REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 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 Clara Newell and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda with amendment to Add executive session concerning economic development.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated July 06, 2017.

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

ORDER #16375 ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO BE DISCARDED

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 Order:

ORDER #16376 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF USE OF OFFICE SPACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THEIR PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
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. #6126 RESOLUTION AND ORDER DESIGNATING AND AUTHORIZING OFFICE OF MAYOR AND/OR OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO MAKE APPLICATIONS, EXECUTE LOAN AGREEMENTS AND ANY AMENDMENTS AND TO SIGN DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, FOR THE DRINGING WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND RURAL WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS BOARD – LOAN NUMBER DWI-L380005-01 AND TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS

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 Order:

ORDER #16377 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 BETWEEN HEMPHILL CONSTRUCTION CO. AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (WWTP PROCESS MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADES)

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

ORDER #16378 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION
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 #16379 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE MERRY MERIDIAN MARKET ACTIVITIES

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

ORDER #16380 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE MERIDIAN MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

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

ORDER #16381 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGENCY OF RECORD AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEADING EDGES, LLC 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 F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16382 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT D. JONES AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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 #16383 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF AMANDA RAINEY AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HER SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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 #16384 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF PAMELA BITTICK AS ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HER SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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 #16385 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MASTER TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONTACT NETWORK, INC., D/B/A INLINE AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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 Order:

ORDER #16386 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF WATERS INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, INC., MERIDIAN, MS FOR TWO (2) TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF $219,260.40

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 #16387 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GEORGE CULPEPPER TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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 #16388  IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF RICK ENTREKIN TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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 #16389  IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF CATHERINE JONES TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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 #16390  IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JOSEPHINE VIRGIL HUGHES TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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 #16391  IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARY WILSON TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION
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 Resolution:

RESO. #6127 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 Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated July 13, 2017 in the amount to $2,621,017.87.

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland reminded everyone that Wednesday night at the Temple Theatre Northcrest Baptist Church will be having their Love Out Loud Service and the service for Friday night will be held on the City Hall Lawn; everyone is invited. Parks and Recreation will have a ball tournament and all are encouraged to attend. The Mayor expressed his sorrow and dismay concerning the death of the three year old child over the weekend, and he said there are some things you just can’t control. Mayor Bland also let the Council know that he is looking forward to working with them on the upcoming budget, and he wants them to listen to his proposals as he will listen to their proposals to work as a team as we go through the budget process. Dr. Thomas asked when the Council will receive the proposed budget, and David Whitaker, CFO said the plan is to get the budget to the Council within the first week in August. Hugh Smith reported that the fifth street paving project should be complete within the next two weeks. Kelvin McGruder said they had a few issues with the drainage and the parking lot on the Velma Young Project and the County was going back in to correct it. Yolanda Edmonds spoke on the second annual Meridian Day. She said it will be held on August 26, 2017. There will be lots of vendors, music, games, cake walk, and plenty of activities for the kids.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.
a) Allen Shute – spoke on city issues

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Various comments were made.

An executive session was requested regarding economic development. Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson 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 Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss economic development. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session. President Thomas called the regular meeting back to order. 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