

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Director Schmitt, Director Gebes, Chief Grillo, Chief Hamel, Director Clark, Manager Walsh, Deputy Manager Opsommer, Manager Diehl, Director Tithof, Director Ianni

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the February 6, 2024, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. All board members present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of New Paramedic-Leslie Ireland

Chief Hamel introduced Paramedic Leslie Ireland who is currently attending Fire Academy. Firefighter Hengesbach thanked the Board and Chief Hamel.

B. 2023 Meridian Township Annual Report

Manager Walsh presented highlights of the report. Clerk Guthrie asked for data regarding donations of venison from the deer management program.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:23 pm

Mike Mudrey spoke, as a representative of a business, regarding the 120-day moratorium on liquor licenses. Requested the board consider a specific application as in process.

Roger Taylor suggested the township create an ethics committee or select an ombudsman to protect the rights and privileges of the constituency.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:28 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh talked about the following:

- Chief Hamel is working on the issues with the ladder truck. If the issues are not resolved with the manufacturer within 30-40 days, the board will be brought in to the discussion.
- Working with Granger about issues in the community.
- Board and Commission night is March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk Guthrie asked about the timing of the community needs survey. Manager Walsh indicated that it will be this year.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine reminded residents that taxes are due February 14<sup>th</sup> and postmarks are not accepted.

Trustee Wilson explained the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for the community emergency funds. Spoke about meetings determining the feasibility of the community senior center.

Clerk Guthrie spoke about the hearing regarding the Ingham County Road Department project proposed for Mt Hope Rd. Commented on the annual report about that the board supported approval of Juneteenth holiday for staff, providing sanitary supplies in township restrooms, and further measures to protect voter records. February 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote except for in person. Early voting begins February 17<sup>th</sup> and the Clerk's office will have additional hours over the weekends and on President's Day. Early voting works just like voting in the precinct.

Supervisor Jackson noted that the February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be held at Central Fire Station due to early voting. It will be recorded, however it will not be broadcast.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda with the following change. To move 13D to 13A in Board discussion items. Seconded by Trustee Wilson**

**VOICE VOTE:**

**YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Trezise and Wilson**

**NAYS: 0**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Trezise.**

Clerk Guthrie requested to add three pieces of communications to the packet to be included as an official part of the record for the packet.

**Clerk Guthrie moved to add three communication items to the packet. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

**VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Trezise and Wilson**

**NAYS: 0**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

**RE: motion on the floor to approve consent agenda.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS: 0**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance 2024-01 – Rezone 4660 Marsh Road from PO, Professional and Office, to C-1, Commercial – Final Adoption

Director Schmitt gave an overview of the previous discussions regarding this request.

**Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the resolution approving Ordinance 2024-01, an ordinance to rezone the property at 4660 Marsh Road (Parcel ID number 33-02-02-21-428-002) from PO, Professional Office, to C-1, Commercial. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**      **YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

**B. Support Emergency Operations Plan Annual Update**

Chief Hamel reviewed the changes he made as requested by the board and is submitting them for approval.

**Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 2024 updates to the Support Emergency Operations Plan. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

Supervisor Jackson asked for clarification about the changes. Chief Hamel explained that they were minor changes to update changes in position.

**VOICE VOTE**      **YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

**C. 2023 Master Plan Update**

Director Schmitt reviewed the changes made as requested by the board. Noted that this is not the final format for the flip book and is in pdf form for the board to consider for approval. Thanked everyone involved. Noted that the motion is very specific as required by State Law. Explained that the distribution of the plan has been done as required by State Law.

**Trustee Trezise moved to approve the 2023 Meridian Township Master Plan Update and to direct Clerk Guthrie to sign the document and direct Staff to distribute the adopted plan as required by Public Act 33 of 2008. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

Treasurer Deschaine and Clerk Guthrie both thanked Director Schmitt and the Planning Commission for the work done to update the urban service boundary to be more accurate regarding property lines.

