REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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 Gary Houston of New Hope Blackwater MB 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 an executive session regarding litigation before citizens comments; remove R-1; add as R-6b a budget amendment for E-911 funding; add amendments to the claims docket; add as R-8 lifting the hiring freeze.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated May 06, 2014.

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

ORDER #15641 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF TASER BRAND CEW PRODUCTS AND REPAIR OF SAME FROM TASER INTERNATIONAL, INC. ON A NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS

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 Order:

ORDER #15642 ORDER DECLARING PROPERTY LOST OR STOLEN AND TO BE REMOVED FROM INVENTORY

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 Order:

ORDER #15643  ORDER DECLARING WEAPON SURPLUS AND TO BE SOLD TO RETIRED POLICE CAPTAIN MICHAEL WADE JOHNSON AS ALLOWED BY STATE LAW 45-9-131

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 Order:

ORDER #15644  ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT BETWEEN 1901 AND 1909 60TH COURT

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 #15645  ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND JONES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT (JOINT TASK FORCE)

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 #15646  ORDER AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERS (BVP) GRANT APPLICATION
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 #15647 ORDER WAIVING COST OF WATER AND SEWER TAP FEES,
ONE MANHOLE, FOUR STREET CUTS PLUS THE DEPOSITS
FOR WHITESTONE TRANSPORTATION (1 STREET & 60TH PLACE)

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 Ordinance:

ORDIN. #4437 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 3966
SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN
FROM P PUBLIC USE DISTRICT TO B-5 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
(PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2007 4TH STREET) INCLUDING AMENDING
THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously
passed by the Council to remove from the table the order authorizing execution of a preventive maintenance
agreement with The Service Company.  Councilman Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the
following Order:

ORDER #15648 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PREVENTIVE
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SERVICE COMPANY
AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (HEATING & COOLING SYSTEM)

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.

Next on the agenda was a proposed amendment to the FY 2014 budget. CAO McGrevey advised that this budget amendment was to provide the city’s portion of the funding for E-911. E-911 Director Jared Stanley appeared and made comments. Councilman Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5900 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, 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.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston to approve the claims docket dated May 15, 2014 in the amount of $4,796,490.55. Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to amend the claims docket to add Purchase Order No. 404361 in the amount of $81,333.34 for E-911 funding. Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston to amend the claims docket to add Purchase Order No. 403988 in the amount of $22,308.00 for legal service by Precious Martin, Sr. & Associates. Discussion was held regarding this amendment to the claims docket. Councilman Thomas said that he was not going to vote for this and that he had told the Mayor he would not support the city paying this. Councilwoman Henson stated was going to support this and had told the Mayor also. Councilwoman Houston stated she felt that the whole situation could have been discussed and worked out instead of going through the whole process of holding the hearing. She stated there was a statement made by the Mayor that he was going to take care of paying for this and the Council went along with it. CAO McGrevey stated the decision was made to go down that path and there were serious decisions that needed to be made. The question before them is if this is a responsibility of the city to self-police itself or the burden of someone’s personal money to identify these things. Councilwoman Houston said she understood what he was saying but it was her understanding that the Mayor was going to do this on his own. Councilman Hammon said in all fairness and no matter which route was taken, he would agree to the city paying a portion of the bill. Councilman Markham said he has issues as to the procedure followed. It is his understanding that prior to the hiring of any attorney/attorneys that there are certain issues that have to be agreed upon and a contract authorized. City Attorney Goggans stated he had given the Council members his opinion that it was proper for the city to pay for this bill. It was decided that this should be discussed with the Mayor further, therefore, Councilman Hammon withdrew his motion and Councilwoman Houston removed her second. The claims docket dated May 15, 2014 in the amount of $4,796,490.55 with an amendment to add Purchase Order No. 404361 in the amount of $81,333.34 passed by a majority vote of the Council. Voting yea: Markham, Henson,
Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #15649 ORDER REMOVING FREEZE ON THE HIRING OF ANY AND ALL CITY EMPLOYEES WHETHER FULL-TIME, PART-TIME OR TEMPORARY WITHOUT PRIOR COUNCIL APPROVAL EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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.

President Thomas advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the cutting and sale of timber at Bonita Lakes.

President Thomas called for the Mayor’s report. CAO McGrevey appeared and stated that Mayor Bland was attending a funeral and stated they only had a couple of items to report. Public Works Director Hugh Smith advised of a cave-in on I-20/59 where a main sewer line collapsed. One lane of traffic was close going east, however, MDOT has opened this lane back up. They are working with MDOT on this situation and are treating this as an emergency repair. Mr. Smith also advised that this is National Public Works Week and invited the Council members to attend their public works picnic on Thursday, May 22nd at 11:30 at the public works complex.

An executive session was requested regarding litigation. Motion was made by Council-woman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss litigation. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session.

President Thomas called the regular meeting back to order. Councilman Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5901 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CLAIM OR COUNTERCLAIM AGAINST DEAN HARPER FOR THE RECOVERY OF FUNDS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY OBTAINED FROM THE CITY OF MERIDIAN
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.

President Thomas called for citizen comments. Those who signed up to speak were: 1) Walter L. Demers; 2) Randle Jennings.

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