REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Markham.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Gary Morris of Life Church 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: remove R-1; remove R-2; add amendments to R-12 claims docket; add as R-1 a resolution authorizing the city attorney to submit a letter to Trustmark National Bank for the Meridian Airport Authority; add as P-2 a report from Dr. Alvin Taylor with the Meridian Public School District.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated December 02, 2014.

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

RESO. #5942  RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO TRUSTMARK NATIONAL BANK IN REGARD TO THE MERIDIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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

ORDER #15780  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MONTGOMERY INSTITUTE AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MERIDIAN FREEDOM PROJECT)
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. #4451 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-2 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT (PROPERTY LOCATED ON 5TH STREET EAST OF GALLAGHER CREEK) INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP 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.

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

ORDER #15781 ORDER ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF $800,000 FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MDA-KATRINA DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE PROJECT, GRANT NO. R-110-258-02-GZ)

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 #15782 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF SOCRATES GARRETT ENTERPRISES, INC., JACKSON, MS, FOR MDA KATRINA DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE PROJECT, GRANT NO. R-110-258-02-GZ

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

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

Discussion was held at this time regarding the Temporary License Agreement with HPA Northridge. The changes made to the agreement include: in Section 1.1 the period of agreement was changed to: January 1, 2015 and terminating on December 31, 2015”; and the removal of section 5.1. Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15783 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SHOPPING CENTER TEMPORARY LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HPA NORTH RIDGE, LLC AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (POLICE SUBSTATION)

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 #15784 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID COMPACT (SMAC) AMONG THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MEMA), EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY, THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS 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.

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

ORDER #15785 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF CONSTRUCTION PLUS, LLC, MERIDIAN, MS, FOR DEMOLITION OF FOURTEEN (14) HOUSES
IN THE AMOUNT OF $36,400.00

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 #15786 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK AND 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 Resolution:

RESO. #5943 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 R-1 TO DISTRICT R-3 (JANUARY 20, 2015 @ 5:15 P.M.)

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated December 11, 2014 in the amount of $2,460,977.53 with an amendment to add Purchase Order #404718 in the amount of $23,397.50 and Purchase Order #406904 in the amount of $11,125.70.
President Markham called on Mayor Bland for his report. He recapped highlights from 2014 which included: civil service/employment practices; hiring of a permanent CAO; savings on bonds; various programs in communities; plans for the new Velma Young community center; MOU with MDOT for Highway 39N; prisoner ankle bracelet monitoring by the city; changing of homeland security to the Meridian training facility to better serve the city; health care savings by going with United Health Care; downtown improvements; unemployment rate going down. He stated for 2015: department heads will continue to work hard; plan to look at a sportsplex in 2015; plans to be pro-active; look at new programs and initiatives for the city.

Dr. Alvin Taylor with the Meridian Separate School District appeared and gave an update on the school district. Common core has gone to full implementation this year. There will be a literary promotion test for 3rd graders in 2015. If 3rd graders don’t pass this test, they will be retained in the 3rd grade. They will be given three opportunities to re-test before the next school year starts. High school students must pass four classes in order to get their high school diploma. He said the school district has made a lot of gains in the last three years and will continue to do so.

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

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to make a determination on whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential litigation. 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 regular meeting back to order.

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

ORDER #15787 ORDER AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF PINNACLE TOWERS, LLC LAWSUIT

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 #15788 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL TASK ORDER PROPOSAL BETWEEN CDM SMITH AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (EPA CWA ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST 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 Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15789 ORDER DIRECTING THAT A CLAIM BE MADE FOR DAMAGES TO FIRE STATION NO. 7

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.

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