Trustee Hendrickson expressed his appreciation for the generation of small area plans.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise Trustee Wilson

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

D. Resolution Commemorating Black History Month

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the resolution commemorating Black History Month. Supported by Trustee Wilson.**

**Clerk Guthrie moved to amend the resolution to add between the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last whereas and the last whereas to add that in 2023 the Meridian Township Board approved Juneteenth as a Township holiday. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE** YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

### 13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Ronald J. Styka Memorial Pathway

Manager Walsh gave some historical information about the request to have the portion of the pathway between Okemos Rd and Okemos High School named as a memorial to notable resident and former Township Supervisor Ronald J. Styka. Treasurer Deschaine asked for clarification about where the funding would come from. Manager Walsh confirmed that it would be from the trail millage and that the Parks Commission was consulted before the proposal was brought to the board. Clerk Guthrie spoke on behalf of Styka’s character and leadership and requested that the pathway signage reflect those qualities, Trustee Hendrickson concurred and supported the efforts to create this memorial. Manager Walsh clarified that this topic will come back to the board as it progresses. Manager Walsh invited resident Georgia Styka to speak on behalf of former Supervisor Styka. Resident Styka thanked the board for recognizing former Supervisor Styka’s contributions to the community.

B. Township Board Liaison Appointments

Discussion to determine which Board members wish to stay with or change from their current liaison positions. Discussion will continue during the next Board meeting.

C. 360 Communication between Boards and Commissions

Manager Walsh gave an overview of the reason this topic has been brought to the attention of the Board and asked for feedback.

D. Ordinance 2024-02 – Rezone 5681 Shaw Street from PO, Professional and Office, to RC, Multiple- Family Residential

Director Schmitt reviewed the information provided in the Board packet. Trustee Trezise provided more detail. Trustee Hendrickson expressed concern about rezoning versus special use permit to avoid creating a spot zone. Trustee Sundland asked about the proximity to a childcare center. Supervisor Jackson asked for clarification that this would be brought to a future meeting, Director Schmitt indicated that it would be brought back after due consideration is given to Board comments.

E. Resolution for Redevelopment Ready Community Recertification

Director Clark explained the work that has been done to complete the steps to recertification. The MOU will complete the certification process. Clerk Guthrie asked for clarification about staffing and progress updates. Director Clark clarified.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the rules and take action during the meeting. Supported by Clerk Guthrie**

**VOICE VOTE                    YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson**

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to authorize the execution and signing of the Memo of Understanding by the Township Supervisor with the State of Michigan Economic Development Corporation, to signify the Township’s interest in applying for a Certified Status in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE                    YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson,**

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

F. Traffic Control Order for Summergate Lane adjacent to Hiawatha Elementary

Chief Grillo explained the need for this traffic control. Deputy Manager Opsommer clarified that this is separate from the proposed plan to create a second driveway for the school.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend rules and take action during the meeting. Supported by Clerk Guthrie**

**VOICE VOTE        YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson,**

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the traffic control order for Summergate Land from just north of the Hiawatha Elementary curb cut to Jolly Road. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson.**

**VOICE VOTE        YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson,**

**NAYS:**

**Motion carried: 7 - 0**

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 8:28 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 8:28 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Jackson reiterated that the next meeting will be held at Central Fire Station

16. ADJOURNMENT

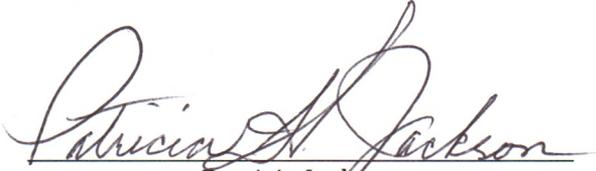
**Supervisor Jackson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Sundland**

**VOICE VOTE:        YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Trezise and Wilson**

**NAYS: 0**

**Motion carried: 7-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM**

  
Patricia Jackson  
Township Supervisor

  
Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk