



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, May 13, 2020– Minutes

Members

Present: Jade Sims, Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, Mikhail Murshak, David Ledebuhr, Brenda Chapman, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Tom Conway, Kimberly Thompson, and Adam Carlson

Members

Absent: Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland

Others

Present: Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Alex Newman, John Esser, and Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:31 am and Member Thompson 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 CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-May 7, 2020

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Business Grant Discussion

Director Lane presented the proposed application materials, which were created with input from the documents that Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) and the City of East Lansing used for their own grant processes. The proposal for the Township is to fund \$148,000 in grants which would consist of 37 grants of \$4,000 each.

Director Lane would work with the Communications Department to promote the grant process via a press release, Township website and social media. He will also reach out to the Meridian Township businesses that applied for LEAP funding and were denied. Those businesses will be able to submit their LEAP application to enter the Township grant process.

Grant scoring criteria will consist of 100 total points including economic distress, community impact/history in Meridian, working capital need, uniqueness, and Township residency. A five person review and deliberation committee consisting of the Chair of the MTEDC, a member of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees, the Chair of the Meridian Township Downtown Development Authority, the Township Manager, and the Township Economic Development Director, will be responsible for application review and scoring. The 37 finalists will be brought to the EDC for final approval.

\$100,000 of the proposed funding would come from the Meridian Redevelopment Fund, \$50,000 would be reimbursed from the \$50,000 donation the EDC made to the Farmers' Market.

Chair Sims suggested keeping \$10,000 of funding with the Farmers' Market to show the EDC's support of the project and taking \$10,000 from the EDC current account balance of \$46,000. This way, the reimbursed amount would be \$40,000.

Manager Walsh encouraged EDC members review the list of applicants carefully for any potential conflict of interest and sign waivers where needed. Following EDC approval of the grant process, the item will be before the Township Board on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 to act on.

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM, AS PRESENTED, WITH FUNDING OF \$100,000 FROM THE MERIDIAN REDEVELOPMENT FUND, \$40,000 FROM THE FARMERS MARKET DONATION, AND \$10,000 FROM THE EDC'S ACCOUNT, AND HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020 at 7:30AM TO APPROVE THE FINAL GRANT RECIPIENTS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

8. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 4, 2020 at 7:30am

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 8:53am.