REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Houston.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Gary Houston, of New Hope Blackwater Baptist Church 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 with removal of R-6 ‘Order authorizing Hold Harmless agreement from Estate of Frank Schillecti for road repair’ and the possibility of an Executive Session for economic development, potential litigation with possible action to follow.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated December 06, 2016.

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

ORDER #16252 ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2017 BUDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES FOR STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI

And, Councilman Hammon 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 #16253 ORDER AUTHORIZING CHANGE OF PARK LIGHTING TO LED LIGHTING (HIGHLAND, NORTHEAST AND MAGNOLIA PARKS)

And, Councilman Hammon 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 #16254 ORDER AUTHORIZING CITY OF MERIDIAN’S ATTORNEY,
GLOVER, YOUNG, HAMMACK, WALTON & SIMMONS,
PLLC TO FILE SUIT FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR
COLLECTION OF RENTS AND UTILITIES FROM KIMBERLY
HANCOCK D/B/A KREATIVE SWEETS AND KATERING

And, Councilman Hammon 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 #16255 ORDER ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATION FROM
ANONIMOUS BENEFACCTOR TO THE MERIDIAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT FOR (SWAT TEAM GEAR UPGRADE)

And, Councilman Hammon 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 #16256 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JOSEPHINE VIRGIL
HUGHES TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION
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 Markham offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16257  IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DONALD R. MASSEY TO THE MERIDIAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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 #16258  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN LPK ARCHITECTS, P.A. AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN)

And, Councilwoman Henson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Henson, Houston.
Nay: Markham, Hammon.

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

ORDER #16259  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF FY 2018 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY (IMPAIRED DRIVING)

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

ORDER #16260 ORDER WAIVING INSTALLATION AND SEWER TAP FEES FOR LAUDERDALE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT SATELLITE

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 #16261 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF REGISTERED LOBBYIST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CLAY FIRM AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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 #16262 IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AND ADOPTING STONE CREEK SUBDIVISION, A MIXED USE SUBDIVISION OF 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.
ORDER. #16263  IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AND ADAPTING
CROSS CREEK OFFICE PARK – UNIT II SUBDIVISION,
A COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF
MERIDIAN AND RESCINDING ORDER #12382
REGARDING STREET NAME

And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed
and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: Thomas.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and
passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated December 15, 2016
in the amount of $3,700,508.72. Voting yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston. Voting nay: Hammon.

President Houston called on Mayor Bland for his report: Mayor Bland said he wanted to
thank the Council for approving the Downtown Master Plan.

President Houston called for citizens comments. The citizens listed below spoke.
 a) Allen Shute
 b) Loretta Bennett

President Houston called for Council comments:

Councilman Hammon said there is a lot of conflict, a lot of people that want to take the
credit for a lot of things done and accomplished, but the bottom line is, most of these things
were initiated and put forward by the Council. So, I’ll just leave you with that.

Councilwoman Henson said she is 82 years old now and looking back beginning in 1975, I
served eight years in county government as an Election Commissioner and in 1989 I came on as a
City Councilperson and I have loved it, but I’m getting old and the Lord is telling me that my
season is over. I work with good people that do their work very well. So, this is my last
Christmas with you. Not everything is going to go perfect or always the way we want, because
we do not live in a perfect world. Since the times of Adam and Eve, when they messed up,
everything messed up. But God is going to put it back again, so thank you all.

Councilman Markham said he wants to recognize and commend Councilwoman Henson for
all the hard work and contributions she has made to make this city better for everybody. You
have served this community very well, and everyone that know city government, know that your tenure on this Council has been well done, your work speaks for itself. Councilman Markham also thanks everyone that attends or watches the meetings and participates in the city government process. And those who have common sense know that the entire Council works hard and works together. There is no me/I did it, it is everyone working together to get it done. And we will continue to work together for this community. Distractions and negativity are used to divide the masses. But those with common sense ultimately recognize it doesn’t work. I want to thank the people and organizations that put together awesome holiday events for our kids to participate in, a lot of them free. These are needed events in our community to give the kids as well as the adults something positive to look forward to, after all the negative headlines we face every day. I just want to thank everyone for all the hard work done this year, all the discussions, the sitting around the table going back and forth; but always working together in a collaborative effort to get things accomplished. Have a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Thomas read a passage on ‘Choosing A Life That Matters’ Councilman Thomas said we all embrace choices that we think matters, but a lot of times what we think matters, really doesn’t. Choosing a life that matters is not by circumstances, but by choices we make. There are five Councilmembers here, sometimes we agree and sometimes we don’t agree, but we all work together. We don’t need just one person up here making decisions; we need all five working in the five different systems and perspectives to come to a well thought out decision. Merry Christmas, and for those that do not practice Christianity, Happy Holidays.

President Houston said I want to thank you all for coming out to the City Council Meeting tonight. I want to thank the Mayor, Department Heads and the City Council. We made it through 2016, almost. There is a couple more weeks left in this year. We have all worked together and tried to do the best we can to make a difference in this city. School is out, be mindful of the children out and about on the streets. If you see a child getting out of hand, take a moment to gently correct a problem if a word of caution will help the situation. You may be surprised at the positive difference a little caring attention will make. It is the shopping season, we encourage you to shop local. We have many officers on hand and friendly store clerks that will take good care of you. On January 18, the ‘Silver Ring Thing’ is coming back to Meridian at the Evangel Temple. Get your young people out to see it, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

An executive session was requested regarding economic development, potential litigation with possible action to follow. 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. Councilman Hammon left before the session started. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss economic development, potential litigation with possible action to follow. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by
Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session.

President Hammon called the regular meeting back to order.

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

ORDER #16264 ORDER DIRECTING THAT A NOTICE TO CURE DEFAULT BE MADE TO GANGER PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ON VELMA YOUNG COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE A CLAIM UNDER THE PERFORMANCE BOND AS WELL AS ANY AND ALL OTHER CLAIMS AND REMEDIES TO WHICH THE CITY MAY BE ENTITLED

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.
Nay: None.
Absent: Hammon.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned. Sine die.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Clark, Clerk of Council