



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, January 9, 2025– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Dave Ledebuhr, Shawn Dunham, Nate Ide, Adam Carlson, Sai Turlapati, David Fosdick and Trustee Kathy Sundland

Members

Absent:

Others

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:33am and Member Fosdick 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 DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting November 2, 2024
- b. Development Projects
- c. Financial Statement

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Biennial Officer Election

Director Clark shared that every two years new Officers are chosen for the EDC. It is that time and Chair Thompson has resigned. She also served as the EDC representative on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA). As a result, a new appointment will be needed to the BRA. Current Vice Chair Carlson volunteered to serve as the new Chair, Member Fosdick as Vice Chair and Member Ledebuhr as Secretary and EDC representative. Director Clark will be contacting the new Officers for bank signature updates. There was discussion about inviting the new Township Manager Tim Dempsey to serve on the EDC.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE ADAM CARLSON, AS CHAIR, DAVID FOSDICK, AS VICE CHAIR, AND DAVE LEDEBUHR, AS SECRETARY OF THE MERIDIAN EDC. EACH POSITION WILL SERVE THE EDC FOR TWO YEARS AND MOVE TO APPROVE MEMBER LEDEBUHR, AS THE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT LIAISON. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

b. EDC Business and Façade Improvement Program Guidelines

Director Clark explained the Façade Improvement Program that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has implemented. They are granting \$25,000 reimbursement grants to businesses in the DDA for exterior building enhancements. General maintenance does not qualify. Tenants need the owner's authorization to apply. The EDC discussed the idea and came to a consensus that they are interested in launching the program for the EDC with the following caveats: grants for existing buildings only and exclude properties in the DDA. Discussion was had about getting the word out to local businesses about the opportunity. Director Clark will bring back the program with application updates for the February meeting to review.

9. REPORTS/OPEN DISCUSSION

a. Township Board Updates

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- Welcoming new Township Manager Tim Dempsey
- Set 2025 Board and Commission schedules
- Set 2025 Township goals
- Denied a couple of liquor licenses in the Hannah Plaza
- Two new Township Board members-Clerk Demas and Trustee Lentz

Treasurer Deschaine reported that the Community/Senior Center Task Force has been meeting. They are working on operational costs and identifying a location. There are currently two options; a Senior Center opened 40 hours a week, or a Community Center open 60 plus hours a week. The Task Force plans to bring a decision to the Township Board in April.

b. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham reported that the Mall has a lease for the old Younkers space and it will be announced soon.

Discussion on working with Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) on grants, township wide wi-fi and a cricket project with Parks and Recreation.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- February 3, 2025 at 7:30am at the Township Municipal Building-Town Hall Room.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:43am.