REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2017 AT 9:00 A.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 Timothy Jones of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the council to confirm the agenda with amendments. Adding R-7 (Authorizing Brandye Latimer to sign checks, etc.). Removing R-1 (Authorizing acceptance of Blue Cross & Blue Shield Grant) and R-3 (Authorizing acceptance of lease purchase financing for fleet vehicles). Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated October 17, 2017. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16452 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN MICHAEL JOHNSON D/B/A CAMPGROUND TRAILER PARK 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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16453 ORDER DESIGNATING WATCHGUARD VIDEO AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERA SYSTEMS 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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16454 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLE SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID VEHICLE TO BE SOLD

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16455 ORDER DECLARING ITEMS SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS HAND HELD RADIOS TO BE DESTROYED

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16456 ORDER ACCEPTING GRANT AWARD FROM GAME-TIME FOR THE PLAYGROUND AREA AT VELMA YOUNG

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 Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:

ORDI. #4493    ORDINANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING THAT PORTION OF 5TH STREET ADJACENT TO SLAY STEEL, IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

And, Councilman T. 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 Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6152    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO CONVEY THE CLOSED, VACATED AND ABANDONED PORTION OF 5TH STREET ADJACENT TO SLAY STEEL

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated November 03, 2017 in the amount to $6,289,956.10 with amendment to remove payment #800724 for $200,000.00 bringing the new claims docket total to $6,089,956.10. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

Councilman Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16457 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING (CAFR) AWARD

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 Order:

ORDER #16458 ORDER AUTHORIZING BRANDYE S. LATIMER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, TO SIGN CHECKS, EXECUTE ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS, AND TO TAKE ALL OTHER ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR DAVID C. WHITAKER, CITY CLERK/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland said he wants to remind everyone about the Veteran’s Day Parade on November 11, 2017. And on Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. the Merry Meridian Market Event will be held at the MSU Riley Center. Mayor Bland presented a proclamation to Ms. Sue Thompson, the daughter of former Meridian Mayor, William Smylie. Mayor Smylie served from 1953 thru 1957; he was instrumental in securing the Navy Base for the City of Meridian. Mayor Smylie also brought in the 22nd Avenue Bridge to Downtown Meridian which opened the way for business to continue at full operation when trains were blocking the tracks, by allowing traffic to cross over to the downtown area. The proclamation for Mayor Smylie is sorely deserved. Alesha Jordan accepted an award for a successful Nickelodeon Day Event. Hugh Smith gave a report on the paving being done in the city.

David Kelly of Chartre Consulting Ltd gave an update of the progress made on the affordable homes project his company is undertaking in Meridian. He said the lots are cleared, all the reverters are almost complete and there will be movement on the renovation of the old telephone building within the next year. The building project will entail about 50 new homes in
Ward 4.

Mayor Bland announced the Child Safety and First Responder Weekend with fingerprinting kits for parents to keep as another identification record of their children; this event will be held at 1st Assembly of Meridian on Hwy 19 North, November 11 & 12, 2017.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

a) Allen Shute – did not appear
b) Dennis Ray Allen - spoke
c) Sam Bell – did not speak
d) Serrena Ivy - spoke
e) Jamaal R. Barksdale - spoke

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann said the young entrepreneurs program at the high school is meeting every two weeks and it is going well. Councilman Lindemann has produced a podcast with an interview with a member of the Public Service Commission; the podcast should be up on his page by November 07, 2017.

Councilwoman Houston said she had the opportunity to go out to the Lakeview Golf Course over the weekend and it was quite an experience. She encourages citizens to volunteer at the schools, and for those already volunteering, thank you and please continue to do so.

Councilwoman Houston has a program for mentoring middle school girls, and please get in contact with her if anyone is interested in joining. Councilwoman Houston said the donations of uniforms for middle school kids is going slowly, but still going. And a reminder of the prayer breakfast at Rush Hospital on November 11, 2017.

Councilwoman Johnson said she is hearing more positive things about Meridian from the people that don’t live here, rather than from the citizens of Meridian. She wants to thank the city workers and citizens for all the good things they do in and for Meridian.

Councilman Johnson said we too often overlook the positive things we have; we need to be more cognizant of the good things our community has to offer. On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Velma Young Center, there will be a seminar on record expungement to check on the possibility of removing some items for those persons that has something on their record that may be preventing them getting a job.

President Thomas said I am glad we are all able to hear the different ideas and opinions expressed here today, we all appreciate the diversity on the council. At 10:30 this morning at the Riley Center, the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian will have a big announcement; everyone is invited to be there. There was a lot going on this last weekend and there is always something happening at the Riley Center, the Temple Theatre, the Art Museum, MCC Arts &
Entertainment Series, Highland Park, and the list goes on and on. Take advantage of the things available. And like Kim, I want to thank all of those people that volunteer to help!

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