



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, April 1, 2021- Minutes -DRAFT

**Members**

**Present:** Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, David Ledebuhr, Tom Conway, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Shawn Dunham, Henry Kwok, Adam Carlson, and Brenda Chapman

**Members**

**Absent:** Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland and Kimberly Thompson

**Others**

**Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Eric Helzer, President, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions, and Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:32 am and 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 THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-March 4, 2021
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

Director Clark announced there will be a COVID friendly invite only ribbon cutting for Memorial Healthcare of Owosso opening in April. Also, Gilberts Chocolates in the Mall has closed.

**MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Township Attorney Matt Kuschel shared the changes to the Open Meetings Act. Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> all remote meetings should begin with a roll call of each member stating their name, that they are attending remotely, and their location.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Update-Reimbursement Agreement

Director Clark reviewed the amended agreement received on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from the Village of Okemos development team. Eric Helzer from the development team discussed that the schedule in the agreement does not resemble the schedule approved by the State of Michigan. The seeding of the green space the Board asked for along with two watering trips cannot be completed until we have spring weather.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGREEMENT, AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM.**

Further discussion was had to consider amending the final date of the reimbursement schedule 5 b (6) from April 16, 2021 to July 1, 2021 to allow adequate time for the seeding and receipt submittal process. Mr. Helzer did mention of the approved \$85,481.44 eligible reimbursement costs, they have saved money and will be requesting no more than \$40,000 of the eligible demolition costs.

**MOTION BY MANAGER WALSH TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGREEMENT, INCLUDING EXTENDING THE FINAL REIMBURSEMENT DATE TO JULY 1, 2021. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board and Township Manager  
Manager Walsh reported the following:

- The Board is discussing recreational marihuana on April 13<sup>th</sup>. It will likely be tied to a citizen's survey.
- The deer management program made its goal of 326 deer this season and donated 7,200 pounds of venison.
- The Board is discussing areas of opportunity for broadband.
- The Township is expecting to receive \$4.3 million for broadband and infrastructure.
- The Planning Commission recently denied the rezoning of the Jolly Road Midwest Power site. It will be before the Board on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Township is now accepting bids for the 18.7 miles of local road work we plan to do this year.
- The new ladder fire truck has been ordered.
- There's an external investigation regarding a Police retail fraud arrest. A bystander got the incident on video.

- Director Kieselbach is retiring after 41 years. As a result, we are recruiting a new Community Planning & Development Director.

b. Planning Commission

Director Kieselbach, on behalf of Commissioner Trezise, gave a report on the current Planning Commission activities.

c. Chair

Vice Chair Chapman reported that she attended her first Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meeting.

d. Staff

Director Clark reported the following:

- Several federal stimulus grants for event venues and restaurants will be coming soon. Working with the Communications Department to be sure to get the word out to our local qualifying businesses.
- The subcommittee met and is discussing COVID safe summer business activities.
- Creating a business retention plan which may include inviting local businesses to be a part of a discount program.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham reported that there is a slow shift back to normal at the Mall. The hours will be expanding to 10am-8pm weekdays. There is evidence that people are spending their stimulus funds. High Caliber Karting continues to work on their expansion expected to open in the fall.

b. MABA

Director Clark reported that MABA is working on a member retention/expansion program and looking at corporate membership.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Member Conway suggested there may be an opportunity to partner with MABA on a joint discount program. He mentioned MABA did have such a program in place years ago. Also, congratulations to Mark on your retirement and all your contributions to the Township! Treasurer Deschaine reported that tax revenues are on target.

10. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

- May 6, 2021 at 7:30am

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Chapman adjourned the meeting.