REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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 W. C. Brown of 5th Street Baptist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the council to confirm the agenda with amendments R-1 [Correct typo errors by changing the year to 2018], R-11 [including three additional payments to the claims docket; P O #801605 for 5,000.00, PO #801606 for 3,000.00 and PO #800098 for 25,416.67], and [adding an Executive Session concerning a personnel matter]. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated December 05, 2017. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER #16471 ORDER DESIGNATING TCS WARE AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER OF THE L-3 COMMUNICATIONS MOBILE VISION INC. BODY CAMERAS, SOFTWARE AND STORAGE FOR THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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.

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

ORDER #16472 ORDER DESIGNATING MODERN OUTFITTERS AS THE
SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR THE “MODERN CARBINE RIFLE”
TO BE USED BY THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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.

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

ORDER #16473 ORDER AUTHORIZING CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE JANUARY 02, 2018 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO JANUARY 03, 2018

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

RESO. #6159 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, 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 Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16474 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JONATHAN C. BELL
TO THE MERIDIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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.

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

ORDER #16475 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ALAN LAMAR TO THE MERIDIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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

ORDER #16476 IN THE MATTER OF: THE APPOINTMENT BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ANNIE M. MCMILLAN TO THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION

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 #16477 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (TRAINING FACILITY)
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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4494 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM R-2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Ordinance 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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4495 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM AGRICULTURE DISTRICT TO B-2 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Ordinance 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 #16478 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK AT THE PERCENTAGE RATE OF 1.89% FOR LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING OF FLEET VEHICLES FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS AND AUTHORIZING
EXECUTION OF FINANCING DOCUMENTS

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 #16479 ORDER AUTHORIZING A ONE-YEAR SOURCE OF SUPPLY CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR WORK SHOES AND BOOTS BETWEEN THE BOOT STORE ON WHEES AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

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

RESO. #6160 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, URGING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO SUBMIT DEBTS OWED TO THE MUNICIPALITIES AND TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AS A RESULT OF DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL COURT FINES AND FEES TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FOR COLLECTION THROUGH A SETOFF AGAINST STATE INCOME TAX REFUNDS OWED TO THE DEBTOR

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. #6161 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, 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, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated December 14, 2017 in the amount of $2,088,583.84 with added amendments of $33,416.67 bringing the claims docket total amount to $2,122,000.51. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

President Thomas called on Ricky Hood, of the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi for his presentation:

Mr. Hood said that on an average day, over the five locations, the club sees over 600 kids. They serve over 515 meals and 635 snacks. The organization appreciates the city’s allocation this year. The jobs program has been an awesome success and the community is blessed to have the organization here. We have grown to the point where we have 71 year round workers. The budget for the club this year is 2.3 million dollars, and of course this is private donations, allocations, partnerships, grant money, etc. We wanted to express our thanks to the city for all the help given to the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi.

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland presented the spirit award to the Boys and Girls Club for this year’s Christmas Parade. Ricky Hood thanked the Mayor for the award, and his comment was, “All we do at the Boys and Girls Club is Win!” Mr. Hood talked about the great partnership the club has with the city and all the help received from the Park & Recreation Director, Kelvin McGruder. Councilman Thomas asked Mr. McGruder about the repair of the carousel and the roof leak at the Frank Cochran Center. Mr. McGruder said the motor rebuild should take about four to six weeks and the contractor is working on finding the leaks to repair them at the center, and reporting that there is a 10 years warranty on that roof. Mayor Bland said he wants to mention the activities that went on last weekend, especially the unveiling of the stars for the Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience. The inductees and family members were present for the event. This is an exciting time for our
city with all of the projects happening and progress being made with the Threefoot Building project the Mississippi Children’s Museum and all of the other projects happening in the city. We are looking for ways to improve our city with new ways of creating and maintaining prosperity in our city.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

a) Allen Shute – did not appear

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann said the cities of Jackson, Ridgeland, Pearl, Brandon, Clinton and Madison, have all come out in favor of our proposed resolution that the state gives a fair share of the sales tax diversion back to the cities. So progress is being made, it’s just a matter of getting to the legislatures now, because they begin their session in January. And I wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Houston said of course we are going to emphasize again “shop local!” There are a lot of places to shop here in the city, and you will be protected by our police. Take someone with you and don’t leave items on the seat of your car. Let’s lock our doors, don’t carry loads around, be a smart shopper. Shop local, we need those dollars. I want to encourage you to take an active interest in the welfare of our youth. Councilman T. Johnson and I attended a meeting about our youth last night and it was very interesting. And it sent a statement to me that we as a community need to help our school district; take our district back. We want to talk about economic development and other things that can bring resources into our city. Our public schools are vital to this community, and if Meridian Public Schools fail in any shape, form or fashion, we all fail. So, I ask you to take an active interest, get involved, and show love. We have a school break going on right now, but if you would show up and ask the principal what you can do to help, I’m sure they can give you something to do. If you can’t do anything in school, our Start Something Mentoring Program kicks off in January. This program started last year designed for middle school girls. So if you know of any middle school girls that might benefit from this program please have them see me. And again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Mayor Bland and the team, thank you for all you’ve done this year. We are making great strides and progress in the city and we are doing it together. So on behalf of the Council, I think we all appreciate what you all do. I look forward to 2018.

Councilwoman F. Johnson said it has been an amazing few months thanks to all the city leaders, department heads and all the citizens. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everybody be safe. Shop local and as Kim said, get involved with our youth, it may be an old fashioned refrain, but our children are our future, Merry Christmas.

Councilman T. Johnson said Merry Christmas to everyone. It has been a hectic six months, and I want to thank the Council, the Mayor and Department Heads for all the good advice. It’s been a lot of information to try to take in, but I think I’m catching on now. We
definitely look forward to working with the Mayor and Department Heads to try to move this city forward. Just shop local, thank you all.

Council President Thomas said there are a lot of folks in Meridian and there is a lot of need. But please remember when you are buying presents for children and grandchildren, that there are lots of children out there, that without the public’s help, they won’t get anything. Whether it’s Hanukkah, whether it’s Christmas, or whatever you celebrate, there’s a desperate need out there. I know these agencies around are asking for help, there’s just a lot of folks that need it. Just one gift extra to one of these agencies make a lot of difference, a few dollars makes a lot of difference. It’s sad to see children on these holidays get almost nothing. A lot of us when we were young got an apple and orange and that was great. A lot of us didn’t get an apple or an orange, but we are well pass apples and oranges now, please give. Again, thank you all for coming and we will see you the first week in January 2018.

An executive session was requested regarding a personnel matter. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss a personnel matter. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session. No action was taken.

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