REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 04, 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, of New Hope Blackwater 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.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated September 20, 2016.

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

ORDER #16194 ORDER AUTHORIZING A SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR JO ANN CLARK, CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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 #16195 ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF A 150 WATT HPS COBRA HEAD STREET LIGHT AT 4430 19TH STREET

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 #16196 ORDER RECORDING INTO THE MINUTES OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL THE "CERTIFICATION TO MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE"

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 Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to open discussion on R-1 Order authorizing acceptance of contract with McNeil Rhoads for Investment Grade Energy Audit. Order was discussed and motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson to Table R-1. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #16197 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. BRESENAHAN AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE PRO TEM FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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.

The hour of 9:15 a.m. having arrived, the hearing as called for in Resolution #6074 regarding unclean property was opened with motion by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council. Three persons signed up to speak: 1) Linda Jordan, 2) Charles Young, Jr., 3) Andre’ Davis. Code Enforcement Officer, Wiley Quinn presented a slide presentation of each property on the list of thirty-nine (39) properties. Each person signed up to speak was given an opportunity to speak concerning their property. Wiley Quinn requested the property at 2015 20th Avenue be removed from this list of properties.
because it has been brought up to compliance. Code Enforcement Officer, Wiley Quinn advised that the other properties were still unclean and a menace to the health and safety of the community. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to close the hearing.

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

RESO. #6081 RESOLUTION ADJUDICATING PARCELS OF LAND TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY

And, Councilman Hammon seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

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

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

ORDER #16198 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF EASEMENT WITH BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LLC, DBA AT&T MISSISSIPPI

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 Markham offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6082 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF 2016 CONTRACT FOR THE USE OF THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY JAIL

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 Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6083  RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI (THE “CITY”), APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY, OR THE ISSUANCE OF A QUALIFIED OBLIGATION BOND OF THE CITY FOR PURCHASE BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK OR FOR THE TO BORROW FUNDS BY ENTERING INTO A LOAN WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK, ALL IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS ($20,000,000) TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING, AND FURNISHING THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, INCLUDING A CONFERENCE CENTER, A PERFORMANCE ARTS THEATER, AN AMPHITHEATER AND AN ARTISTS’ VILLAGE, AS AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE BILL 1770 OF THE 2005 REGULAR SESSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE; SECTIONS 21-33-301 ET. SEQ., AS AMENDED; SECTIONS 31-25-1 ET.SEQ., AS AMENDED; AND SECTION 39-25-1, ET. SEQ., MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED; AND TO PAY THE COST OF ISSUANCE FOR THE BONDS

And, Councilman Thomas 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 #16199  ORDER AMENDING ORDER #16139 APPROVING AN OVERLAY AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIGNAGE PERMITS FOR A SPECIFIED AREA AROUND BONITA LAKES MALL

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

RESO. #6084 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 4397 ENTITLED “RESOLUTION ADOPTING INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR THE MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT” TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE

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 Order:

ORDER #16200 ORDER APPROVING THE ADDITION OF ONE (1) CIVIL SERVICE BILLET TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN WORK 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.

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

ORDER #16201 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2016 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2017 FOR HYDRATED LIME FROM UNIMIN LIME CORP. D/B/A SOUTHERN LIME COMPANY, CALERA, AL

And, Councilwoman 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 Hammon offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16202 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2016 THRU OCTOBER
19, 2017 FOR HYDROFLUOROSILICIC ACID FROM HARCROS
CHEMICALS, INC., VICKSBURG, MS

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

ORDER #16203 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2016 THRU OCTOBER
19, 2017 FOR LIQUID ALUM FROM GEO SPECIALTY
CHEMICALS, INC., LITTLE ROCK, AR

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

ORDER #16204 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2016 THRU OCTOBER
19, 2017 FOR LIQUID CHLORINE FROM ALLIED UNIVERSAL
CORP., MIAMI, FL

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

ORDER #16205  ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2016 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2017 FOR POLYMER FROM POLYDYNE, INC., RICEBORO, GA

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

ORDER #16206  ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2016 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2017 FOR SULFUR DIOXIDE FROM ALLIED UNIVERSAL CORP., MIAMI, FL

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

ORDER #16207  ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2017 BUDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Markham and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated September 29, 2016 in the amount of $2,019,576.97. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston. Voting nay: Thomas, Hammon.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16208   ORDER ADOPTING REVISED CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

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 Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:
   a) Requests for Proposals (RFP) Pavement condition index.

