Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Parks & Recreation Director Mark Naylor and followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to add the following: add as R-8 a proposed amendment to the animal control ordinance; add as R-9 a proposed order and policy regarding temporary appointments/employees; add as R-10 acceptance of a Hold Harmless Agreement for a handicap ramp; and add as R-11 a proposed amendment to the agenda ordinance regarding citizen comments.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated September 26, 2013 and October 01, 2013.

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

ORDER #15533 ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT ON THE TRANSFORMER POLE LOCATED AT 1105 6TH STREET

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

ORDER #15534 ORDER DECLARING WEAPON SURPLUS AND TO BE SOLD TO RETIRING POLICE LIEUTENANT ROBERT TINSLEY AS ALLOWED BY STATE LAW 45-9-131

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 Order:

ORDER #15535 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREYHOUND LINES, INC. AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (SPACE AT UNION STATION)

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 Resolution:

RESO. #5857 RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN TO CALL A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE NO. 3966 ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 11, 1994, SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM DISTRICT B-1 TO DISTRICT B-2

And, Councilwoman Henson 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 #15536 ORDER APPROVING AND ADOPTING A SUBDIVISION PLAT OF NORTH HILLS 29TH AVENUE SE COMMERCIAL PARK PHASE II, A COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.
ORDER #15537  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY (OFFICER NEXT DOOR PROGRAM)

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 #15538  ORDER COMMITTING $15,000 TO ASSIST WITH THE COST OF A HEALTHCARE ZONE MASTER PLAN

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 #15539  ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER M. FALGOUT AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE PRO TEM FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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.

Discussion was held at this time regarding the claims docket. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Markham to approve the claims docket dated October 20, 2013. Councilman Thomas questioned the following claim numbers: #306434 (this was for tattoos for those children who attended the National Night Out program), #306574 (this is a television at the police department for the secure briefing room and seized money was used to pay for it), #307185 (the was covered by a Homeland Security grant for a class that was given), #307267 (these lithographs were purchased to put up in the Mayor’s office), #307299
(this was for charges from Alter Ego prior to the agreement being approved at the October 1, 2013 meeting), #307308 (this was for video promoting the See Something, Say Something campaign. Mayor Bland stated that a lot of these services are being paid for out of his department’s professional services account for programs to help promote the City of Meridian), #307391 and #307392 (These are two split bills totaling together $5,000. Mayor Bland stated these are for research to identify programs concerning economic development, affordable housing grants, the healthcare zone and transportation throughout this area. Mayor Bland stated that these purchase orders were for a period of one to one and a half months and are to help him as the Mayor within the executive department to perform functions day to day that he needs to perform to put the city in the position to receive community block grants and other grants and position this city as a 21st century leader. He said these purchase order are for him to run the day to day of the City of Meridian, Mississippi. He needs to be able to pay out to consult with professional service people to get these things done. There is no way around it. He has a $450,000 budget approved by this City Council to do these things. All these items that they are discussing puts the city one step closer to do the things that he sees as priorities of this administration to push the city in the direction that they need to go and to do things for those people of Meridian who voted for him to be Mayor of the City of Meridian. That is what all these purchase orders are for.) Councilwoman Houston stated she did not think that it is a matter of not wanting him to do what he needs to do. It is a matter of a process and procedure to go through to spend the citizens’ money and it has to go through the City Council. The Council is not questioning him doing this. The council needs clarification because the process was not followed. Mayor Bland stated that he cannot come to the City Council to get approval on all professional services and consultants. He needs to be able to do what is best for the City especially on items less than $5,000. Councilman Markham stated that agrees with Councilwoman Houston and that he wants him to do well. He wants the communications to be open. He stated that the claims docket they received was only the name, amount and claim number and they requested further information because they did not know what the claims were for. Mr. Skipper explained why the claims docket was different this time. They are questions regarding some of these claims to get further information on them. They are not watching out over the Mayor’s budget but they want things done properly. The Council is not trying to micro-manage his budget because they approved the budget. They are doing what the citizens of Meridian voted for them to do. He said he understands that some of these items the Mayor needs in order to execute the day to day operations of the city. Bug, the Mayor has to understand that as the legislative branch they have the responsibility to know how this money is spent. Councilman Thomas stated that the five City Council members are personally responsible if money is not spent responsibly and appropriately. Councilman Hammon said that after going through the budget process that was at least $3,000,000 over the last budget no one should question why they are asking these questions. They ask them because they are the same questions they asked when the budget was reduced from $38,000,000 to $34,000,000. Councilman Hammon questioned the following claim numbers: #307275, #307274, #307273 and #808527. The first three claims were for Mississippi Power Company and Councilman Hammon was given the details on these claims. Claim #808527 was for computer, monitors and laser printers. He would like the city to look into cost closer to see what we are paying out. Acting CAO Goldacker stated that Mississippi Power Company, Atmos, Comcast and the telephone company are working with the city. Council-woman Houston question Claim #307397 to Goggans Law Firm. She said she appreciates having a city attorney, however, the contract says they will be paid $5,000 monthly plus $1,000 monthly for secretarial. The Council has a detailed accounting of the $16,120.00 bill. In looking at the explanation for a lot of the claim, they appear to fall under routine duties. She feels at these rates the city should have an in-house attorney. City Attorney Goggans said that some of the items he requested payment for could fall under routine business. He asked that this meeting be recessed to meet after he has met with the City Council in a work session to go over his bill. He would like to amend his bill and the Council approve payment. Council members agreed to hold a work session to go over Mr. Goggans’ bill but that his claim will have to be put on the next claims docket for the next meeting. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council
to amend the motion to remove claim #307397 in the amount of $16,120.00 to Goggans Law Firm until such time as they can get an actual figure and present it as the next Council meeting. The motion to approve the claims docket dated October 10, 2013 in the amount of $1,737,315.00 with an amendment to remove Claim No. 307397 in the amount of $16,120.00 was unanimously passed.

