

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, October 3, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sundland

STAFF: Director of Public Works and Deputy Township Manager Opsommer, Township Manager Walsh, Director Clark, Director Schmitt, Director Ianni, Chief of Police Grillo, Deputy Clerk Gordon Director Tithof

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor Jackson called the October 3, 2023, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL
Clerk Guthrie called the roll of the Board. All board members present at 6:00 pm.
4. PRESENTATION NONE
5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:02 pm
Josh Nahum spoke in support of agenda item 13-c RRC Housing Updates
Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:04 pm
6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
Manager Walsh gave updates on the following items:
 - Director Maisner’s retirement and search process for a new Parks and Recreation Director
 - Meeting with CATA regarding Redi-Ride Millage.
 - Extended congratulations to Lieutenant Squires promotion.
 - Spoke about the Listening Session on October 10th at Hiawatha.
 - Meeting with MEDC and Director Clark to discuss Village of Okemos.
 - Director Schmitt and the 180K grant CHILL Program through MISHDA.
 - Meeting with Police Department and Chief Grillo to discuss increases to police staff.
 - Team building trip next week for Mteam.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the past listening session, the MIHAF Applications, what funds are available and how to apply, and congratulated Dr. Richard Ritter for his 50 years of service to the Kiwanis Club of Haslett.

Trustee Wilson reported on the CRC Staff liaison \$1,500 grant for holiday baskets.

Supervisor Jackson attended the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meeting who are working on a 25-year transportation plan. She spoke on the Watershed educational plan on homeowners with septic tanks.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

Treasurer Deschaine noted that the November Board meeting is set for November 9th because it is election day, even though Meridian does not have an election.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Paid Parental Leave Program

Trustee Hendrickson provided an overview on the proposed Paid Parental Leave program.

Trustee Wilson spoke about the financial impact.

Clerk Guthrie thanked Trustee Hendrickson for bringing this forward for employees and asked Director Tithof how much time it takes to implement this policy.

Director Tithof spoke on the time and the process for policy implementation.

Clerk Guthrie asked if this was tough to do with the payroll system.

Supervisor Jackson asked Director Tithof if there are any reservations about bringing this back by January 1, 2024

Trustee Wisinski thanked everyone and spoke about the positive implications of this policy and clarified that it is for each child.

Trustee Deschaine spoke about recruiting for the police force and the incentives that this brings.

Manager Walsh spoke about the timeline and making sure the policy aligns with the board and suggested a Board Member assist in writing the policy.

Trustee Hendrickson volunteered to help write policy.

Clerk Guthrie moved to instruct the Township Manager and Township Supervisor to create a draft Paid Parental Leave Program policy and return it to the Township Board for final approval in time for implementation of January 1, 2024. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. 2023 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours

Chief Grillo spoke about the implementation of the hours for Halloween Trick-or-Treaters

Treasurer Deschaine asked about the Halloween Open house.

Chief Grillo gave the date of October 28th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Trustee Wilson motioned to authorize Trick-or-Treat Hours from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Supported by Clerk Guthrie

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Corridor Improvement Authority Tax Increment Financing

Director Clark presented on the Corridor Improvement Authority and explained the background of the Corridor Improvement Authority and Downtown Development Authority, as well as Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The Board asked several questions about how TIF would benefit the Township, and how the boundaries were chosen. Director Clark answered questions and gave information on the next steps.

B. Township Audit Services Request for Proposals

Director Ianni spoke about the audit process and the different proposals. Trustee Wilson inquired if this was the lowest bid, which director Ianni Confirmed. Supervisor Jackson clarified that this will be coming back for consent agenda at the next meeting.

C. Ordinance 2023-05 Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Housing Updates

Director Schmitt provided background information regarding the housing updates and the process of changing the ordinance. Board members had many questions about the multiple family dwelling units and building rental properties for a single-family dwelling. Director Schmitt spoke about the requirements and what is allowed and what is against the code. Supervisor Jackson clarified the next steps of having it for introduction at the next meeting.

D. Study Session-Set a Date for Senior/Community Center Discussion

Trustee Wilson provided an update on activities and committee meeting discussions. The board discussed when to hold a study session on the community center. The board agreed to host a non-televised study session for the Community Center on Thursday November 2nd at 5:30 pm.

E. Meridian Township Investment Policy Revision

Treasurer Deschaine provided information about the policy that was in place and the new proposed policy. Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the changes to the policy and answered questions from Board members on the importance of the changes, why we don't invest in school boards within the Township, and who the signers are delegated to. Director Ianni gave insight into the auditing process regarding the investments.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 8:18 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 8:19 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS NONE

16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wisinski moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 7-0



Patricia Jackson

Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie

Township Clerk