REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 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 Pastor Cathy Price with Haven Chapel United Methodist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to add as R-9 discussion of the request from The Freedom Project, add after the consent agenda a presentation to the East Mississippi Community College football team, and add an amendment to the claims docket (R-8).

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated February 04, 2014.

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

ORDER #15591 ORDER ACKNOWLEDGING AND PLACING ON MINUTES THE EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF AN INFLUENT PUMP FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 31-7-13(K), MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED

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.

At this time President Thomas presented representatives from EMCC Lions football team with a certificate of commendation and congratulations for their academic and athletic accomplishments.

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

ORDER #15592 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN
AND THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (FY 2013)

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 #15593  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPOINT H. C. “BUNKY” PARTRIDGE AS THE SUBGRANTEE GRANT ADMINISTRATOR TO PERFORM DUTIES OF THE GRANT AS SET FORTH IN THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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.

At this time were Tray Hairston with Butler, Snow, O’Mara & Stevens and Jimmy Smith with Government Consultants appeared before the Council to present the bids received from the GO Water & Sewer Bonds.  There were 3 bids received, however, one was disqualified because it did not meet the 70% rule requirements.  Another one was received after the deadline and was disqualified.  The lowest bid was from Hancock Bank, Gulfport, MS for 2.20% interest.  Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5888  RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SALE AND AWARD OF GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER AND SEWER BONDS, SERIES 2013, OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, DATED THE DATE OF DELIVERY THEREOF, 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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15594  ORDER GRANTING PERMISSION TO THE POPLAR SPRINGS HISTORIC
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TO UTILIZE A PORTION OF CERTAIN DEDICATED STREET RIGHT-OF-WAYS AND ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

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 #15595 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MARKETING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TO THE POINT COMMUNICATIONS AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (ANNUAL REPORT)

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 Order:

ORDER #15596 ORDER AUTHORIZING LEIGH M. BARBER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, TO SIGN CHECKS, EXECUTE ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS, AND TO TAKE ALL OTHER ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR L. E. SKIPPER, THE FORMER CITY CLERK

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 #15597 ORDER AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY $500.00 A MONTH RAISE FOR DEPUTY CITY CLERK LEIGH M. BARBER UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A CITY CLERK/CFO IS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated February 13, 2014 in the amount of $1,998,821.65 with an amendment to add Purchase Order No. 402404 in the amount of $1,530.00.

Appearing before the Council at this time regarding the use of a city building for the Freedom Project were Anna Stephenson, Amy Elliott, and Bill Scaggs. They have submitted the paper work that was requested and are ready to move forward with this. City Attorney Goggans stated that there should be something on the next agenda regarding this.

President Thomas advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following: a) track type tractor (dozier); b) statements of qualifications & experience for auditor for FY 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017.

President Thomas called for citizen comments by those who signed up to speak. They were: 1) Allen Shute – did not attend the meeting; 2) Marilyn Barnett (2704 Highland Avenue); and 3) Sindy Howard (406 55th Avenue).

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report. He told Ms. Barnett that they would deal with her situation with the dogs. He congratulated the Mayor’s youth council. He thanked Terrance Davis with Community Development for helping to interview these students. He congratulated Councilman Markham for his induction into the Meridian Community College Hall of Fame. The Meridian Fire Department received an award for being the #1 fire department in Mississippi. At this time Rim Ryan and Calvin Russell with Thompson Engineering appeared and gave an over-view of drainage and utility improvements that they are in charge of. The project areas are: 5th Street between 23rd & 25th Avenues, 6th Street between 22nd & 23rd Avenues, and 22nd Avenue between 5th & 8th Streets. The project includes: new and upgraded storm sewer, new water lines, new sanitary sewer line, new sidewalks to match those around the Riley Center, upgraded pedestrian facilities, new curb and gutter, new asphalt streets, and new utility duct bank on 5th Street. The design is 95% complete and the project construction period should be around nine (9) months. They will keep in touch with the businesses downtown regarding street closures, etc.

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