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

ORDIN. #4423 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (ORDINANCE NO. 3878, AUGUST 7, 1990) BY ADDING A PROVISION LIMITING THE NUMBER OF DOGS THAT CAN BE KEPT BY CITY RESIDENTS AND INCREASING THE MINIMUM FINE FOR VIOLATIONS

And, Councilwoman Houston 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.

Discussion was held at this time concerning a proposed policy regarding temporary appointments/temporary employees. Mayor Bland stated he did not receive this order and policy until just before the meeting started and he has not had time to review it. He asked that it not be acted on. After discussion, Councilman Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15540 ORDER ADOPTING POLICY REGARDING TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS/TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

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

Yea: Markham, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: Thomas, Henson.

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

ORDER #15541 ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FROM GRACIE M. ROGERS, 3519 10TH STREET, FOR CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF A TEMPORARY RAMP ON CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY

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 Ordinance:

ORDIN. #4424 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S AGENDA ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 2-42(8) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

And, Councilwoman Henson 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.

President Thomas called for the Mayor’s report. He stated that the Mississippi Development Authority discussed projects including housing and the healthcare zone master plan. They will be coming to Meridian. Mayor Bland stated that public transit is needed in the city. This will help with the city’s application for $30,000,000 for a HUD project as public transit is required. He wants to bring public transit under the umbrella of the city. He stated he was glad that Mr. Ron Turner was at the meeting and for the program to have two police officers at public housing for the Office Next Door Program. He said he wants the city to be more competitive and attract more police officers and fire fighters. They are working on a comprehensive pay scale for the city employees. Acting CAO Curt Goldacker appeared and advised that a public transit commission meeting was held last Friday. They are looking at a “flex” system for the city, Navy Base and surrounding area. He asked that two Council members serve on the committee to look into public transit. Councilwoman Kim Houston and Councilman Dustin Markham volunteered to serve on this committee. Also, Councilwoman Houston and Councilman Markham said they have been attending the food and beverage tax meetings.

President Thomas called for council comments. Various 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