

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
March 2, 2017 MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: Township Manager Frank Walsh, Chris Buck, Jade Sims, Trustee Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, David Olson, David Ledebuhr, Adam Carlson (left at 7:55 a.m.), Malinda Barr, Josh Hundt

ABSENT: Lynda Rowlee, Mark Epolito

OTHERS: Treasurer Julie Brixie (Ex-Officio), Planning Commission Chair John Scott-Craig, Environmental Commission Chair Bill McConnell, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Senior Planner Peter Menser

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buck called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and asked Member Barr to 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 AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER BARR TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Minutes – February 2, 2017

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Margy Burelli from Haslett Public Schools spoke to the need for technology, especially 3-D printers, at schools in the district and thanked the EDC for considering the 3-D printer donation request from the Mini-Maker Foundation. She further offered to host a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the new 3-D printers.

6. Presentation

None.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie distributed and reviewed the financial report dated 3/2/17. Report on file.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

8. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

None.

9. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scott-Craig provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tinkrlab 3D printer funding request – Chair Buck explained the request from Tinkrlab for a second 3D printer. Member Barr expressed support for using the MARC fund to pay for the request. Member Hundt noted the success of the program and its potential for expansion.

MOTION BY MEMBER BARR TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM TINKRLAB FOR USING THE MARC FUNDS TO PAY FOR THE PRINTER. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION APPROVED 9-0 (Member Dunham abstains).

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) – EDC staff updated the EDC on the BRA initiative, noting the Township Board will consider a resolution of intent at its meeting on March 7, 2017.

12. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Buck provided a report that included the following:

- Attended Enactment Day at the Capitol.
- First meeting for the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017.
- Excited at opportunity to partner with Haslett Schools.
- Proposes to revisit 2017 goals at April EDC meeting.
- Would like the EDC to consider what they can do to support revitalization of Haslett, DDA, and Carriage Hills business districts.
- Vice-Chair Ledebuhr working with Parks and Recreation Director Maisner on new pavilion at Meridian Mall to host Farmers Market, will provide update at next meeting.

13. STAFF REPORT

- A. Development Projects Update – EDC staff provided updates on the status of proposed and ongoing projects within the Township. Report on file.

14. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Frank Walsh provided a report including the following:

- Branding campaign kicks off on March 9, 2017 at 11:00am with a press conference.
- Pension debt is biggest issue for Township Board.
- Summary of police and fire funding challenges and consideration of potential millage proposal for August 2017.
- Township may be participating in legal challenge to “dark store” tax appeals.
- Exploring possibility of zoning overlay district in DDA and Haslett.
- Reviewing potential improvements to recycling center access road.
- Summary of Walnut Hills rezoning request.
- Meridian Police now equipped with body cameras.

15. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Trustee Deschaine provided an update on Township Board activities including:

- Township Board will be focusing on pension liability debt.
- Expressed appreciation for Manager Walsh and Fire Chief leadership in addressing pension issue.

16. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

17. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

18. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Chair Buck is out of town during the week of the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 6, 2017 and would like EDC members to consider their schedules and report back on if they will be able to attend. The date of the meeting may need to be changed.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Buck adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.