



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, September 7, 2023– Minutes -DRAFT

**Members**

**Present:** Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Chair Kim Thompson, Dave Ledebuhr, Shawn Dunham, Trustee Kathy Sundland, and Manager Frank L. Walsh

**Members**

**Absent:** Brenda Chapman and Adam Carlson

**Others**

**Present:** Economic Development Director Amber Clark and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order and read the mission statement 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 DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting August 3, 2023
- b. Financial Report
- c. Economic Development Projects Report

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MANAGER WALSH. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Village of Okemos Project Update

Director Clark gave an update on the project. She applied for a grant through the Community Projects Fund (CPF), a federal program that invests in a wide variety of projects nationwide like housing, homelessness prevention, workforce training, public facilities, parks, resilience planning and critical infrastructure. Representative Slotkin secured the project to potentially gain support at the federal level for the development of the project. We requested \$7.5M to construct the project and address utilities on the site. We have been informed the appropriation we may receive will be less than \$2 M. If this prohibits the project from moving forward, the money would go back to the federal government.

The project also has a grant and loan from Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for site contamination and clean up. They have given several extensions on the \$1 million loan and \$1.3 million grant for environmental cleanup activities. Currently, there is a deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> on these dollars. We will be talking with them over the next couple of weeks regarding the status prior to the November deadline. If the project does not proceed, EGLE does have funds for restoration work to be done to the site.

b. Haslett Village Square Project Update

Director Clark stated during a recent meeting, Deputy Drain Commissioner Carla Clos with engineers from Spicer Group informed the project team of a public drain that runs through the project site. The Drain Office will not allow the drain to be moved and they are also under the assumption the drain can't be made private. The recent discovery may impact the project moving forward. The drain does effect the placement of two buildings on the site with approximately 100 total units. Township Staff are waiting on comments from the Drain Office so that a solution can be presented and possibly address the issue.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. MABA Member Spotlight Payment

Director Clark led a 10 minute spotlight on Township services at the February 10, 2023 MABA meeting. The following departments participated: Communications, Planning and Community Development, Economic Development, Assessing, Treasury, Law Enforcement, Public Works. They shared with the MABA members what they do for the township and how to engage with them.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE \$200 INVOICE PAYMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AT THE MABA FEBRUARY 10, 2023 MEETING. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Trustee Kathy Sundland reported the following:

- Appointed new Chief of Police Rick Grillo
- Discussion on the 2024 Township Budget

b. Township Manager

- 2024 Budget is balanced at \$60,000,000

- The 2024 Budget includes the following items: solar project, electric mower, adding two additional firefighter/paramedics, \$400,000 for Central Park Pavilion renovation, new fire truck, and Ipads for all police officers
- Starting the search for a new Parks & Recreation Director in four weeks
- The team has moved back into the Municipal Building
- Working on options for a senior/community center
- Meridian Pride event went very well
- The Board will be conducting six listening sessions in six different neighborhoods this fall on Tuesday evenings

c. Planning Commission  
None.

d. Chair  
Chair Thompson reported she will be scheduling a work session with the committee to discuss the EDC goals.

e. Staff  
Director Clark stated that Consumers Credit Union is moving forward near Hobby Lobby. Demolition of the old Bank of America building on Grand River Avenue will be happening. Also, the DTN development, Newton Pointe, is moving along off Saginaw Highway.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

- New store KPOP opened
- Shinn's Taekwondo moved to the Mall
- Jackson Popcorn has opened
- Planet Fitness will be doing a 4,000 square feet expansion and renovation

b. MABA

Director Clark mentioned that the next MABA meeting is tomorrow at 9:15am at MSUFCU at Mt. Hope and Farm Lane.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine shared that the Rotary Hero Luncheon will be on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marketplace on the Green.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- October 5, 2023 at 7:30am at the Township Municipal Building-Town Hall Room.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:20am.