Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Gary Houston of New Hope Blackwater MB Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson 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-3 a resolution supporting a specialty tag honoring the Meridian Wildcats.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated December 17, 2013.

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

ORDER #15569
ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AWARD LETTER/GRANT RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FROM STATE HOMELAND SECURITY FY 11 ODP HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (GRANT NO. M11HS258T – SWIFT WATER RESCUE TRAINING)

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated January 2, 2014 in the amount of $1,622,797.02 and to add Purchase Order No. 401694 in the amount of $6,000.00.

At this time Councilman Markham presented his proposed resolution supporting a specialty tag honoring the Meridian Wildcats. He discussed the tag fee with Dr. Alvin Taylor (Superintendent of the Meridian Public Schools) and it was suggested that the $31.00 specialty tag fee be apportioned as follows: $24.00 to the Meridian Public School District (50% or $12.00
to be used for academics and for providing assistance to those schools that are in need of financial support that they do not receive from parents to level the playing field across the district; 50% or $12.00 to go to Meridian Wildcat athletics on all levels); $2.00 to the County Tax Collector, $2.00 to the State Highway Fund, $1.00 to the Mississippi Burn Center, $1.00 to the Department of Revenue, and $1.00 to Archives and History. Those who are interested in ordering this specialty tag can contact Marie Harvey with the Meridian Public School District at 601-483-6271 and pay the $31.00 tag fee. After discussion, Councilman Markham offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5884  RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIALTY CAR TAG HONORING THE MERIDIAN WILDCATS OF THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

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.

Greg Lane (2514 15th Street) appeared at this time regarding the Dr. Martin Luther King Parade and Celebration. The theme for this year is “Fifty years later: Honoring the Leaders of Today While Remembering the Warriors and Dreamer of Yesterday”. He asked the city for financial support for this event. After all costs are paid for, the money left over is given out in scholarships.

Mayor Bland announced that the City’s Freshwater System received the 2012 Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the United States Department of Health & Human Services. He continued with his Mayor’s report after this announcement. He thanked the police department for the job they did on Black Friday and are continuing to do. He encouraged people to shop locally. He asked the Council to hold a work session soon because of a lot of projects that are going on and potential litigation. He said he has been interviewing for a permanent CAO and hopes to have a confirmation ready for the first meeting in February. He will be in Washington DC during the next meeting. On Monday, January 20th Councilwoman Kim Houston will be the NAACP guest speaker at their annual breakfast at 8:00 a.m. On Tuesday, January 14th, he will be the guest speaker at MCC for their Martin Luther King Day celebration at 10:00 a.m. He said this upcoming legislative session is very important and everyone needs to be on board to support various projects.

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