



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, February 6, 2020– Minutes

Members

Present: Jade Sims, Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, Kimberly Thompson, Mikhail Murshak, David Ledebuhr, Brenda Chapman, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Tom Conway, and Adam Carlson

Members

Absent: Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland

Others

Present: Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Planning Commission Chair Ken Lane, and Economic Development Director Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:31 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

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-January 9, 2020
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Reports

i. School District Engagement-Drink Cart Opportunity

Director Buck discussed that Scott Weaver is willing to donate 2 food carts to the schools. He reported it will cost \$1,800 to wrap both carts and \$150 for a battery needed for one cart. Further communications will continue with Scott Weaver on the costs for both carts.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORT

a. Township Board

- Pine Village-senior housing potential development at Haslett Village Square discussion
- Township Manager had an excellent evaluation

b. Township Manager

- Recruiting a new Economic Development Director
- Local Road Plan includes 10 miles of resurfacing and 16 miles of preservation
- Harris Nature Center is building a new pavilion and restrooms
- Expanding solar with a \$100,000 project
- Replacing the HVAC system in the municipal building
- Police Department is seeking accreditation
- Replacing building signage
- Investigating a new location for the recycling center
- New K-9 unit this year
- Congrats to Director Kieselbach on his 40 years of service to the Township

c. Planning Commission

Chair Lane provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

Farewell and thank you to Director Buck and all his hard work he has done on behalf of the Township for economic development.

e. Staff

Director Buck reviewed the development projects and the 2020 approved budget and goals. Menards has submitted paperwork for the old drive in site off of M-78.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

- Chinese New Year celebration was postponed
- Express, Hallmark, Old Navy, and Sera Bella Hair Salon will be closing
- Continuing to work on alternative uses for available space
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- b. Marketplace on the Green
Dave Ledebuhr reported construction is underway and plan to be open for the first market in July. A public art grant was submitted through LEAP.
- c. MABA
Member Conway reported that the next membership meeting is on 2/14. There is new leadership. They are working on strategic planning this year. Also, planning on implementing monthly business learning topics.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

The Township Board will hold their first retreat on Saturday, February 22nd. The Transportation Commission will discuss the Jolly and Okemos Road Diet.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

March meeting changed from March 5th to March 12th.

- March 12, 2020 at 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 9:03am.