

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: Trustee Wisinski

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Director Maisner, Director Schmitt, Director Gebes, Chief
Grillo, Chief Hamel, Manager Diehl, Deputy Clerk Gordon

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the December 5, 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

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

4. PRESENTATION

- A. Recognition-Gayelord Mankowski, Santa's First Responders and named December 8, 2023, Gayelord Mankowski day in Meridian Township.

Supervisor Jackson read a resolution into the record for Gayelord Mankowski in support of the work that he has been done in the community.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:11 pm

Shawn O'Brien spoke in favor of the rezoning of 5010 Park Lake Road.

Ed Gillespie spoke in opposition of the rezoning of 5010 Park Lake Road and stated that he is representing 50 of his neighbors in Wardcliff neighborhood.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:17 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh gave updates on the following items:

- Deer management program is up to 115 deer
- 12/6 the Community Senior Center Taskforce is meeting with the Advisory Board.
- Township annual holiday party is 12/15

- 4th quarter budget will be presented at the next meeting
- 12/21 is Luanne Maisner's retirement party
- Robin Faust's retirement party is 12/20
- MSU Lake Lansing Pathway ribbon cutting ceremony is on 12/8
- Police building flooring is going in
- Going out for bid for the Local Road Program 2024
- 12/12 meeting will have the draft goals document for 2024
- All 6 listening sessions have concluded
- HOMTV issues have been fixed, CAMTV now having issues that will need to be fixed.
- MERS migration is complete
- The new Parks and Recreation Director to begin 12/18

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine thanked Santa's First Responders, and Supervisor Jackson for the presentation. Tax bills have gone out, and Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the listening sessions.

Clerk Guthrie met with Police and Fire regarding Election Security measures for 2024, there is an Ingham County Traffic Summit that Deputy Manager Dan Opsommer will be attending and presenting resident feedback from the listening sessions. The Clerk's office is still processing Permanent Mail Ballot applications, wished all who celebrate Hanukkah a Happy Hanukkah which begins this Thursday, and Clerk Guthrie thanked Gayelord Mankowski for all of the work he has done in the community.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

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

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance 2023-07-Fire Protection and Emergency Services Cost Recovery Ordinance Update-Final Adoption

Trustee Hendrickson and Treasurer Deschaine thanked Chief Hamel and spoke about their support of the Ordinance. Trustee Wilson clarified if the word "house" had been removed. Trustee Sundland asked about the fee schedule.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the updated Cost Recovery Ordinance No. 2023-07 Amending Chapter 18 Of the Code of The Charter Township of Meridian to include the addition of Article Iii "Fire Protection and Emergency Services" and authorize the Clerk and Supervisor to sign the Ordinance. Seconded By Treasurer Deschaine.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

- B. Ordinance 2023-06 – Rezone 5010 Park Lake Road and Adjacent Vacant Property – RA to RD, with a Conditional Rezoning Agreement

Director Schmitt reviewed the item and the options that the Board has. Clerk Guthrie let the applicant know about communication received. Trustee Hendrickson spoke to his support of the rezoning and asked Shawn O'Brien what the property owners will do if this does not go through.

Clerk Guthrie spoke to her motion to deny the resolution. Trustee Wilson agreed that this is not in the master plan. Treasurer Deschaine and Trustee Sundland denied based on the planning commission recommendation to deny. Supervisor Jackson asked a question about the future land use map and supported Trustee Hendrickson's analysis.

Clerk Guthrie moved to adopt the resolution denying Ordinance 2023-06 an Ordinance to rezone the property at 5010 Park Lake Road and a portion of the adjacent vacant property (Parcel ID numbers 33-02-02-17-476-016 and 33-02-02-17-476-024) from RA, Single-Family Medium Density Residential, to RD,

Multiple-Family Residential – maximum of eight dwelling units per acre, subject to a series of conditions offered by the applicant. Supported by Trustee Wilson

ROLL CALL VOTE YEAS: Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine

**NAYS: Trustee Hendrickson, Supervisor Jackson
Motion carried: 4-2**

C. Ordinance 2023-08 – CV, Conservancy District Updates-Introduction

Director Schmitt spoke about the changes that would be made with the amendment. Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of his motion to approve. Trustee Wilson concurred with Treasurer Deschaine.

Treasurer Deschaine moved to adopt the Resolution approving for Introduction Zoning Amendment 2023-08 to amend Article IV of the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian to update the standards of the CV, Conservancy District. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Paid Parental Leave Policy

Manager Walsh provided a brief overview of the program. Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of the program. Trustee Wilson spoke about the time off in the pilot program. Trustee Sundland asked what the time frame of the pilot program is. Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of the program and did not want to put a review timeline. Manager Walsh suggested the review take place in a year at the annual goal setting talked about other jurisdictions paid parental leave programs. Clerk Guthrie asked clarifying questions about Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the Paid Parental Leave Program for Meridian Township for a Pilot Program starting January 1, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Marshall Park Playground Enhancements

Director Maisner talked about the updates needed for Marshall park. Board members asked clarifying questions about what the money would go to. Trustee Wilson and Hendrickson spoke in favor of her motion. Trustee Wilson clarified that this would include benches and other amenities.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve funding in the amount of \$150,000 from the general fund to support a new play structure and amenities in Marshall Park, located at 6105 Marsh Road, Haslett, for installation in the spring of 2024. Seconded by Trustee Hendrickson.

VOICE VOTE

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Meridian Township Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Program

Manager Walsh updated the Board on changes to the program. Chief Grillo and Chief Hamel gave a presentation on staffing levels of the Police and Fire Departments. Board Members asked questions regarding staff members qualifying for the recruitment bonus. Manager Walsh gave suggestions on how to fund police and fire salary wages. Treasurer Deschaine asked how likely it is that this will help. Board Members asked clarifying questions about the policy. Manager Walsh expects to bring

B. Memorandum of Understanding-Okemos Public Schools

Director Maisner spoke about the memorandum and the field uses. Trustee Wilson concurred about leaving out #5 and 6. Supervisor Jackson asked if we have a similar agreement with Haslett Schools and encouraged Director Maisner to create one. Trustee Wilson asked what Okemos Schools is going to do about the fields going away. Director Maisner will bring this item back on December 12th.

C. Letter of Agreement with the Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation TPOAM Union

Deputy Manager Dan Opsommer spoke about the letter and the need. Board Members spoke in favor of the changes. Clerk Guthrie asked clarifying questions about the stipend and what would be required of staff members.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 8:17 pm

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 8:17 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Jackson asked Manager Walsh for the numbers with the Public Safety report added to the packet.

16. ADJOURNMENT

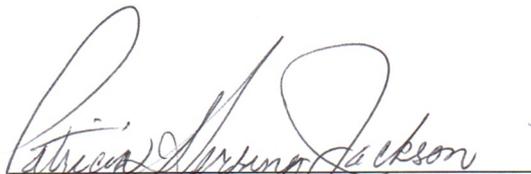
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.


Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor


Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk