

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN -**APPROVED**-
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room,
TUESDAY, November 9, 2023, **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland and Wilson

ABSENT: Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Wisinski

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director Clark, Director Ianni, Director Gebes, Chief of Police Grillo, Emma Campbell, Brian Shorkey, Manager Diehl, Deputy Clerk Gordon

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the November 9, 2023, Regular Township Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Gordon called the roll of the Board. 5 board members present at 6:00 pm., Clerk Guthrie and Trustee Wisinski absent.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Volunteer of the Year Recognition

Manager Walsh introduced and gave an interview of the Volunteer of the year program.

Emma Campbell introduced Steve Thomas and presented the Volunteer of the Year award. Steve spoke about his volunteer experience and passion for stewardship.

Brian Shorkey introduced Planning Commission Member Peter Trezise. Peter spoke about his work on the Planning Commission.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:13 pm

Josh Nahum spoke about implementing Social Workers in the Police Department.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:16 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh gave updates on the following items:

- Congratulated recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award

- Gave updates on the paid parental leave program
- The 2024 goal setting process
- Marshall Park improvements
- Parks and Recreation Director hiring process
- Good Morning Meridian show
- Fire Department staffing and the station dormitories
- MERS and defined contribution
- Reno the Police K9 is back in service
- Congratulated the Haslett Vikings football team
- The remaining Listening Sessions
- Updates in the historical village
- Meeting with the drain commission about Old English Estates
- Board and Commission appointments are coming up
- Mteam Evaluations
- Updating personnel policy and job descriptions
- Pedestrian safety issues
- Potential Park Lake rezoning

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland attended Economic Development Corp meeting on November 2, 2023 where they discussed the 2024 meeting calendar and goals. There is going to be a Business Expo sponsored by Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) on November 11, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Meridian Mall. Attended Michigan Municipal League conference.

Treasurer Deschaine attended a meeting with a State Representative and the Drain Commission regarding the dam at Lake Lansing.

Trustee Hendrickson attended the neighborhood listening session at Donley Elementary. Attended the Senior Community Center Study Session.

Trustee Wilson – Community Resource Commission – feeding 280 families for Thanksgiving – Having a meeting with community stakeholders regarding pedestrian safety for school children

Supervisor Jackson attended the Michigan Broadband summit

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: **YEAS:** Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, and Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

Trustee Wilson noted an error in the legal notice for the Planning Commission Public Hearing and requested a correction, noting that there was not a Board meeting on November 6, 2023 as indicated.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

A. Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Supervisor Jackson opened the public hearing at 6:36 pm

Director Clark gave background on the CIA TIF and spoke about the major improvements that the plan would assist with.

Supervisor Jackson opened the public hearing at 6:40 pm

B. Application for MSHDA's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Improving Local Livability (CHILL) Program

Supervisor Jackson opened the public hearing at 6:40 pm

Manager Walsh gave background on the program and the what the grant would provide Meridian Township residents who would qualify.

Supervisor Jackson closed the public hearing at 6:42 pm

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Director Clark spoke about meeting with the stakeholders who are included in the plan and questions that they have regarding the impact of the TIF. Director Clark read a letter from the Ingham County Drain office in support of the plan. Director Clark spoke about the process of notifying property owners.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and adopt the attached resolution creating the Corridor Improvement Authority Tax Increment Finance Plan of

Meridian Township and authorized the Clerk to sign the resolution 60 days after the date of the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

Trustee Hendrickson spoke about the importance of this TIF and the need for investment in the most trafficked corridor.

Trustee Wilson supported Trustee Hendrickson's remarks. Treasurer Deschaine thanked Director Clark.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

B. MSHDA's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Improving Local Livability (CHILL) Program

Director Massie gave background on the application process and the proposed motions. This included what the grant will be going to and the money ARPA funding money that the Township is going to match.

Trustee Wilson motioned to approve the update to the Township's Public Participation Plan, with the inclusion of specific Community Development Block Grant related items. Seconded by Trustee Sundland

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of the CHILL Program and the Capital Area Housing Partnership. Trustee Wilson support of assisting low-income homeowners

Treasurer Deschaine asked how long the money we have to spend the money and who would qualify for the money. Supervisor Jackson clarified that this has to do with homeowners, not renters.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

Trustee Hendrickson motioned to adopt the attached resolution for the Township's application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's CHILL program, which will do the following:

- **Authorize Staff to submit the application for \$480,000 of CDBG funding under the program, with \$90,000 in local match**
- **Designate Supervisor Patricia H. Jackson as the person authorized to sign the application and the grant agreement**
- **Designate Director of Project Management and Operations Melissa Massie as the person authorized to sign payment requests**

- **Designated Township Manager Frank Walsh as the Certifying Officer for NEPA environmental review**

Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Hendrickson, Treasurer Deschaine and Supervisor Jackson spoke in support.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

Treasurer Deschaine motioned to approve utilization of \$90,000 from the Township’s ARPA funding allocation for third party administration of the CHILL grant, if the CHILL grant is awarded to the Township. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Supervisor Jackson,

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

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

Brian Shorkey summarized the changes to the ordinance. Treasurer Deschaine and Trustee Wilson spoke in support of the ordinance change. Trustee Hendrickson spoke about the benefits of the options that this amendment provides to residents and homeowners.

Manager Walsh thanked Director Massie, Director Clark, and Brian Shorkey for all of their work and what they do for the Township.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt Text Amendment #2023-05 to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian at multiple sections to bring the Zoning Ordinance in line with the RRC program guidelines. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson,

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

D. 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments

Director Ianni spoke about the changes in the budget. Board members spoke in support of the fund balance.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 3rd quarter 2023 budget amendments with an increase in budgeted fund balance for the general fund in the amount of \$10,073 which projects a use of fund balance of \$6,885,833. Based on 2023 results, the projected fund balance at December 31, 2023 will be \$8,384,073. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

- E. Placement of Delinquent Special Assessments, Delinquent Utilities, Delinquent False Alarms, Unpaid Lot Mowing/Code Violations and Misc. Fees on the Winter Tax Roll 2022

Treasurer Deschaine provided information on the Winter Tax Roll and the process of this being placed on a tax bill. Trustee Wilson inquired as to why the utility bills are so high. Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the utility bill staying with the property, it does not follow the rental or homeowner.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to assess the charges identified I the staff memorandum with parcel identification available in the Treasurer’s Office dated November 1, 2023 for delinquent Special Assessments, Utility Bills, False Alarms, Nuisance, Lot Mowing/Code Violation, and Misc. Fees as a tax lien against the subject properties as authorized by Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 41.727, 41.728, and Meridian Township Ordinance Code Sections 58-32, 58-33, 78- 98, 78-155, 46-5, 82-27, 18-1, and 18-15. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Community/Senior Center Request for Proposals

Trustee Wilson presented information about the Community/Senior Center. Background was given on the process thus far, including the RFP process and the applicants. Trustee Wilson will bring this item back on November 21, 2023

- B. Disbursement of 2023 Health Care/Health Savings Account

Manager Walsh spoke about the State mandated Hard Cap on healthcare and the current healthcare plan. Trustee Hendrickson asked clarifying questions about what healthcare services the Hard Cap would include.

Treasurer Deschaine requested to abstain from voting due to the direct benefit.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve Treasurer Deschaine's request to abstain from item 13B. Supported by Trustee Wilson

VOICE VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland
NAYS: 0
Motion carried: 5-0

Trustee Hendrickson moved to suspend the rules to vote on Item 13b. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

VOICE VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland
NAYS: 0
Motion carried: 4-0

Trustee Hendrickson moved to authorize \$250,000 in health care savings be passed onto the employees, who qualify for health benefits, in the form of health savings account allocations for the 2024 calendar year. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

ROLL CALL VOTE **YEAS:** Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland
NAYS: 0
Motion carried: 4-0

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 7:52 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 7:52 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Hendrickson asked about the move to Mission Square to MERS and where the process is.

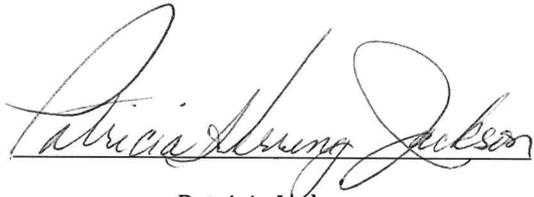
16. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

YEAS: Trustee Wilson, Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 5-0



Patricia Jackson

Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie

Township Clerk