REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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 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.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated September 03, 2013.

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

ORDER #15498 ORDER DECLARING PROPERTY LOST OR STOLEN AND TO BE REMOVED FROM INVENTORY

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.

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

ORDER #15499 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF IPERL, ACCUSTREAM AND OMNI METERS FROM SENSUS TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY ON A NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS

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

ORDER #15500  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE MERIDIAN UMPIRE ASSOCIATION AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

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

ORDER #15501  IN THE MATTER OF:  THE APPOINTMENT BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ABDUL LALA TO THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION

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.

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

ORDER #15502  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 BETWEEN APAC-MS, INC. AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (INSTALLATION OF VEHICLE DETECTION LOOP FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT 31ST STREET AND 23RD AVENUE)

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.

On the agenda next was an order authorizing execution of a collection agreement with American Municipal Services. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham to approve this agreement. Councilman Hammon asked if anyone knew these people and if they had an office in Meridian. No one knew anything about them at that time.

Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to table this item.
Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15503 ORDER TO CHARGE OFF INACTIVE AND UNCOLLECTIBLE WATER ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 IN THE AMOUNT OF $96,389.57

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.

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

ORDIN. #4419 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM R-2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (PROPERTY LOCATED IN 5800 BLOCK OF “I” STREET) INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

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

ORDER #15504 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CARETAKER AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMOS JONES AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (THREEFOOT BUILDING)

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.

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

ORDIN. #4420 ORDINANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING AND REVOKING A DRIVEWAY EASEMENT IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN,
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FOR A PORTION OF 40TH STREET FROM 10TH AVENUE TO ITS WESTERNMOST END AT NORTHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

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.

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

RESO. #5852 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO CONVEY THE CLOSED, VACATED AND ABANDONED PORTION OF 40TH STREET FROM 10TH AVENUE TO ITS WESTERNMOST END AT NORTHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

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 #15505 ORDER AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EAST MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EMBDC) AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (OFFICE SPACE AT UNION STATION)

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.

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

ORDER #15506 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE PROJECT)
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 Resolution:

RESO. #5853 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF 2013 CONTRACT FOR THE USE OF THE KEMPER COUNTY JAIL

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.

Discussion was held at this time regarding the proposals for group health insurance for the city employees. Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson to accept the proposal of Fox Everett. Councilman Hammon stated he wanted it noted that when United Health Care and Fox Everett Insurance Companies came to the city and made quotes that United Health Care’s cost of $420,000 below the cost of Fox Everett. Fox Everett did rebate $140,000 but it still leaves $280,000 on the table. Councilwoman Houston stated that being in the insurance business, with this change over happening October 1 that date is almost here. She said the plan needs to be apples to apples to keep our grandfather clause. She would hate to see October 1st come around and coverages be denied because it is too close. This should have been looked at earlier like June but they were not here then. It should have been looked at earlier so the transition could be smoother. With the consult a doc, the employees have the opportunity to call a doctor instead of going to the emergency room. This will save money. They have also looked at other things with Fox Everett. It is too close to October 1 to make this a smooth process. President Thomas asked if they wanted to amend the motion to include the consult a doc. Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston to amend the motion to include consult a doc. President Thomas asked Councilwoman Houston to explain the consult a doc addition. She stated that there is a lot of cost associated with going to the emergency room. With this particular addition, employees will have an opportunity to call a doctor, not a nurse, 24 hours a day and that doctor can issue a prescription and they won’t have to go to an after-hours clinic or the emergency room. Councilman Hammon stated that it is not too late for this to come through. He said the attorney had something to say on that. A lot of these companies have the same programs. Councilwoman Houston said United Health Care has call a nurse, not call a doctor and it is too close to October 1st. City Attorney Goggans stated that it is not too close to make the transition right now. Councilwoman Houston said she sells insurance. Health insurance is not like care insurance. It is a major deal. In order to keep our grandfather clause it has to be apples to apples and in her opinion it is too short a time. She does not think it will be fair. They could probably do it but something could be left out. Councilman Hammon stated he did not think anything will be left out. It is too much of a cost savings to the city. Councilman Markham stated that as related to United’s quote, a large percentage of the basis of their quote dealt with projected claims. $280,000 in savings is good but they have to consider everything in totality, everything as
one whole function – what is best for the city this year and what is best for the citizens this year. He believes the dial a doc is really good. Employees need to be educated so they can be show that they don’t have to run to after-hour clinics or the emergency room for runny noses. This will cut down on claims by using the dial a doc addition. That is a basis for his decision. Also to support his decision, he has had the opportunity to talk to a number of city employees and nine out of ten were happy with what we have and that weighed heavy on the decision he made. President Thomas said when both of these companies gave them information, the big difference was in projected claims. UHC reimburses at 40% of what you are billed. Councilman Hammon stated it was 60% not 40%. 40% is what we have now. President Thomas stated the projected claims are what the difference was. No one knows what projected claims are going to be. President Thomas called for a vote on the amendment to include the consult a doc. Said motion to add “consult a doc” passed by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilman Markham offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15507 ORDER ACCEPTING PROPOSAL OF FOX EVERETT INSURANCE FOR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING THE “CONSULT A DOC” ADDITION)

