

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 -**APPROVED**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198 517.853.4000,
Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, November 21, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

ABSENT: Clerk Guthrie

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor Jackson called the November 21, 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. 6 board members present at 6:00 pm. Clerk Guthrie absent.

4. PRESENTATION: NONE

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 6:02 pm
Shawn O'Brien spoke on behalf of the applicants regarding the Rezoning for Park Lake Road
Vincent Leone spoke in opposition of the rezoning on Park Lake Road
Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 6:09 pm

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Manager Walsh gave updates on the following items:
- December 8th is the ribbon cutting for MSU pathway for Phase 1 of the bridge project.
 - Directors are preparing goals and objectives for December 8th.
 - Crumble Cookies is opening by the UPS store.
 - The final listening session is November 28th at Cornell Elementary.
 - Police Neighborhood meeting is November 30th.
 - Working on the dormitory issues on Fire Station 1.
 - Deer management is at 103 and is on hiatus until December 1st.
 - The Public Safety Recruitment program will be on December 5th agenda for discussion.
 - Good Morning Meridian came out on November 21st.

- The flooring project at the police station has begun.
- Ladder truck has returned to the Fire Station
- Master Plan update will be coming to the Board.
- Knob Hill has turned in a building permit for a new building.
- The Mteam will have evaluations next month.
- The New Parks and Recreation Director has been selected.
- School Pedestrian Safety project.
- Fourth Quarter budget amendments will be back on agenda.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Wilson met with School Pedestrian Safety and gave updates on the progress thus far.

Treasurer Deschaine attended the listening session and would like to have listening sessions next year. Attended the CATA meeting last week on the 15th for the TIF with Director Clark. Tax bills are going out next week, should arrive on December 1st.

8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda

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, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY

NONE

11. HEARINGS

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recreational Marihuana Licensing Standards

Director Schmitt spoke about the process of reviewing the licenses of recreational marijuana and the proposed review board for new applicants. Township Legal Counsel Kuschel spoke about who would be on the Review Committee, and what would be required for the committee meetings. Trustee Hendrickson suggested making the Review Committee 5 or 7 instead of 6, to ensure less ties. Supervisor Jackson asked clarifying questions about the responsibility of the Review Committee. Trustee Wilson spoke in support of a smaller body without a Planning Commissioner. Treasurer Deschaine asked Director Schmitt about staff time and independent consultants. Trustee Wisinski spoke in favor of a smaller committee leaving off Board Members. Trustee Hendrickson and Trustee Wilson spoke about having the applications reviewed by staff.

Treasurer Deschaine made a motion to strike section 1 and 2 of section B - Supported by Trustee Hendrickson

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson asked clarifying questions about the staff process of districts with more applicants vs. districts with less documents. Trustee Hendrickson asked what the appeal process would be. Trustee Hendrickson asked what the date would be for the applications to open.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adopt the Procedures and Standards for Accepting Applications and the Competitive Review Process Under Chapter 40 Authorizing Adult-Use Marihuana Establishments as amended. Supported by Trustee Wisinski

Trustee Hendrickson and Wisinski spoke about the work that was done to get us to this point. Treasurer Deschaine asked questions regarding the review factors.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Trustee Hendrickson moved that the Board set an initial application window under the procedures and standards for accepting applications in competitive review process window opening January 9, 2024 and closing January 23, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Wilson

Trustee Hendrickson spoke about his motion. Trustee Wilson suggested that it should be deferred due to the Holidays. Director Schmitt recommended ending it on the 26th and that the Board specify the date and time.

Trustee Wilson moved to amend the motion and that the period for the acceptance of applications would commence on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, and end at 5:00 pm on January 26, 2024, and that all applications will be submitted through the Clerk's office. supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

On original motion

VOICE VOTE

YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Ordinance 2023-07 - Fire Protection and Emergency Services Cost Recovery Update-Introduction

Chief Hamel reviewed the changes to the Ordinance. Treasurer Deschaine and Trustee Hendrickson asked clarifying questions about the background. Board members spoke in support of the ordinance.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the updated Cost Recovery Ordinance 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 with the following change: in section 18-32 subsection B striking the word "house" and the following comma. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

C. Community/Senior Center Request for Proposals

Trustee Wilson spoke about the process task force and the company who was chosen for the RFP. Treasurer Deschaine and Trustee Hendrickson spoke about the reason for the RFP.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve the recommendation of the community/senior center task force to engage Progressive AE to provide community outreach, planning and design work for the potential new meridian township community/senior center. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine.

