REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 Robert Cain of St. John Missionary 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 an amendment to the agenda by adding R-11 (Allowing Blues Trail Marker); R-12 (Appointing Patrick Jordan, Jr. as Public Defender); and R-13 (Robert Dreyfus as needed attorney for the city). 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 unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated October 03, 2017.

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

ORDER #16437 ORDER ADOPTING REVISED SPECIAL EVENT/PARADE PERMIT APPLICATION

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. #6149 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 Lindemann 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 #16438 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO GAME-TIME FOR COMPLETION OF PLAYGROUND AREA

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 #16439 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR BONITA LAKES PLAYGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT

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 #16440 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT NETWORK

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 #16441 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS LEASE CONTRACT BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (TWO STATIONS FOR 60 MONTHS)

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 #16442 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2017 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2018 FOR HYDRATED LIME FROM UNIMIN LIME CORP. D/B/A SOUTHERN LIME COMPANY, CALERA, AL

And, Councilman Lindemann 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 #16443 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2017 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2018 FOR HYDROFLUOROSILICIC ACID FROM UNIVAR USA, INC., KENT, WA
And, Councilman Lindemann 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 #16444 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2017 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2018 FOR LIQUID ALUM FROM GEO SPECIALTY CHEMICALS, INC., LITTLE ROCK, AR

And, Councilman Lindemann 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 #16445 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2017 THRU OCTOBER 19, 2018 FOR LIQUID CHLORINE FROM ALLIED UNIVERSAL CORP., MIAMI, FL

And, Councilman Lindemann 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 #16446 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF
SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2017
THRU OCTOBER 19, 2018 FOR POLYMER FROM
POLYDYNE, INC., RICEBORO, GA

And, Councilman Lindemann 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 #16447 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF
SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2017
THRU OCTOBER 19, 2018 FOR SULFUR DIOXIDE
FROM ALLIED UNIVERSAL CORP., MIAMI, FL

And, Councilman Lindemann 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. #6150 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.

Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16448 ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2018 BUDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES

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, Houston.
Nay: None
Abstain: F. Johnson, Lindemann.

No discussion was held by Councilmembers on the contributions requests. Councilmember were given a spreadsheet with the list of organizations that applied for a donation and their requested amount. Each Councilmember listed the amount they wanted donated and returned the sheet to the Clerk of Council to tally combined totals for organizations receiving a donation. Councilwoman Houston did not contribute at all to Youth Excitement Team, Inc. Councilwoman F. Johnson did not contribute to any organization and abstained from the vote. Councilman Lindemann did not contribute to any organization and abstained from the vote.

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

RESO. #6151 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD TO GIPSON STEEL, INC., FOR ADDITIONS, EXPANSIONS OR REPLACEMENTS AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-105 ET SEQ., 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.

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 October 12, 2017 in the amount to $3,466,603.00. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16449  ORDER GRANTING PERMISSION TO MERIDIAN/LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU TO UTILIZE A PORTION OF CERTAIN DEDICATED STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY AND CITY OWNED PROPERTY, AND APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A MARKER AGREEMENT

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 #16450  IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF EARL PATRICK JORDAN, JR., AS PUBLIC DEFENDER EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 18, 2017 FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS 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 #16451  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AS-NEEDED BASIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT M. DREYFUS, PLLC (ATTORNEY AT LAW) 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
President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland said we would like to give our condolences to the Frank Family. Miles Frank passed away last night. As you all know, Miles was serving on our Airport Authority Board and he has served on many other boards in the City of Meridian over the years, he will be missed. For all of you that came out to our ‘Healthy Hometown’ kickoff celebration last Thursday, thank you for coming out. We are trying to market ourselves better as it relates to healthcare and help to create a healthy community here in Meridian. This will also help with grant proposals for the city to create and maintain parks and playgrounds for activities that promote a healthier lifestyle for our citizens. Tuesday, October 24th from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. we are having our annual Candy Crawl in the downtown area with over thirty downtown businesses participating. The Wheelchair Basketball game will be this Saturday, October 21st at 5:00 p.m., please come out to Carver Middle School to cheer the teams on. The entire City Council and I will be participating. This Saturday, October 21st is Wechsler Day from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Wechsler School Building, with parade, games, prizes and music. On October 29th we will have our Punt, Pass & Kick event for boys and girls ages 6-15. The winners will get to go to the Superdome in New Orleans for the final meet. And last of all, we are not trying to cut any park programs, we did let some of the game officiators go at some of the football and basketball games. I and my Department Heads had to make some tough decisions because of the budget crunch. We may have to offer those programs in a different way from the way they have been offered in the past. But those are some of the decisions we had to make to stay in line with our budget.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

- No comments were made

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann said good evening and thank you all for coming. First of all, one thing I am working on is the possibility of creating an Opioid Task Force, there is a great need to get at this issue before it explodes in Lauderdale County. Hopefully by next council meeting we will have a resolution in place to create that task force. Secondly, I have been working with Meridian Public School District to establish an entrepreneur program at the ninth grade academy where they have a freshman focus class. It is basically designed to be career oriented and really open the students’ eyes to the possibilities they have ahead of them. And we will couple that with a 30 minute session once a week starting in two weeks. This will basically be about being an entrepreneur and some of the skills and knowledge that come with that, such as hard work, motivation, and things like that. So, in two weeks we will kick it off with a diverse group of community leaders and entrepreneurs that will come and talk with the students, engage with them, help them learn the ropes. From there we hope to have various field trips and different opportunities; and eventually we will get together a panel of judges from this
area to do a mock ‘Shark Tank’ like the ABC show. So the kids will get together and create business plans and propose them to the judges and maybe win some prizes, I haven’t worked out all the details to that. But, I’m really looking forward to it and it will be a great program for the public schools.

Councilwoman Houston said good afternoon everybody, thank you all for coming out to our council meeting. The website looks really good Mayor, I appreciate that upgrade it was a really good decision. There is a revival at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, starting tonight at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Mable Otis would you come up to tell us about Wechsler Weekend, so we will all be clear about what’s happening. Ms. Otis said she is representing the Wechsler Foundation and we are having a great celebration this weekend, with three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Wechsler Day is going to be a Downhome Homecoming. We are trying to bring people back to Wechsler to see what we are doing. On Friday from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. at Frank Cochran Center there will be a ‘Meet & Greet Evening’. Saturday at 9:00 a.m. we will assemble at the Meridian Public Schools Central Office for a parade that will take you back to Wechsler School which was built in 1894, and on the Wechsler grounds there will be a maypole, cake walk, and various other activities. Sunday evening we will close it out at St. Paul United Methodist Church, at 3:00 p.m. Jonas Crenshaw, Jr., will be in from Philadelphia to sing with the Community Gospel Singers for some downhome gospel music. The week following this event, Wechsler will receive a grant of $100,000.00 from the Department of Archives and History to put a new roof on the building. And by the end of the year we will know if we will also receive a $500,000.00 grant thru the National Park Service. And I want everyone to pray for Wechsler to receive this grant, and if received we can do some serious renovations on Wechsler School. Councilwoman Houston said thank Ms. Otis, for sharing with the community.

Councilwoman Johnson said we will be in prayer for the $500,000.00 grant to go through and many others for Wechsler. I want to thank Park & Recreation for working on the playground at Highland Park, we had some issues. Fire Department, I did the Fire Academy it was hot, I got down on my knees and scraped some fire, it was fun. Public Works and Parks & Recreation I got some phone calls thanking me for lights and thanking me for street paving, so this was a pretty good week all in all. I thank you for working those projects and thank you all for coming to the meeting tonight.

Councilman Johnson said I want to thank Public Works; they have been doing a remarkable job for the last few weeks throughout the entire city. I had a tree to fall in my ward and they were out there within a rapid time frame. I was out there helping the guy with my one uninjured arm, but we were out there together getting it done. We are having a community wide meeting in Ward 2. It will be on October 24™, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Velma Young Center. And I welcome you all to come out and please spread the word.

President Thomas said it’s good to see Ms. Otis, she taught my children, she taught my son, that’s where he started at Wechsler School. With Ms. Crump and that entire group out there, it was a great beginning for him. I want to congratulate and thank Lisa Howell for agreeing to serve as County Judge, she was just appointed by the Governor, and she will be a great addition to the court system. I also want to congratulate Coach Leon and the Soccer Team at Lamar
School. For three years now they have won the State Championship. Coach Leon does a great job with those girls, to win the State Championship year after year takes a lot of good coaching and it takes a lot of good players also. They represent this area very well when they go off to travel. If nothing else we are adjourned.

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