President Houston called on Mayor Bland for his report. Mayor Bland said Wiley Quinn has a tough job getting this information together trying to bring properties into compliance. We continue to work to get things done and up to code, and the Council has a tough job, but it has to be done. The bottom line is that one to three notices were sent out to owners of thirty-nine (39) properties, people must take responsibility to maintain their property for themselves and for the safety of the community. Mayor Bland said the 22nd Avenue project is complete and the work on 24th Avenue is on schedule, there is work going on in Meridian. At North Hills Street and Poplar Springs Drive new buildings are going up, we should be proud of this. Mayor Bland gave thanks to the Community Development Director, Bunky Partridge and his staff for doing a good job. He thanked Hugh Smith, Public Works Director and his staff for jobs well done. Hugh said APAC is already paving the roads, they started last Friday. And if weather holds we should see a lot of paving done before the winter months set in. Hugh said the in-house paving equipment should all be in by the end of the year, and we should start our own paving by spring. The goal is to be able to do a lot of the paving ourselves. Hugh said he will email the paving schedule of where APAC will be working.

Mayor Bland said there was a Work Force Alliance meeting held Tuesday, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. There is also a partnership with Mississippi Power for a job fair to be held Sat., Oct. 15, 2016 and Sat., Oct. 29, 2016. Mayor Bland reminded us that Saturday, October 08, 2016 is your last opportunity to register to vote in the upcoming Presidential Election, so anyone that isn’t already registered to vote, go register.

President Houston called for citizens comments. Dennis R. Allen did not appear. The citizens b-f listed below spoke.
   a) Dennis R. Allen
   b) Christine Mosley
   c) Allen Shute
President Houston called for Council comments:

Councilman Hammon said he understands where the firemen are coming from concerning their issues with fire department leadership. He said he encountered the same issues when trying to request disciplinary action at the police department for not enforcing the ordinances. He was met with ridiculous statements saying that he was only concerned with ordinance to enforce the saggy pants laws. Councilman Hammon said it is also embarrassing, the reasons that some people give for not taking care of their property. And that these properties have to come before the council to take action on the unclean and hazardous conditions they have become in the community. Councilman Hammon said he worked with Community Development for more than a year to get an environment court in place to handle these problems. On the issue of projects put before the council, I have never heard so many unnecessary words spoken. When a proposal showing this is the problem, this is what it is costing you now, here is the solution and what it will cost to fix it, and here are your savings is all it would take to answer all questions. But, when we ask for more information, such as, what cities have used you, what were their results, how much did it cost, people seem astounded. Questions like these are standard and answers need to be given, so the Council can make good decisions for our city!

Councilwoman Henson said when she married; she married into a family with a bunch of firemen. Her husband’s father was a fire chief and her husband Ralph was a firefighter. She said one day Ralph came home from the fire department and said he was never going back there again, he said he was sick of all the grumbling and complaining. He only had one year left to retire from the department, but he quit that day, and never went back. Councilwoman Henson said the fire department will never be what some of the firemen want it to be, but, Chief Clayton is a fine chief.

Councilman Markham thanked everyone for coming out. He said from the comments made concerning the fire department, there appears to be no lines of communication open to handle grievances. He said employees don’t have the authority to make certain changes and sometimes ears need to be opened to hear employee concerns. Addressing the questions on the energy audit, there are specific facts that the Council needs to be able to look at before making a decision on the matter of a more than $74,000.00 energy audit, which could be a little bit less or a whole lot more. He wanted to commend all that attended the homecoming game for Meridian High School. They lost the game, it was a huge crowd there, and everyone had a good time. Councilman Markham wanted to thank his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Mt. Olive Baptist Church in their partnership to host the voter registration drive held on September 24.

Councilman Thomas said that 40% of the people don’t want to vote for either candidate on the ticket for the November election, but there are other people on the ballot for other offices, so please vote. Councilman Tomas said he is always pushing for progress, and he will continue to do so. The downtown street project on 22nd Avenue is complete, and he has gotten a lot of compliments from people saying how much they like it. Councilman Thomas said the Meridian High School academic team was #1 in a recent academic competition. They beat out other public,
private, and parochial schools in the competition. There is a lot of opportunity there to excel, and Meridian High School far exceeds other high schools in academics and opportunity. Dr. Carter is making great strides to make the school system strong. This is a critical part of our success and growth in the city. The support for the schools is great, there were exceptional crowds of students, parents and faculty, showing community support and involvement. The cooperative production between Meridian High School and Meridian Community College was a very good production with an exceptional crowd attending.

President Houston said Amen, and thanked all the department heads and city administration that come out to support the community meeting. She said it was well attended, even with the meeting being held at a different time of year and at a different location, the community came out to voice their concerns. A lot of information was given and received. President Houston reminded everyone that October is ‘Breast Cancer Awareness Month’; and please continue your support of the efforts to fight this disease. President Houston urged everyone to be prayerful for our department heads and our leaders, because it takes a lot to be in any of these positions, we are all a team. President Houston reminded us of scripture, “A house divided cannot stand.” And as always, give your support to our kids, by volunteering in the schools and supporting their activities.

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