian Township, two new applications for Class “C” on premise liquor licenses in the Township were approved by the Township Board with the existing liquor license approval process for the Township; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has the final approval over liquor licenses, the local unit of government must indicate their approval of an application for liquor licenses; and

WHEREAS, the liquor license approval process for Meridian Township is outdated and does not consider current development, redevelopment, or investment parameters when determining if an application for liquor license should go before the Township Board for approval; and

WHEREAS, the process accepts applications for liquor licenses in perpetuity and besides criminal activity, there are no parameters to deny a request for license; and

WHEREAS, the fee schedule associated with the liquor license process may also be outdated and may not accurately reflect the appropriate costs for approving a request for license; and

WHEREAS, there are no parameters designating location preference, investment requirements, location proximity to other similar license holders, business concepts, or other conditions that impact the community with issuing the license; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township is a Prime Community, number one ranked small town to live and is a desirable community to live and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township staff desire 120- day moratorium on acceptance and review of liquor license applications to adequately study, address, organize, and update the Meridian Township liquor license process. The process may include provisions to determine financial investment or community impact; and

