

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, August 15th, 2023, 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Director of Public Works and Deputy Township Manager Opsommer, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Communications Manager Diehl, Chief of Police Plaga, Fire Chief Hamel, Human Resource Director Tithof, Admin Assistant to the Clerk Spurlock

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor Jackson called the August 1st, 2023 regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL
Administrative Assistant to the Clerk Spurlock called the roll of the Board. All board members present at 6pm, except Trustee Wisinski who arrived at 6:03pm.
4. PRESENTATION
 - A. Chief Plaga Retirement Tribute
Presented by Township Manager Walsh.
 - B. Quenda Story Tribute
Presented by Trustee Wilson.
 - C. Eagle Scout Project
Introduced by Fire Chief Hamel and presented by James Robinson Jr, this project will be installed in September and donations can be funneled through Fire Chief Hamel.
 - D. Okemos Solar Racing Club Recognition
Introduced by Clerk Guthrie and presented by Jude Hall, he outlined their 2023 National Championship Race in detail, introducing the members in attendance from the club.
5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
NONE
6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
Township Manager Walsh spoke on updates involving the
 - 2023/2024 Budget
 - Municipal building rededication & renovation
 - Meridian Township “welcome” signage
 - MERS contributions

- Village of Okemos loan
- Interim Police Chief
- Police Chief and Parks & Recreation Director recruitment
- Local road programs
- Collaborations with Okemos Schools
- Pension Board
- Retirement Part for Police Chief Plaga
- Town Board listening sessions

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Trustee Sundland spoke on the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- Trustee Wilson spoke on the Community Resources Commission’s recent events, as well as the Community/Senior Center Task Force’s meeting.
- Treasurer Deschaine spoke on the Community Resource Commission’s recent events, as well as the Snell-Towar Community Center Covid-19 relief project.
- Clerk Guthrie spoke on National Voter Registration Month, the Clerk Academy project in October, and on the polling location for early voting.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Hendrickson moved to amend the agenda to add item 4.A as item 9.D and to add listening session topics as item 13.C. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Clerk Guthrie moved to amend the agenda to add item 4.B as item 9.E and to send the tribute to Quenda Story’s family. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONCENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

Trustee Wisinski moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Special Use Permit #23-012 – The W. Investment Holdings – 1614 West Grand River Avenue – Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center

Director of Community Planning and Development Schmitt outlined the presented permit to the board.

Trustee Sundland motioned to adopt the resolution approving the request from the W. Investment Holdings to construct a 4k sq. ft. medical marijuana provisioning center at 1614 W. Grand River Ave. The property is zoned C2 commercial and is located within the marijuana facilities overlay district. Supported by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Sundland and Trustee Wisinski spoke in support for this motion.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if we have received any plans and if there was a cost estimate.

Director Schmitt stated that they haven't yet received plans, but that is per usual at this step in the process and the cost is estimated at roughly 1.2 million.

Trustee Hendrickson inquired whether the applicant had gotten farther down the process during their last application and if any of the updated ordinances will affect this application.

Director Schmitt stated that due to COVID, they had not gotten further on the app and the newly updated ordinances has no effect.

Clerk Guthrie inquired if the updated Master Plan would affect this application and Director Schmitt replied no.

Supervisor Jackson asked about the special use permit time limits.

Director Schmitt stated that this applicant has one year immediately following the date of the approval to start building.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski**

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Set 2024 Budget Public Hearing – September 5, 2023

Township Manager Walsh outlined this item to the board.

Trustee Hendrickson moved that a public hearing be held at 6pm on September 5th, 2023 for the purpose of taking comments regarding the 2024 Charter Township of Meridian recommended budget. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this hearing.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this hearing.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski**

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Special Use Permit #23-011 – Haslett Gallery – 2119A Haslett Road – Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center

Director Schmitt outlined the presented permit to the board.

Supervisor Jackson asked if all of the presented were the same as the original application multiple years ago.

Director Schmitt stated that this was correct.

Supervisor Jackson inquired about the traffic study done with other applicants.

Director Schmitt noted that this application didn't need a traffic study done.

Clerk Guthrie requested a past version of the resolution on page 97 that is signed.

Director Schmitt stated that they will get that to the board.

Treasurer Deschaine inquired on the sign ordinances for this applicant. He further asked if the name of the company is going against the ordinance.

Director Schmitt stated that no, it doesn't.

Trustee Wilson requested a map-view of the location, which Director Schmitt pulled up for the board.

B. Resolution to Authorize the Acceptance and Adoption of the 2022 Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Fire Chief Hamel outlined this plan update to the board.

Trustee Wilson asked if the Meridian Police and Fire Departments have done a review of this document.

Fire Chief Hamel stated that it's essentially rewriting the existing plan with minimal changes, as most hazards are weather related.

Trustee Hendrickson noted the marks on storm water and wildfire management, and asked if we have plans to update our existing plans to improve them.

Fire Chief Hamel noted that he would do research on the storm water management update, and that he will start working on a wild fire plan update.

Clerk Guthrie inquired if an increased population affects the need for more emergency management.

Fire Chief Hamel noted that since 2010, emergency calls have doubled, partly due to Meridian Township having a large elderly population.

Supervisor Jackson asked if Fire Chief Hamel has been working with the Police and Planning Departments.

Fire Chief Hamel stated that yes, he is.

Supervisor Jackson asked if this assessment needs to be included in the masterplan.

Fire Chief Hamel stated that yes, he is working with Director Schmitt on this.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to suspend the Township Board rules and take to action on item 13 B on 08.15.2023. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the updated Tri-County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, authorize the Clerk to sign the resolution and direct the fire department to forward a copy of the resolution to the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. Supported by Clerk Guthrie.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Listening Topics

Trustee Wilson outlined the following topics that residents have stated they would like to see at the sessions:

- Road construction contact information
- A new recycling center and more green incentives
- Police and Fire Department transparency
- Updated warning sirens
- Crime prevention strategies
- Taxes and Township financial health transparency
- Parks and Recreation Director updates
- Downtown Haslett and Village of Okemos updates
- Voting and election updates

Trustee Hendrickson and Trustee Wisinski condensed these topics to 6 topics:

- Roads and Infrastructure
- Public Safety
- Community Engagement
- Economic Development
- Environmental Health and Sustainability
- Miscellaneous

The Board was in agreement with these condensed topics.

Treasurer Deschaine inquired if there will be refreshments.

Township Manager Walsh stated that yes, there will be.

Supervisor Jackson suggested that Township Manager Walsh provide the monthly update.

Township Manager Walsh stated that that is planned.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 7:38pm.

Roger Taylor (Haslett resident) inquired whether the marijuana topic discussed during this meeting was medical or recreational. He further inquired about the old drive-in in Haslett.

Director Schmitt noted that the marijuana cases brought forward during this meeting are all medical. He further noted that there has been interest in the area where the drive-in is located, but there are no solid plans to fill this area at this time.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 7:41pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Clerk Guthrie suggested to Mr. Taylor to join Meridian Township's newsletters to stay up to date on current happenings.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn the August 15th, 2023 regular Township Board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.



Patricia Jackson

Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie

Township Clerk