



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, October 2, 2023 – Minutes

Members

Present: Bill Cawood, Supervisor Jackson, Don Romain, Tom Stanko, Renee Korrey and Angela Wright

Members

Absent: Peter Campbell and Jim Spanos

Staff

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Township Manager Walsh, Township Treasurer Phil Deschaine and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

Others

Present: Planning Commission Chair Mark Blumer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Stanko called the meeting to order and read the mission statement at 7:31am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CAWOOD.
MOTION APPROVED 6-0.**

3. APPROVAL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER ROMAIN.
MOTION APPROVED 6-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report

Director Clark shared the finances for June-August. June balance = \$139,427.56, July balance=\$140,151.11 and August balance= \$141,126.30. A CD was opened at Independent Bank for \$130,000 and \$10,126.30 remains in the checking account.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

A. Consumers Energy Bill October 2023

MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE OCTOBER 2023 CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL OF \$28.79. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER KORREY. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Village of Okemos- Development/RAP Grant Update

Director Clark gave an update on the project. There has been no official word from the State yet on the \$5 million grant request. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) had a recent conversation with the developer and the developer stated they still have plans to build the project and for that reason, they are not interested in filling the hole. The timeline on the Township approvals and permits ends in the summer of 2024. However, there was discussion that the change in the boulevard needed will be a major amendment to the project and will require Township Board approval. Discussion also included how does the Township get the site cleaned up and what legal recourse does the Township have with the property owner?

B. DDA Sign Mock Up

The DDA reviewed the four draft signs for the DDA. The DDA liked option B the most. However, there was discussion about changing the word Okemos to larger font and making the word Downtown smaller font. The group liked the words "Welcome to" on the sign. There was discussion that the logo is not attractive. The DDA decided to wait on ordering a new sign until they update the DDA logo. Director Clark will invite the Communications Team to the November DDA meeting to discuss updating the logo.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Representatives from the Drain Commission will be attending the November DDA meeting to discuss the Okemos Consolidation Drain Project.

9. REPORTS

A. Township Board

Treasurer Deschaine reported on the following:

- Board discussing Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) TIF financing
- Discussing a 12 week paid parental leave program for Township Staff
- Update on Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC)
- Planning a study session to discuss a possible Senior/Community Center. Received a \$5 million grant for the project from the State of Michigan.

B. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Happy 3rd work anniversary to Amber!
- Appointed new Chief of Police Rick Grillo
- Volunteer recognition will occur this month
- LuAnn's retirement party will be on 12/21/23
- Posting for the Parks & Recreation Director position this week
- Meeting with CATA to discuss eliminating the additional Redi-Ride millage
- Board will be reviewing Audit RFPs
- Board holding listening sessions to enhance communications with residents
- The bridge on the MSU to Lake Lansing Pathway has been installed

- 11th annual teambuilding event on October 11th
- 2024 Township Budget was approved

C. Planning Commission

Chair Blumer stated there was a large crowd at the last Planning Commission meeting. Residents came out to oppose a proposed zoning amendment for a townhouse rental community at Park Lake Road and Grand River Avenue. The Planning Commission is likely to vote no on the project. In addition, they are finishing up the Master Plan Update.

D. Chair Report

Chair Stanko mentioned it would be nice to hear the common themes that have resulted from the listening sessions.

E. Staff Report

Director Clark reported she will be working with the Communications Department on the Match on Main and Façade Improvement Plan press releases. 2755 Grand River Avenue is under construction.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. November 6, 2023, 7:30am-Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41am without objection.