

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING - **APPROVED** -
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2007, **6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode
ABSENT: Trustee Veenstra
STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Police Chief Dave Hall, EMS/Fire Chief Fred Cowper

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Introduction of Fire Department Chaplain

Fire Chief Cowper introduced Pastor Rick Stacy as the new Fire Department Chaplain whose responsibility will include support of fire fighters and victims at the scene of fires and accidents.

3. ROLL CALL

Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Charles Willems, PO Box 184, Haslett, requested the assessing department change the land valuation in accordance with the letter from the Township Assessor dated March 29, 2007.

Richard Harrington, 820 Piper Road, Haslett, expressed concern with the wrought-iron eagle mounted on the wall over the garden area near the main entrance to the Meridian Municipal Building.

John Peckham, Martin Property Development, 1111 Michigan Ave., # 201, East Lansing, spoke in support of C-1 and C-2 zoning amendments relative to size of use.

Will Tyler White, 2142-1/2 Hamilton Road, Okemos, alleged two (2) stop signs on Hamilton Road are illegal.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy stated she visited the Towar Rain Garden project today and was told that six (6) of the 8-1/4 miles of storm sewer are completed. The project is expected to be finished in October, 2007.

Manager Richards announced a special joint meeting of the Township Board and the Meridian Township Entrepreneurial Asset Movement (MTEAM) will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. He indicated the first portion of the meeting would be a workshop with information regarding MTEAM's goals; the second part would be receiving input from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) Executive Board and the Township Board.

Manager Richards also announced a cooperative effort with Granger and Waste Management for recycling of old paperback books, hardbound books, cardboard and boxboard. This event is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Farmers Market Pavilion.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 3, 2007 *APPROVED*

Clerk Helmbrecht announced Meridian Township was selected as a pilot for digitized signatures onto the Qualified Voter File (QVF). She also noted absentee ballot applications for the May 8th School Election are available in the Clerk's office. Absentee voter ballots will be mailed April 18, 2007.

Manager Richards clarified circumstances surrounding the determination of the "lakefront" classification of Mrs. Willems' property. He also clarified that the wrought-iron eagle mounted on the Municipal Building wall was a gift donated by the Meridian Garden Club.

Supervisor McGillicuddy expressed concern with the amount of trash along the commercial area of Central Park Drive.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

Trustee Brixie moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Such.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Brixie moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Carol Hubbard, 1819 Hamilton Road, Okemos; RE: Condition of roads within Meridian Township

BI-2 Charles Louis Willems, PO Box 184, Haslett; RE: Lakefront Classification of Willems Property, Parcel No. 33-02-02-11-176-002

BI-3 Bret C. Story, 6229 E. Lake Drive, Haslett; RE: Support for rezoning property at 5990 Mantinus, Haslett from C-1 to residential

(2). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

SC-1 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, March 16, 2007 Edition

SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report, March 23, 2007 Edition

(3). On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Materials received at the March 20, 2007 Board Meeting

Thomas Valli, Chair, Eastgate Neighborhood Association, 2767 Eastway Drive, Okemos;

RE: Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

Ada Kidd, 2767 Del Mar Drive, Okemos; RE: Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

Trustee Brixie moved that the communications be received and placed on file, and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Minutes

Trustee Brixie moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the March 20, 2007 Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Resolution Authorizing Election Receiving Boards

Trustee Brixie moved to approve the resolution authorizing Election Receiving Boards. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

D. Bills

Trustee Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

Common Cash	\$ 491,344.70
Public Works	\$ 20,897.26
Public Safety Bldg. Debt	
Ck #1104-Meridian Twp/Tax Tribunal Refunds	\$ 1,221.23
Total Checks	\$ 513,463.19
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 11,084.49
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 524,547.68</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 315,996.14</u>

Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

E. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Trustee Brixie moved that the Township Board approve the 2007 amended budget as reflected on page 2 of the memorandum to the Township Board from the Finance Director, dated March 30, 2007. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

F. 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program Acquisition

Trustee Brixie moved to approve Township acceptance of 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program equipment and authorize the Police Chief to process the required paperwork and forms to accept a NVS MX-2 handheld thermal imager valued at \$18,225. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- G. Outdoor Gathering Permit, Burcham Hills Midway Carnival & Games
Trustee Brixie moved approval of the outdoor assembly license for the Burcham Hills Retirement Community for Midway Carnival Rides and Games on May 7 to May 13, 2007, as per staff memorandum dated March 29, 2007. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- H. Sierra Ridge Street Lighting SAD
Trustee Brixie moved to approve Sierra Ridge Streetlighting Special Assessment District Resolution #2, which confirms the plans and estimate of costs for the Sierra Ridge Streetlighting Special Assessment District; directs the Supervisor to make a special assessment according to the roll submitted to the public hearing and confirms the assessment amount of \$6,030.00 for the first year, and \$1605.00 annually thereafter, and directs that amount to be assessed against the lands on that roll; orders the special assessment roll filed with the Township Assessor for spreading annually on the tax roll; authorizes Consumers Energy to proceed with the installation of the fifteen streetlights, with cut-off fixtures; and authorizes the Township Supervisor and Clerk to sign the Authorization for Change in Streetlighting Contract. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

