REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

Present: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.

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 T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda with amendment: Remove R-5 Order authorizing agreement with Data Management, Inc., for electronic time-cards and scheduling at the fire department.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated August 01, 2017.

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

ORDER #16395 ORDER DIRECTING THAT AN ACCOUNT BE SET-UP FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATED TO THE PAYMENT FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE SOLVING OF CRIMES AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16396 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO
LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND
AUTHORIZING SAID VEHICLES TO BE SOLD

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO. #6128 RESOLUTION CALLING HEARING TO DETERMINE
WHETHER OR NOT CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND ARE
IN SUCH A STATE OF UNCLEANLINESS AS TO BE A
MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16397 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM MARKETING 2017-2018 GRANT AWARDED TO CITY OF MERIDIAN’S EARTH’S BOUNTY

And, Councilman T. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Councilman T. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following
ORDER:

ORDER #16398 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM MARKETING 2017-2018 GRANT AWARDED TO CITY OF MERIDIAN’S MERRY MERIDIAN MARKET EVENT

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16399 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM MARKETING 2017-2018 GRANT AWARDED TO CITY OF MERIDIAN’S MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

And, Councilman T. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16400 IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AND ACCEPTING AN OFFER TO DEDICATE ADDITIONAL STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF 65TH AVENUE SOUTH @ “H” STREET FROM SRIBLING EQUIPMENT, LLC

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO #6129
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO BATHSHEBA GRAND CHAPTER ORDER OF EASTERN STAR, PHAL INC. (2918 5TH STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO #6130
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO THE FIREHOUSE CHURCH (3718 8TH STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO #6131
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO NEW BEGINNINGS HOLINESS CHURCH (415 43RD AVE.) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED
And, Councilman T. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO #6132 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO NEW CANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH/WORSHIP CENTER (4822 26TH STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO #6133 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO NEW CANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH/PARKING LOT (4820 26TH STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:
RESO #6134 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO NEW CANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH/PARSONAGE (2608 STATE BOULEVARD) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.  
Nay: None.

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

RESO #6135 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO WELLSPRING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL CHURCH (1719 17TH STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.  
Nay: None.

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

RESO #6136 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.  
Nay: None.
Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated August 10, 2017 in the amount to $3,613,385.16.

President Thomas advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:

a.) Requests for Proposals (RFP) Lease Purchase Financing of $1,000,000.00 for FY 2018

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland said he wants to invite everyone out to the Community Forum that Councilwomen Houston and Johnson are presenting. Mayor Bland said he and his department heads will be in attendance. The forum will be held at the Boys and Girls Club on August 17th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The Mayor said the city will host a 5th Street Festival kickoff on the newly opened block of 5th Street & 25th Avenue, this Friday, August 18th from 7:00 – 11:30 p.m. and we want all to come out and enjoy the shows and activities. I want to reiterate the words stated in the opening prayer_ we truly are one city, one community, and one people. Mayor Bland said, ‘we all have our work to do as a city body, and every citizen is important to us. Let us continue to pray that the tragic things that are happening in other cities around the United States and around this World never happen in our city.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

a) Allen Shute – spoke on city issues

b) Eddie Bynum – backyard pipe break

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann said he wanted to thank everyone for coming out to the City Council meeting and we have the block party on 5th Street at 7:00 p.m., so I hope to see you there. I also want to talk about the E-911 Commission Meeting I had an opportunity to go to last week. I didn’t know anything about the meeting until I walked in. Later on the news I found out the County wants the City to pay for half of this technology the commission is asking for. City taxpayers are also county taxpayers and it’s not the same to ask the city to pay half, when city taxpayers have already paid because they are residents of the city and county, half makes city taxpayers pay again. So we have to be fair when we talk about splitting costs. And I’ll say to the people of Charlottesville, VA, ‘our thoughts and prayers go out to you’.

Councilwoman Houston said good evening to everybody; we thank you for coming out this evening. We do want to invite you out Thursday night to our annual community gathering that we are having at the Boys and Girls Club. Wards 3 & 4 are teaming up to make it easier on the
administration so they don’t have to bounce around as much. If anybody would like a flyer to take to their church, community friends and family I have some here. We would love to have great participation. I know we took item number five off of the agenda, but based on our audit we really need a way to keep up with time management, so hopefully that will come back up again. Thank you for coming, we are here to serve you. So if there are things happening, be sure to let us know so we can do what we can to make sure you are connected to the right people to answer your concerns. If it’s legal we can do it and if it’s not, we can communicate that to you as well.

Councilwoman Johnson said thank you all for coming out, and as Kim said, we hope to see you at the community forum on Thursday night August 17, 2017, so you can let us know what is going on. If we don’t know about an issue, we can’t address it. We can’t make everybody happy, but we should be able to give everybody some type of answers to their questions. Again, thank you for coming out tonight.

Councilman Johnson said good evening, I want to thank everybody for going out to support all the back to school events. These last few weeks the kids have really been excited about returning to school. I really want to thank Terrance and Mr. McGruder for all the time and effort put into getting the kids what they need. Some of the kids told me to tell you specifically, so thank you guys. I was invited to attend a leadership conference last week by Rev. Houston, and it was very interesting. It teaches a whole lot about leadership and I look forward to taking in more leadership classes and taking on new roles as I learn this new city council position. This Saturday, August 19th we are having a cemetery clean-up on 10th Avenue & 24th Street, at 10:00 a.m., it’s called the Edgewood Cemetery. The cemetery is located right on the corner; if you need more information please see me after the meeting. I hope to see you all out there this Saturday, thank you.

Councilwoman Houston said, “The Stennis Institute is having a symposium about ‘Women in Politics’, and I have been selected as an Elected Official Representative from this Grand State. People from across Mississippi will be there Saturday morning, August 19, 2017, for a panel discussion. The Mayor from Pelahatchie, me, and another female representative will all be on panel talking about the issues of women getting involved in the political process. So this will be a big undertaking, and I am inviting everyone to come to the event and pray for me”.

President Thomas said he wants to congratulate Brandye Latimer (Assistant Director of Finance & Records) for being selected as one of Meridian’s top 20 under 40. It’s quite an accomplishment, a big deal and it’s great for her and good for the city, since she represents the Mayor and the rest of the city where she works. William Lamar, as many of you know, had a Scout project Sunday afternoon out at Planet Playground in an attempt to broaden some interest back to the playground and to raise some money with his hand crafted towels. If you didn’t have a chance to participate he’s going to do that again. But, again you have a young man willing to go out and do this on his time, and organize his Eagle Scout project. I just appreciate him taking the time to put this together and organizing, he had some help but it was his project. Councilman Thomas than read a proclamation that Ms. Ruth Jones asked him to read for her deceased mother, Mrs. Maggie Mae Hall Jones Nash.
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