



Charter Township of Meridian  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Monday, June 5, 2023 – Minutes

**Members**

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

**Members**

**Absent:** Peter Campbell, Bill Cawood and Jim Spanos

**Staff**

**Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Township Manager Walsh, Administrative Intern Will Christy and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

**Others**

**Present:** Planning Commissioner Mark Blumer and Commercial Business Banker from Independent Bank Alan Woodbury

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Stanko called the meeting to order and read the mission statement at 7:32am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JACKSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER ROMAIN. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

3. APPROVAL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2023

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report

Director Clark reviewed the financials which included a fund balance of \$141,975.42. The financials were placed on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

A. Consumers Energy Bill June 2023

Consumers Energy is no longer allowing non-residential accounts to use a debit card for payment. So, an EFT has been set up for the monthly payments.

**MOTION BY MEMBER ROMAIN TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE JUNE 2023 CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL OF \$28.81. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. DDA Authorized Signors

With a new Chair and Vice-Chair the resolution to change signature cards on the DDA account was done to include Vice-Chair Wright and Chair Stanko. Vice-Chair Wright mentioned the DDA may want to consider moving the account to a different savings account that could generate more interest. She will be sending additional information.

**MOTION BY MEMBER WRIGHT TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN TO OPEN/CHANGE SIGNATORIES ON THE DDA ACCOUNT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER KORREY. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

B. DDA Budget 2023-2024

With the DDA loan complete, Director Clark presented options to consider for the 2023-2024 DDA budget. These may include grant expenses, beautification, and art. The DDA will continue to think about the best use of the funds for the coming year.

C. DDA Façade Improvement and Grant Program

Director Clark discussed implementing a grant program that may assist businesses with signs or small exterior updates. Independent Bank is willing to partner on the program. Discussion included example programs from the City of Leslie, Middleville, and Hancock. Discussion of requesting a type of materials be used in the improvements that emphasized the Township's river and parks with natural materials. A recommendation was made for a committee to be formed to discuss the program further and report back. The committee will include Member Korrey, Director Clark, Chair Stanko, and a member of the Planning Staff.

9. REPORTS

A. Township Board

Supervisor Jackson reported on the following:

- Discussing recreational marihuana ordinance updates
- 2022 Audit
- 2022 MERS Valuation
- Local Road Program has begun
- Events coming up include Juneteenth, Celebrate Meridian, and Pride
- Facility updates are going well

B. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported on the following:

- Painting on the first floor of the Municipal Building is complete
- Working on the final new township sign by IHop
- 2022 Audit presentation tomorrow
- Discussions with CATA regarding eliminating our payment for Redi-Ride based on our \$8M CATA millage
- Bringing on a Financial Investment Advisor
- Police Officer recruitment is constant at 35 on our goal of 41 Officers
- We will report to the Board on 6/20 regarding the research done on a potential Community Center
- Board will be doing six community meetings to help enhance communications with residents
- Police Awards Ceremony will be held 6/15 at Marketplace on the Green
- MERS Pension is 74% funded for Police and Fire

#### C. Planning Commission

Commissioner Blumer reported the Planning Commission discussed the expiration of the building permit for Skymint.

#### D. Chair Report

Chair Stanko mentioned that the new Township signs look great.

#### E. Staff Report

Director Clark reported on the following:

- Village of Okemos community meeting was recorded and she will forward it to everyone
- The developers discussed the current state of financing and rental rates
- Class C liquor license is being reviewed and the possibility for one in the DDA
- Working on the Master Plan

#### 10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Manager Walsh mentioned he attended the Parade of Homes in Grand Rapids and the Haslett developer had homes.

Member Korrey stated we may want to consider a Master Gardener for the project of beautification of the bridge.

#### 11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

#### 12. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. July 10, 2023, 7:30am-Central Fire Station, Community Room, 5000 Okemos Road

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52am without objection.