- I. Approval for Disposal of Surplus Equipment
Trustee Brixie moved to approve the sale of the above listed surplus Township equipment at public auction or by sealed bid, or if no bids are received to dispose of the equipment appropriately. Seconded by Trustee Such.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk
Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Copy in Official Minute Book]

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY (None)

9. HEARINGS (None)

10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS (None)

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed public comment.

- A. C-1 and C-2 Zoning Amendments, Size of Use

Director Kieselbach summarized the C-1 district uses/sizes as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 30, 2007.

Board members discussed the following:

- Size limitation in place since 2000
- Concern with consistency of existing facilities v. new construction

- Other limitations such as property size, parking, setbacks, lot coverage, etc.
- Lot size limitation will be the most significant for most of the existing C-1 uses
- Need to change zoning categories to correlate with existing uses

The consensus of the Board was to request staff initiate an amendment to eliminate the “size of use” limitations and refer this zoning amendment to the Planning Commission. Additionally, identifying properties whose use does not match the zoning classification was also referred to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

B. Cityhood

Manager Richards summarized information regarding funding of the Township’s road system as outlined in staff memorandum dated March 30, 2007.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Concern with possible public confusion regarding cityhood and funding for the Township’s road system
- Discussion regarding match money for subdivision roads
- Township spent \$1 million several years ago which repaired 14.5 miles of subdivision roads
- Number of the 16 townships in Ingham County which have as many subdivision streets as Meridian Township
- Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) allocation formula is less weighted on population for primary roads and local streets
- Subdivision roads not funded by the County at adequate maintenance levels
- Possibility of an increase in the gas tax might result in more money for roads
- Tandem discussions regarding cityhood and road maintenance/funding
- Revenue sharing would remain the same if Meridian Township became a city
- Unanticipated expenses regarding road maintenance if a city v. remaining a township
- Possible authority to implement road designs (narrower roads, thicker pavement, bonding for road construction, etc.)
- Time frame of at least a decade to “get even” on a schedule to pay for road repair/maintenance
- Options for funding of subdivision road maintenance regardless of status
- Use money allocated in the current budget for road repair/maintenance
- Use of “extra” money to be used on road repair/maintenance to make up for what the ICRC no longer appropriates to the Township
- Ten percent (10%) administrative fee still charged by the ICRC even though it does not provide matching money for road repair/maintenance
- Possible aggressive public education program regarding dedicated millage v. special assessment format
- Need for the Board to take a leadership position in maintaining the Township’s roads
- Quality and long-term sustainability of the Township’s road system
- Consideration of expending monies for professional engineering analyses to determine the best course of action for each road
- Obtain a professional opinion on the practices which effect the Township’s road system, the actual condition of the roads and long term action to bring roads to an acceptable standard
- Request for County Road Association of Michigan representative to address the Board
- Possibility of having a hearing to receive public input regarding dedicated millage v. special assessment
- Need for a dollar amount to determine the millage needed to maintain the road system
- Greater autonomy as a city
- Possible frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding cityhood v. Township form of government through an educational program prior to a public hearing
- Need for Board unification regarding decided avenue for road repair/maintenance
- Possible door-to-door to elicit greatest concern regarding the Township’s roads
- Schedule for Board movement on road repair/ maintenance
- Use of a postcard included in the Meridian Monitor to obtain public input on Township action for road repair/ maintenance
- Cityhood status would increase the amount of money available from federal sources
- Possibility of saving the ICRC administrative fee if the Township took over the administration of the road repair/maintenance

- Possible questions and answers through the Township's website for public input
- Information contained in the ICRC assessment of the status of the Township's road system
- Need for a plan on what the roads should be in ten (10) years (i.e., width, permeability, etc.)

The consensus of the Board was to undertake an educational effort to inform the public regarding the options available to improve the overall condition of the Township's road system and the funding options. It was also the consensus of the Board for staff to prepare information for continuing discussion.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Will White, 2142-½ Hamilton Road, Okemos, suggested the possibility of having two (2) villages within the Township as an alternative to cityhood. He also requested the cost of traffic study requirements for the MUPUD be reconsidered and revised as it is an undue burden on the applicant.

Manager Richards noted that staff review of the aforementioned traffic study requirements indicated no change to the current language in the ordinance.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7: 21 P.M.

SUSAN McGILLICUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary