REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2013 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Danny Lanier with Northcrest Baptist Church and followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to move R-6 to after R-8; move the Presentation Agenda to come after the Consent Agenda; add as C-2 a corrected interlocal agreement regarding the JAG grant.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated July 02, 2013.

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

ORDER #15471 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CORRECTED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI AND LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI (2013 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT [JAG] PROGRAM AWARD)

And, Councilwoman Henson 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 Dr. Danny Lanier with Northcrest Baptist Church appeared regarding their Love Out Loud mission opportunities from July 22 – 26, 2013.

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report. He recognized Caroline Henson and Mia Hall for being in the top 10 of the Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi contest. He announced that swimming is in full swing at Velma Young. He advised that he has been assessing all departments and job positions in the city. They are reviewing the employee handbook as well.
as salaries and compensation. He wants the city to be competitive with the private sector. He said he has been checking into public safety and other issues such as lighting throughout the city. He introduced Eddie Kelly with Mississippi Power Company. Mr. Kelly stated that they would be looking at the lighting throughout the city by grids to see how well the city is lighted in all areas.

At this time Elizabeth Gardner and Sam Keyes with Butler Snow and Jimmy Smith with Government Consultants appeared regarding the $1,200,000 GO Water & Sewer Bonds. They advised that four bids were received as follows: 1) BankPlus – 2.513755% (lowest); 2) Citizens National Bank – 2.5863%; 3) Hancock Bank – 2.6%; 4) Trustmark National Bank – 3.48%. They recommended that the city accept the bid of BankPlus at the interest rate of 2.513755%.

Council-woman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5844
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SALE AND AWARD OF GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER AND SEWER BONDS, SERIES 2013, OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, DATED AUGUST 1, 2013, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,200,000)

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.

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

ORDER #15472
ORDER ACCEPTING FEMA ASSISTANCE OF FIREFIGHTER GRANT FOR 33 AIR PACKS WITH FACE PIECE AND SPARE CYLINDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $163,500.00

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 Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15473
ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND
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.

Councilman Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5845 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE APACHE FOUNDATION TREE GRANT PROGRAM FOR FREE TREES

And, Councilwoman Houston 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.

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

ORDER #15474 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF SCOTTY BAILEY TO THE MERIDIAN AND BONITA LAKES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

And, Councilman Hammon seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by 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 #15475 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GEORGIA CAROL WALKER TO THE MERIDIAN AND BONITA LAKES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15476 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JESSE E. PALMER, SR. TO THE MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

ORDER #15477 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ANGELA PAYNE TO THE MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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 Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:

ORDIN. #4418 WEAPON ORDINANCE

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated July 11, 2013 in the amount of $1,698,401.92.

Next on the agenda was the Mayor’s appointment of Curt Goldacker as CAO for the City of
Meridian. Councilman Markham asked City Attorney Michael Goggans to address issues raised regarding a story that Mr. Goldacker was a temporary employee. He feels the citizens need clarification. Attorney Goggans stated that Mr. Goldacker’s classification at this time is acting CAO. He was nominated but not confirmed. He cited Section 21-5-37 of the Mississippi Code which states that his actions are binding by the city and the public and he has full powers of the position until he is confirmed. He also cited Sections 21-8-23 and 21-8-25 of the Mississippi Code that addresses the powers and procedures for nominating and confirming department heads and specifically addresses the Chief Administrative Officer. President Thomas asked the Council members what their pleasure was. Councilman Markham stated they should go forward with the confirmation or discussion regarding the confirmation. Attorney Goggans stated that, as a point of fact, if they are going to discuss any sensitive personnel matters that this would be the appropriate time for an executive session.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. Attorney Goggans asked them to include another personnel matter in the executive session. The motion and second to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session passed by a unanimous vote of the Council. Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss personnel matters. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session.

President Thomas called the meeting back to order. He advised that no action was taken and would not be taken regarding the executive session.

President Thomas called for council comments. No comments were made.

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