REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 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 Pastor Gary Houston 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-2, remove R-3, remove R-4; add as R-2 discussion regarding a homeowner rehabilitation grant through the East Central Planning and Development District; add an executive session regarding potential economic development project.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated October 21, 2014.

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

ORDER #15765 ORDER ACCEPTING A $1,000.00 GRANT FROM WALMART (MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – DARE PROGRAM)

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.

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

RESO. #5937 RESOLUTION OF INTENT OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2015 UPDATE OF THE DISTRICT 6 REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND APPOINTING H. C. “BUNKY” PARTRIDGE TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF MERIDIAN IN THESE MATTERS
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.

At this time, Mrs. Jenifer Buford with East Central Planning & Development District appeared before the Council regarding a Homeowner Rehabilitation Program Grant that the city can apply for. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson to authorize a resolution of intent to apply for this grant. Mrs. Buford said a public hearing had to be set also. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to amend the resolution of intent to set a public hearing for Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 9:15 am. Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5938  RESOLUTION OF INTENT OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN TO APPLY FOR A HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH THE EAST CENTRAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING IN REGARD TO SAID GRANT

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 #15766  ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (FISCAL YEAR 2014)

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 Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #15767  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.

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

RESO. #5939  RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

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 #15768  ORDER AUTHORIZING DEPUTY CITY CLERK LEIGH M. BARBER TO EXECUTE EXTERNAL FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated October 30, 2014 in the amount of $1,949,226.37. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay:
President Markham advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following: a) Highway 39 North signalization project.

President Markham called on Mayor Bland for his report. He urged everyone to vote. Last Thursday a meeting was held with some contractors/developers regarding city procedures and policies at community development. They are working to improve these policies and will continue to improve them to make the city business friendly. He advised that he and Councilman Hammon would be going to Chattanooga TN regarding the White House’s strong cities/strong communities initiative. He congratulated Councilwoman Houston on the Read With Me program in the schools. A Senior Prom will be held for adults 55 years and older at the Frank Cochran Center on Saturday, November 15th from 7 to 10 pm. Public works director Hugh Smith presented Teresa Thomas with a freshwater treatment award for her service. Odell Hopkins appeared and reported on the leave season which kicks off on November 18th. Casey Null appeared and went over the various holiday events that will be going on in the city.

President Markham called for citizen comments. Signed up to speak were: 1) Lucinda Johnson – did not appear; 2) Richard Lofton – did not appear.

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

An executive session was requested regarding a potential economic development project. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson 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 Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss a potential economic development project. 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 #15769 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO $75,000 PLUS PUBLIC WORKS LABOR TO RELocate SEWER LINES ON NORTH
FRONTAGE ROAD FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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.

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