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.
Nay:  Hammon.

Discussion was held regarding the 2013 contract for the use of the County Jail. President Thomas stated that the Council just approved a 2013 contract for the use of the Kemper County Jail for at maximum of 22 prisoners at a cost of $20.00 per 24-hour period. The contract for the use of the County Jail will cost the citizens $38.00 per day for a maximum of 25 prisoners. The taxpayers of the City of Meridian already pay for half the cost of the jail, half the cost of the Sheriff’s salary, and half the cost of the County’s budget through the ad valorem taxes they pay. Now they are asked to pay more for the jail and the housing of city prisoners. If someone from the Sheriff’s department arrests someone inside the city limits it does not cost the city more. If a city police officer arrests someone inside the city limits it costs the city taxpayers $38.00 per day for the prisoner. Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5854 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF 2013 CONTRACT FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY JAIL

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

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

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

RESO. #5855 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE
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 Ordinance:

ORDIN. #4421 ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A REVENUE AND LEVY A TAX FOR THE MERIDIAN SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

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.

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

ORDIN. #4422 ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A REVENUE AND LEVY A TAX FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

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.

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

ORDER #15508 ORDER AUTHORIZING EMPLOYEE RAISES FOR PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

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 #15509 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR CURT GOLDACKER, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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 #15510 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR L. E. SKIPPER, CITY CLERK/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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 #15511 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR JOHN M. MCCLURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

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.

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

ORDER #15512 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR H. C. “BUNKY” PARTRIDGE, HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR

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 #15513 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR ANTHONY CLAYTON, FIRE CHIEF

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 Order:

ORDER #15514 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR MARK NAYLOR, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

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 Order:

ORDER #15515 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR JAMES LEE, POLICE CHIEF

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 #15516 ORDER SETTING ANNUAL SALARY FOR HUGH SMITH, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated September 12, 2013 in the amount of $1,872,907.08.

At this time CAO Curt Goldacker asked the City Council to reconsider the agreement with American Municipal Services. He stated that they have offices in Gulfport and contracts with several Mississippi cities. Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to remove this item from the table. Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15517 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF COLLECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICAN MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMS) AND 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.

At this time Cultural Affairs Coordinator Casey Null appeared and made a presentation on the Community Kickoff, building a better Meridian event which will be held Friday, September 13th beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the front lawn of city hall.

President Thomas called for the Mayor’s report. CAO Goldacker stated the Mayor was in Cleveland Ohio regarding a Choice Neighborhood Program for at $30,000,000 grant to be used in East End. He also advised that they worked very hard to present the City Council with a balanced budget.

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