REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

Present: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Cornelia Naylor of New Hope CME Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to add an executive session regarding pending litigation at the end of the meeting; move the Meridian Symphony presentation and the Lamar School presentation after the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated November 19, 2013.

Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15558 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF AL WILLIS TO THE E-911 COMMISSION

And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

At this time Sharon Pratt with the Mississippi Opera appeared and announced the Meridian Symphony Orchestra presentation of the Peppermint Pops on Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. She also announced the presentation of Amahl & The Night Visitors to be held on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. at the Temple Theatre.

Coach Mac Barnes and ten of the seniors of the Lamar football team appeared. They won the State Championship. Mayor Bland congratulated them and stated that they are the first team to graduate from the Mayor’s Youth Council.

Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 16-30 (2) B. 4. OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN IN ORDER TO INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SAID SECTION

And, Councilman Markham seconded the motion, whereupon said Ordinance was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15559 ORDER AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF WORK UNIFORMS FROM UNIFIRST CORPORATION, JACKSON, MS, FOR 12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY

And, Councilman Markham seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

Councilman Markham offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15560 IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE PETITION OF ASCENT HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT CO. REGARDING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED TO SERVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAIRFIELD INN ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF REPSHER’S SURVEY AND SHERROD PARK SURVEY, COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

And, Councilman Hammon seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15561 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF HUGH SMITH AS PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN
And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15562 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF KELVIN MCGRUDER AS PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND SETTING ANNUAL SALARY

And, Councilman Markham seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5873 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION OF AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY (FY 14 SUBGRANT APPLICATION – ALCOHOL AND AWARENESS PROGRAM)

And, Councilman Markham seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated November 27, 2013 in the amount of $1,352,059.65.

President Thomas advised of the legal advertisement for the following: a) roof replacement for the Holbrook Building; b) backhoe-loader; c) dump truck and body.

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report. He thanked Chief Sharpe and Chief Lee for the work the police department did over the holiday weekend. Communication between the police and citizens is getting better. There are nine potential officers who will attend the police academy next month. He announced the tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 that afternoon. The Christmas parade will be held this coming Saturday at 5:00 p.m. He congratulated Lamar School for winning the state championship. The Meridian High School Wildcats had a great year. He said it is good to see that the roof on the Holbrook Building will be replaced. Meetings will be held
on public transportation. He said they are trying to bring back services that have been terminated. He will be bringing a plan of action for transportation to the Council for a vote. He thanked the City council for confirming his appointments of Kelvin McGruder and Hugh Smith.

President Thomas called for Council comments. Various comments were made.

President Thomas called for citizen comments. Wade Demers was the only one to sign up.

An executive session was requested regarding pending litigation. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss pending litigation. The Council then went into executive session. Those who were asked to stay for the executive session were Mayor Bland, City Clerk Ed Skipper, Public Works Director Hugh Smith and Community Development Director John McClure. Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session.

President Thomas called the regular meeting to order. He announced there would be no action regarding the executive session.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned. Sine die.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam McInnis, Clerk of Council