

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2021 **-APPROVED-**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Township Hall Room  
TUESDAY, August 3rd, 2021 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, Finance Director Mattison, Human Resources Director Tithof, Economic Development Director Clark, IT Director Gebes, Chief of Police Plaga

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Styka called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Styka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board.

4. PRESENTATION

A. New Full-Time Paramedic/Firefighter Introduction- Benjamin Haviland

Fire Chief Hamel introduced Benjamin Haviland to the board.

Benjamin Haviland expressed gratitude to the board and staff for the opportunity to work in Meridian Township.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Styka opened public remarks at 6:03 pm

Piotr Lupa, resident of 3575 Kansas Road, spoke in support of Sparrow Special Use Permit.

Jerry Richards, resident of 3986 E. Sunwind Drive, spoke in support November 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot proposal.

Quenda Story, resident of 4526 Marlborough Drive, spoke in opposition of Daniels Drain project.

Cecilia Kramer, resident 4560 Oakwood Drive, spoke about Daniels Drain project.

Lynne Page, resident of 3912 Raleigh Drive, spoke in support of November 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot proposal.

Supervisor Styka closed public remarks at 6:16 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Manager Walsh reported the joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Township Board will take place Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. in the town hall room. The solar project at the service center has been completed and will provide 100% of the energy required at the campus. The road project, specifically at Potter and Shaw in Haslett is underway. The township website will post daily where road work is taking place. The Citizens Survey has been sent to residents. DEI training starts Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. The 2022 budget is nearly completed, and should be before the board by the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. The DDA met yesterday to discuss the Village of Okemos Project.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended July 21<sup>st</sup> CATA board of directors meeting. Reported that CATA ridership is down, and that CATA is currently hiring
- Attended July 29<sup>th</sup> Intern Appreciation Day
- Attended DDA meeting yesterday

Clerk Guthrie

- Recognized her son, Zach Guthrie for 10 years in the Marine Reserves
- Reported that Meridian Clerk staff is currently assisting City of Lansing Clerk Staff with their August 2<sup>nd</sup> election to improve upon Absentee Counting Board in Meridian

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Styka reviewed the Consent Agenda.

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

**Trustee Jackson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2021 and July 20, 2021

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of July 13, 2021 and July 20, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Set a Date for Joint Township Board and Planning Commission

**Trustee Jackson moved to set a date of Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. for a joint meeting between the Meridian Township Planning Commission and Township Board. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Disposal of Surplus Equipment

**Trustee Jackson moved to authorize the disposal of vehicle Unit #110 (2008 Ford Fusion), and Unit #147 (2005 Ford F250) by public auction, internet auction, direct sale to another municipality or by sealed bid. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Michigan Townships Association Principles

**Trustee Jackson moved to approve and execute the proposed Meridian Charter Township Principles of Governance drafted by MTA. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY – NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Rezoning #21050 (M & J Management), rezone an approximately 5 acre parcel located at 1999 Saginaw Highway, from C-2 (Commercial) to I (Industrial)-**Introduction**

Director Schmitt outlined Rezoning #21050.

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Rezoning #21050 to rezone an approximately five-acre parcel located at 1999 Saginaw Highway from C-2, Commercial, to I, Industrial. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees, Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

- B. Rezoning #21030 (New China of Michigan), a request to rezone a 0.42 acre parcel at 5114 Jo Don Drive from RC, Multiple Family Residential (maximum 14 dwelling units per acre) to RCC, Multiple Family Residential (maximum 34 dwelling units per acre)-**Introduction**

Director Schmitt outlined Rezoning #21030.

**Trustee Jackson moved to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Rezoning #21030 to rezone approximately 0.42-acre parcel located at 5114 Jo Don Drive from RC (Multiple Family-maximum 14 dwelling units per acre) to RCC (Multiple Family-maximum 34 dwelling units per acre) with a condition. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

- C. Resolution to Add Ballot Proposal to the November 2, 2021 Election Ballot

Township Attorney Matthew A. Kuschel presented to the board the Resolution to Add Ballot Proposal to the November 2, 2021 Election Ballot.

**Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the Resolution to Approve Ballot Language for November 2, 2021 Election and NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following ballot language be placed on the November 2, 2021 election ballot by the Ingham County Clerk: Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
INITIATION OF ORDINANCE TO  
PROHIBIT ADULT-USE MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

Shall the Charter Township of Meridian, under the authority of Section 6(1) of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2018 ("MRTMA"), MCL 333.27956(1), adopt the following initiated ordinance that completely prohibits adult-use (also known as "recreational") marihuana establishments as defined in Section 3(h) of MRTMA, MCL 333.27953(h), within the boundaries of the Township: "All adult-use (also known as "recreational") marihuana establishments as defined in Section 3(h) of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2018, are prohibited within the boundaries of the Charter Township of Meridian."

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Special Use Permit #21071 – Sparrow Health Systems – construction of a building greater than 25,000 square feet

The board discussed SUP #21071 with the applicant and Director Schmitt.

Trustee Opsommer asked the applicant if they had a revised site plan since the last time they met with Planning Commission. The applicant had not.

**Trustee Opsommer moved to suspend the rules so as to consider SUP #21071 as an action item. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

**Trustee Opsommer moved to strike, “up Kansas Road from Jolly Road and into the site” from condition four on the resolution to approve SUP #21071. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.**

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Wisinski, Sundland

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

**Trustee Opsommer moved to approve the resolution for Special Use Permit #21071 Sparrow Health Systems building bigger than 25,000 sq. feet located at 244 Jolly Road. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Sundland, Wisinski, Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Opsommer

NAYS: Trustee Jackson

Motion carried: 6-1

B. SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority

Director Clark outlined and discussed the SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority with the board.

After discussion it was decided the township would revisit the issue in five years.

C. Daniels Drain Project

Deputy Manager Perry outlined and discussed the Daniels Drain Project with the board.

Treasurer Deschaine called resident Cecilia Kramer to the podium to get a better understanding of the state of the Daniels Drain.

Trustee Opsommer asked why the county drain commissioner hadn't given the board more notice they were moving forward on the Daniels Drain Project. Deputy Manager Perry stated that he couldn't speak for the county. Trustee Opsommer asked what the interest rates for similar bonds are currently. Deputy Manager Perry stated that its 2.5%, but that number could change by the time the bond is sold.

Treasurer Deschaine asked how much the township pays towards drain maintenance. Deputy Manager Perry stated that it varies year to year.

Manager Walsh recommended the township pay 50% of the cost and pass the other 50% on to residents.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Styka Opened Public Remarks at 8:13 pm.

Quenda Story, resident of 4526 Marlborough Drive, spoke about drain maintenance costs.

Ibrahim Adel, resident of 1555 W Pond Drive, spoke about drain maintenance costs.

Supervisor Styka Closed Public Remarks at 8:20 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine commented on the Ponds subdivision stating that it is home to diverse group of residents. He also commended Supervisor Styka for 50 years of marriage to his wife Georgia.

Manager Walsh commented about the good work the Garden Club has done around the municipal building campus.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Trustee Opsommer moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

**Supervisor Styka adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.**



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RONALD J. STYKA,  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



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DEBORAH GUTHRIE  
TOWNSHIP CLERK