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

D. Board and Commission Reappointments

Supervisor Jackson moved to reappoint Leslie Charles to the Communications Commission for a 3 Year Term ending 12/31/2026. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved to Reappoint Kathleen Langhals to The Community Resources Commission For A 2 Year Term Ending 12/31/2025. Move To Reappoint Bradley Brogren to The East Lansing Meridian Water & Sewer Authority For A 2 Year Term Ending 12/31/2026. Supported by Trustee Wilson.

Trustee Wilson spoke in favor of Kathleen Langhals.

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

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved to reappoint Bradley Brogren to the East Lansing Meridian Water & Sewer Authority for a 3-year term ending 12/31/2026. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of Bradley Brogan to East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved To Reappoint Kimberly Thompson to The Economic Development Corporation for A 6 Year Term Ending 12/31/2029. Supported by Trustee Sundland.

Trustee Sundland spoke in support of Kimberly Thompson

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved To Reappoint John Sarver to The Environmental Commission for A 3 Year Term Ending 12/31/2026. Supported by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of John Sarver

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved To Reappoint Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Jamie Hiller, And Kathleen Fay to The Land Preservation Advisory Board For A 4 Year Term Ending 12/31/2027. Supported Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Jamie Hiller, and Kathleen Fay. Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the importance of land stewardship.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved To Reappoint Joyce Van Coevering To The Local Official Compensation Commission For A 2 Year Term Ending 12/31/2025. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of Joyce Van Coevering.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved To Reappoint Tanya Pratt And Joyce Van Coevering To The Pension Board For A 3 Year Term Ending 12/31/2026. Supported by Treasurer Deschaine

Treasurer Deschaine spoke about the importance of the Pension Board

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

Supervisor Jackson moved To Confirm the Supervisory's Reappointment Of Peter Trezise, Brandon Brooks, William Mcconnell And Christina Snyder To The Planning Commission For A 3 Year Term Ending 12/31/2026. Supported by Trustee Hendrickson.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in favor of the reappointed commissioners.

VOICE VOTE **YEAS: Trustee Hendrickson, Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

E. Resolution in Support of Small Business Saturday

Trustee Wilson spoke about rental units. Director Schmitt will bring this back at the next meeting with options.

B. Paid Parental Leave Policy

Manager Walsh introduced the policy and spoke on changes to the policy thus far. Trustee Hendrickson provided information about scaling back the program to six weeks as a year-long pilot program. Trustee Wilson, Treasurer Deschaine and Supervisor Jackson spoke in favor of the policy for a four-week pilot due to the staffing levels of the police department. Trustee Wisinski and Supervisor Jackson spoke in favor of a pilot program. Trustee Sundland asked for clarification as to what the current policy is.

Manager Walsh will be bringing this back for approval at the December 5, 2023, meeting

C. Marshall Park Playground Enhancements

Manager Walsh updated spoke about the updates to the park and the support from the Park Commission. Board Members Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Wisinski and Wilson spoke in support of accelerating the project on this park to have it done in 2024 and the benefit of updating the park.

D. Memorandum of Understanding-Okemos Public Schools

Manager Walsh requested that this item be brought back to a discussion on December 5, 2023, when Director Maisner is present. Trustee Hendrickson asked questions about the proposed fee schedule.

E. Ordinance 2023-08 – CV, Conservancy District Updates

Director Schmitt spoke about the Ordinance and the items that would be changed. Trustee Hendrickson asked about the location of the district. Supervisor Jackson asked when the FEMA maps were last updated.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened comments from the public at 9:02 pm

Dr. Joshua Nahum spoke regarding social workers in the Police Department and the conditional rezoning for 2110 Park Lake Road.

Vincent Loene spoke regarding the presentation on 2110 Park Lake Road.

Supervisor Jackson closed comments from the public at 9:06 pm

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

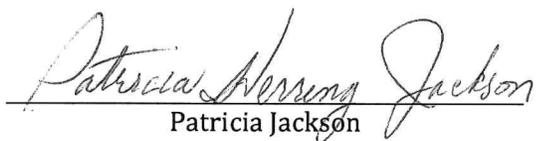
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine

**VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Trustee Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson,
Trustee Sundland, Trustee Wilson, Trustee Wisinski**

NAYS: 0

Motion carried: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.



Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk