REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Markham.

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

Absent:  None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Odell Hopkins and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to: add an executive session at the end of the agenda regarding potential litigation; remove R-16; add as R-16 discussion regarding Long Creek Reservoir; add to C-4 a street light in the vicinity of 5804 18th Place.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated July 15, 2014.

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

ORDER #15697  ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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

ORDER #15698  ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO BE DISCARDED
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 Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15699 ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT AT 2013 21ST STREET AND IN THE VICINITY OF 5804 18TH PLACE

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 #15700 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF WALLY HUDNALL TO THE CIVIL SERVICE 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.

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

ORDER #15701 ORDER RETAINING THE FIRM OF BREAZEALE, SAUNDERS & O’NEIL, LTD TO PREPARE THE EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, 2015, 2016 AND 2017

And, Councilwoman Henson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15702  ORDER RETAINING THE FIRM OF BALCH & BINGHAM, LLP (THREATENED CWA ENFORCEMENT ACTION)

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 Resolution:

RESO. #5918  RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS) IN RESPECT TO NAVAL AIR STATION MERIDIAN

And, Councilman Hammon 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 Resolution:

RESO. #5919  RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER RECEIVED FROM PILGRIM HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR PURCHASE OF BLIGHTED, SURPLUS LAND AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF QUITCLAIM DEED (4720 25TH STREET)

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.

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

ORDER #15703 ORDER APPROVING AND ADOPTING FAMILY DOLLAR SURVEY, A COMMERCIAL RESUBDIVISION 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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:

ORDIN. #4441 ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2012 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

And, Councilman Hammon 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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:

ORDIN. #4442 ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2012 EDITION OF THE ICC PLUMBING, ICC GAS, ICC INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE

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

ORDIN. #4443  ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2012 EDITIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE AND INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE

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.

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

ORDIN. #4444  ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2014 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

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.

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

ORDIN. #4445  ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2012 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE WITH ALL APPENDICES, AS THE OFFICIAL SUCH CODE FOR 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.

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

ORDER #15704  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT (SCOPE OF
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 Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15705 ORDER DESIGNATING NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE (NASR) AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR CERTAIN TEXTS USED AT THE MERIDIAN TRAINING FACILITY

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 #15706 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF MANDAL’S, INC., GULFPORT, MS, FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT – PUBLIC WORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF $43,310.00 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK

And, Councilman Thomas 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. #5920 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE
THERETO

And, Councilwoman Henson 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.

At this time discussion was held regarding the Long Creek Reservoir. Keith McCraney and Richmond Alexander with Engineering Plus appeared before the Council along with Public Works Director regarding the reservoir. MDEQ has been evaluating the reservoir and has said the dam is a high hazard. The goal was to try to prevent draining the lake. With more research and evaluation, it was deemed that the city needed to take further action. It came down to the public safety and legal liability of the city. Mr. McCraney stated MDEQ said the spillway was inadequate. Option #1 was to replace it. In order to fix the spillway the lake would have to be drained and let it build back up. An estimate was given at $440,000 minimum to well over $1,000,000. It would take around six to nine months to complete, weather permitting. There are a lot of concerns about the bald eagles and other wildlife in the area. U.S. Fish & Wildlife are aware of the situation and what is being done. There is a meeting scheduled later that day with MDEQ regarding the reservoir. They have been in touch with representatives regarding potential federal funds and are in touch with Congressman Harper regarding this. Councilman Thomas asked them to stop draining the lake. Councilwoman Houston said the city would have to come up with the funds to fix the dam and it seems everyone prefers to fix it.

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

RESO. #5921 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO MEADOWBROOK HEALTH & REHAB, LLC D/B/A NORTH POINTE HEALTH & REHABILITATION AS AUTHORIZED BY WEST’S A.M.C. § 57-117-1 ET SEQ.

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.
Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston to approve the claims docket dated July 31, 2014 in the amount of $2,369,086.26. City Attorney Bill Hammack questioned Purchase Order No. 401755 and Purchase Order No. 401756 that were dated in January 2014 prior to being appointed city attorney. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to remove these from the claims docket. Said motion made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston with the amendment to remove Purchase Order No. 401755 and Purchase Order No. 401756 was approved by a majority vote of the Council. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

President Markham advised of the notification of legal advertisement for: a) south WWTP mechanical & electrical upgrades; b) B Street FWTP filter/north FRTP generator upgrades.

President Markham called on Mayor Bland for his report. He advised that the administration listened to experts regarding Long Creek Reservoir and decided there was too much liability and safety of the public that they took the actions necessary and that he made the decision. He reminded everyone that school starts on Wednesday. He reminded parents that their children are their responsibility. The curfew laws will be enforced. He mentioned the city’s moonlight run to be held on August 15th. There will be meetings with officials at Choctaw Transit to try to come up with the best options for the city. He said he would be reporting to the city council on this. He introduced an 11-year old baseball team at Phil Hardin coached by Chuck Butler who won the state and regionals. An active shooter exercise at Meridian High School will be held on August 9th. Deputy Fire Chief Leister advised that the Meridian Fire Department is the #1 fire department in the state. He said they were the first fire department in the state to get rehabilitation devises. They were presented by Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney and Senator Videt Carmichael at Meridian Day at the Neshoba County Fair. Mayor Bland stated that in the future they will be letting everyone know about issues that pop up. He has advised his department heads to keep everyone informed. CAO Mike McGrevey stated that the two items on the claims docket that were removed were for attorney fees for the months of July and August and are payment for legitimate bills. They will be put on the next claims docket. These were encumbered in January for the entire year.

Karen Rooney with Main Street appeared and advised of a new entrepreneur seminar to be held Tuesday, August 19th at the train station from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

President Markham called for citizen comments. Those signed up to speak were: 1) Jinnell Miller; 2) Wade Demers; 3) Lucinda Johnson; 4) Ruth H. Jones.
President Markham called for council comments. Various comments were made.

An executive session was regarding potential litigation. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to make a closed determination on whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential litigation with another governmental agency. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session.

President Markham called the meeting back to order. He advised that no action would be taken 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