

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Director Schmitt, Director Gebes, Chief Grillo, Chief Hamel, Director Clark, Manager Diehl, Director Tithof

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the January 9, 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. Six board members present at 6:00 pm.

4. PRESENTATION

NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:01 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:01 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Acting Deputy Manager Director Clark provided updates on the following items:

- Recognized new Parks Director Wisinski
- 141 deer culled through Parks program, 23 deer culled through Police program
- Recognized new Utility Billing team member Desire Smith
- New no parking signs regarding Cornell as voted by board members in December.
- Highlighted opportunities for residents to fill openings on boards and commissions; applications available on website.

- Thanked trustee candidates for their interest.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Guthrie reminded the public that the Ballot Selection form for the Presidential Primary needs to be returned in order to receive their presidential primary ballot

Trustee Wilson spoke about Hiawatha Elementary school. The Okemos School Board has proposed a new entrance into the Hiawatha campus to create space for the car line. The school board has scheduled a meeting on January 10, 2024, 6:00, Okemos High School library.

Treasurer Deschaine stated that the CATA Board approved Director Clark's proposal for CATA to help with CIA-TIF financing to redevelop the Grand River corridor.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine proposed moving action item 12b to 12a.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda to move action item 12b to 12a and move 12a to 12b as amended. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6 - 0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

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

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland and Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6 - 0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Township Trustee Appointment

Trustee Wilson moved to appoint Peter Trezise as a Meridian Township Trustee for a term of January 9, 2024 to November 20, 2024. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: Trustee Sundland

Motion carried: 5 - 1

B. Ordinance 2023-08-CV, Conservancy District Updates – Final Adoption

Director Schmitt reviewed the changes that have previously been presented at the December 5th meeting – allows in floodplain, decks by right and small fills of 10 cubic yards to be handled administratively.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt Text Amendment #2023-08 to amend Article IV of the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian to update the standards of the CV, Conservancy District. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson

VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6 - 0

C. 2023 Goals Review and 2024 Goal Setting

Acting Deputy Manager Director Clark presented the review and action plan – to determine feasibility of multigenerational community senior center, enhance public safety, expand DEI, complete phase II of MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, determine use of Central Park Pavilion, install 5th solar array, enhance wetland protection, implement phase 1 of water replacement program, seek funding for second recycling center, and enhance communications outreach to residents.

Trustee Wilson would like to broaden the language regarding the multigenerational community senior center to include collaboration with professional and community resources. Acting Deputy Manager Director Clark made the change.

Clerk Guthrie would like to have Junteenth and Heritage Festival events noted as part of the language regarding DEI. Asked for more information regarding the expansion of DEI and expressed dissatisfaction with the DEI trainings that were provided in 2023. Trustee Wilson disagreed with detail about training being included in the language for the board, stating that the board determines policy but does not determine how the policy is implemented. Acting Deputy Manager Director Clark made the change.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the attached 2024 Meridian Township Top Five Goals & Action Plan as amended in board discussion. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Sundland, and Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6 - 0

D. Payment Reduction Program

Treasurer Deschaine presented the information provided by Ingham County Treasurer to waive fees for citizens who have applied for poverty exemption. The waiver does not impact fees collected by Meridian Township. Ingham County Treasurer needs approval by Meridian Township to eliminate the fees per MCL211 7B subsection G8.A

Treasurer Deschaine moved for Meridian Township to participate in Ingham County Treasurer's payment reduction program for delinquent interest, penalties, and fees. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6 - 0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Director Schmitt presented. Planning commission recommended approval to rezone from PO to C-1 due to how the building is currently being used. This will be formally introduced at the next meeting.

- B. 2023 Master Plan Update

Director Schmitt presented. Development changed dramatically during pandemic rendering the need to update the 2017 plan. 2023 update has five top line goals under

which are actionable and trackable objectives, then an implementation matrix. Ties together land use map with zoning plan, addresses changes landowners have requested, cleans up map, ties to make ordinance more efficient, addresses changes to urban service boundary. Added a buildout analysis to the plan to determine what development is left. Will work with Supervisor to schedule future discussion with an eye toward adoption.

Clerk Guthrie requested a print copy to be on hand in the Clerk's office.

Trustee Hendrickson asked consideration be given to Grand River Avenue from the western boundary of the township to Park Lake Road

Treasurer Deschaine asked for a change in wording from the term "transitional" in regard to the transitional residential designation.

Supervisor Jackson asked for more details and discussion about rental vs owner occupied properties.

C. Meridian Township/Delhi Township Standby Fire Agreement

Chief Hamel asked to renew the contract with Delhi Township for response to Alaiedon Township. There will be a monthly fee increase but the hourly fee will stay the same. Putting in consent agenda for next meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 8:13 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 8:13 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

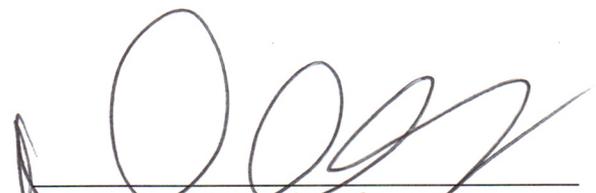
VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Deschaine, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.


Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor


Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk