REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Hammon.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Co-Pastor Linda Willis of Agape Storehouse and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to add a personnel matter to the executive session.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated August 18, 2015.

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

ORDER #15929 ORDER RE-ESTABLISHING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR FY 2016

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 #15930 ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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 #15931 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID VEHICLES TO BE SOLD

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 #15932 ORDER ACCEPTING TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY FOR THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 #15933 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF FIXED PRICE RESEARCH AGREEMENT BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (COMPREHENSIVE COMPENSATION STUDY AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK REVIEW)

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. #5988


And, Councilwoman Henson 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 Resolution:

RESO. #5989


And, Councilwoman Henson 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 #15934

ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF SRF LOAN AMENDMENT REQUEST (LOAN NO. SRF C280818-01) (REHABILITATION OF SOUTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT)

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 Order:

ORDER #15935 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF HEMPHILL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, FLORENCE, MS FOR SOUTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROCESS MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADES IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,261,153.00 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK

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 #15936 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAIN, INC., KOSCIUSKO, MS, FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND DEMOLITION OF TWENTY-SIX (26) HOUSES IN THE AMOUNT OF $94,700.00

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

ORDER #15937 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF H. E. MOSLEY, INC., MARION, MS, FOR IRRIGATION PUMPING STATION – LONG CREEK RESERVOIR IN THE AMOUNT OF $153,352.00 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK

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 #15938 ORDER TO CHARGE OFF INACTIVE AND UNCOLLECTIBLE WATER ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 IN THE AMOUNT OF $133,623.19

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 Resolution:

RESO. #5990 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 Henson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.
Abstain: Markham.

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

ORDER #15939 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ECIVIS MASTER SUBSCRIPTION AND SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ECIVIS 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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15940 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT UNITED HEALTH
CARE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 #15941 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT MET LIFE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 #15942 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT PLAN WITH VITAL CARE TO BE THE EXCLUSIVE COMPOUND DRUG PROVIDER FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 #15943 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT DELTA DENTAL GROUP DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated August 17, 2015 in the amount of $1,953,375.99. Voting yea: Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas. Abstain: Markham.

President Hammon advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following: a) ductile iron pipe.

President Hammon called on Mayor Bland for his report. He stated that town hall forum will be held throughout the city advising citizens of what is going on in the city. He advised that he would be discussing the budget with the City council at a work session on Wednesday morning. The administration will be proposing a reduction of positions and pay adjustments. He stated that the annual report will be made available to the public at various locations.

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

An executive session was requested regarding a personnel matter and economic development. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine 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 personnel matter and economic development. 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 Hammon called the regular meeting back to order. No action was taken regarding the executive session.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to amend the agenda to add discussion regarding the improvements of the old Bell South Building. (Councilman Thomas left prior to this motion and vote). Mr. Clarence Chapman advised that they will be requesting an easement and air rights use agreement with the city in order to place balconies similar to those on buildings in New Orleans.
He passed out the proposed easement and agreement and proposed plans for the improvements to the building.

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