



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, December 3, 2020– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

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

Members

Absent: Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Township Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson, and Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-November 5, 2020
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

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

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Township Attorney Matt Kuschel reviewed the reimbursement agreement that will guide the \$85,482 grant that the Township will be giving to the Village of Okemos upon successful completion of all the

demolition work. This will include protective barriers to protect the roadway, maintaining the integrity of the underground utilities, removal of some concrete, and adding top soil along with planting grass. The eligible costs will be reimbursed following an inspection that shows everything is complete. There is a 60 day review period for the Township to review the submitted agreement and receipts, etc. All work must be complete and the agreement submitted by 2/14/21 to be eligible for the entire \$85,482. The agreement will expire on 4/15/21.

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE MERIDIAN REDEVELOPMENT FUND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF OKEMOS DEVELOPERS AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Meridian Township Business Survey

Director Clark reported that 25 local businesses participated in the survey. 80% of the businesses said they were in need of financial assistance to help with rent, utilities, or payroll. They were also interested in e-commerce assistance. Director Clark suggested there is an opportunity to assist these businesses by helping to promote Small Business Saturday in 2021.

b. Meridian Township Small Business Initiative

Director Clark reported that a \$10 million Small Business Relief Grant from the State of Michigan was recently announced to assist businesses with urgent capital needs, including payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments and utility payments. The application will open on December 15th, with awards up to \$15,000 per eligible business on a first come first serve basis.

Manager Walsh shared that assisting our local Township businesses through the pandemic is one of the Township Board's top ten 2021 goals. The Township Board needs to define how they want to assist. It was suggested they may consider \$5,000 grants to local businesses. Chair Sims mentioned we should review the application we used earlier in the year. A subcommittee will be formed to assist and implement the grant process including the Township Manager, Township Supervisor, EDC Chair, DDA Chair, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director, and a Township Trustee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021 Calendar Schedule and Resolution

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO ADOPT THE 2021 CALENDAR SCHEDULE AND RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

b. MABA Business Awards

Director Clark shared the draft list of potential award nominees including new and established Township businesses. If you have any other business suggestions, please forward them to Director Clark and she will forward the list of nominees to MABA. At that point, MABA and the EDC will have an opportunity to vote for the award winners.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Treasurer Deschaine reported the following:

- The Board has reviewed their 2020 Goals and drafted 2021 Township Goals.
- The Board gave the Township Manager a favorable performance evaluation.

- In January, the Board will discuss recreational marijuana.

b. Township Manager

Manager Walsh discussed that in 2021 the Township plans to expand solar, begin development in Downtown Haslett & Okemos, work to provide everyone access to broadband, offer COVID-19 business assistance, local road plan, and begin the MSU to Lake Lansing pathway. The Township recently received a grant to purchase the property next to the Service Center for the new MSU to Lake Lansing pathway. Marketplace on the Green was the mParks 2021 Facility Design Award winner.

c. Planning Commission

Chair Sims, on behalf of Commissioner Trezise, gave a report on the current Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

Chair Sims encouraged members to provide her with feedback on the business application that was used earlier this year as we prepare to roll out additional grants. Also, if you are available please plan to attend the Township Board meeting on December 8th to listen and participate in the Board's discussion regarding additional small business COVID-19 support.

e. Staff

Director Clark is working on how to creatively support small businesses during this difficult time. She expects additional Meridian Redevelopment Fund (MRF) applications next year for the EDC to review.

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham stated that the parent company of the Mall did file bankruptcy and are restructuring debt. It has been a challenging time for the Mall.

b. MABA

None.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

10. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

- January 7, 2021 at 7:30am

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting.