REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 05, 2016 AT 9:00 A.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 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 an amendment to remove R-7 & R-8, and to add R-11 to reappoint Jack Douglas to the board of the Meridian Airport Authority. Dr. Thomas also requested the Council hold an executive session to discuss personnel performance and evaluations.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated June 21, 2016.

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

ORDER #16119  ORDER DESIGNATING SENSUS TECHNOLOGIES AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR IPERL AND OMNI WATER METERS

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 #16120  ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT AT:
16TH STREET BETWEEN 18TH AVENUE AND 20TH AVENUE

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 #16121  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI AND COUNTY OF LAUDERDALE, MISSISSIPPI; (2015 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AWARD)

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 #16122  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND ITS GOVERNING AUTHORITIES AND THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

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.

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

ORDER #16123  ORDER AUTHORIZING HOMETOWN PUBLISHING, INC. TO PRODUCE CALENDARS FROM PICTURES TAKEN AT THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

RESO. #6067  RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, 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, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.
Abstain: Markham.

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

ORDER #16124 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTING A MONETARY DONATION FROM FRIENDS FOR THE YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

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.

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

RESO. #6068  RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE DECLARING INTENTION TO LEVY TAXES OF TWO PERCENT (2%) IMPOSED ON THE GROSS PROCEEDS OF SALES OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES AT RESTAURANTS WITHIN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2016, WITH THE REVENUE RESULTING FROM SUCH LEVY TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING, FURNISHING, AND OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD ON THE QUESTION, ESTABLISHING TUESDAY AUGUST 16, 2016 AS THE DATE FOR THE REFERENDUM AND DECLARING THAT THERE SHALL BE A SINGLE VOTING PRECINCT AND SINGLE POLLING PLACE FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI FOR SUCH REFERENDUM AND AT WHICH THE REFERENDUM WILL BE CONDUCTED, BEING THE CITY HALL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, 601 -23RD AVENUE,
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.

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

ORDER #16125 ORDER RATIFYING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND WILLIAM C. HAMMACK WITH GLOVER, YOUNG, HAMMACK, WALTON & SIMMONS, PLLC TO SERVE AS CITY ATTORNEY

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 Henson duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated June 24, 2016 in the amount of $1,371,194.97. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #16126 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JACK DOUGLAS TO THE MERIDIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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.
President Houston called on Mayor Bland for his report. Mayor Bland said the 4th of July celebration at Bonita Lakes was very successful, he thanked Laura Carmichael, Events Coordinator and Kelvin McGruder, Park & Recreation Director for all the hard work they and their staff had put in to make it a success. The Mayor thanked the Council for approving and renewing the transit service contract with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He reminded the citizens that this is reconciliation week and the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast will be held on the 8th of July. The Mayor requested a possibility of holding quarterly work sessions with Council President. Mayor Bland thanked the Council for giving the citizens an opportunity to vote on the referendum for a 2% beverage and food tax to help fund the Arts and Entertainment Experience. Two other citizens Mr. Dulaney and Mr. Gamblin spoke about this Arts and Entertainment Experience being a state of the art center, and what a great accomplishment it will be for all concerned, both culturally and economically.

President Houston called for citizens comments. Dennis Allen, Loretta Allen Bennett, and Thomas Allen Shute, appeared and spoke.

An executive session was requested regarding personnel performance and evaluations. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas 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 Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss personnel performance and evaluations. 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 Houston called the regular meeting back to order. No action was taken regarding the executive session.

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