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 Chris Holcombe of Ebenezer Baptist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a majority vote of the council to amend the agenda by lifting from the table R-12c; which was tabled on the September 05, 2017 agenda, and place it on this agenda as R-13k (Allocation of $1,250,000.00 to balance the general fund). Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by majority vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with above amendment. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated September 05, 2017.

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

ORDER #16415 ORDER AUTHORIZING A SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR JO ANN CLARK, CLERK OF COUNCIL

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 #16416 ORDER APPOINTING WESTON LINDEMANN AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL ON THE E-911 COMMISSION

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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4488   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 B-2 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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

ORDI. #4489   ORDINANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING THAT PORTION OF 12TH STREET BETWEEN 16TH AND 17TH AVENUES AND THAT PORTION OF 11TH STREET BETWEEN 18TH AVENUE AND 6TH STREET IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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.

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

RESO. #6141   RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO CONVEY THE CLOSED, VACATED AND ABANDONED PORTIONS OF 12TH STREET BETWEEN 16TH AND 17TH AVENUES AND THAT PORTION OF 11TH STREET BETWEEN 18TH AVENUE AND 6TH STREET

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

ORDI. #4490 ORDINANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING THAT PORTION OF 31ST AVENUE BETWEEN 1ST STREET AND INTERCHANGE 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: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Thomas.

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

RESO. #6142 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO CONVEY THE CLOSED, VACATED AND ABANDONED PORTION OF 31ST AVENUE BETWEEN 1ST STREET AND INTERCHANGE

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

Yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #16417 ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS FROM EDDIE BYNUM AND MARZELLA BROWN FOR STORM DRAIN REPAIR ON PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 518 34TH AVENUE AND 3321 DAVIS STREET, MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

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 Order:

ORDER #16418   ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FROM JIMMY ALEXANDER FOR STORM SEWER PIPE REPAIR ON PROPERTY AT 1019 B STREET, MERIDIAN MISSISSIPPI

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 Order:

ORDER #16419   ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS FROM EMILE SABA AND TERRY TYRONE JORDAN FOR STORM DRAIN REPAIR ON PROPERTIES AT 4101 50TH STREET AND 4105 50TH STREET, MERIDIAN MISSISSIPPI

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.

(During the discussion of the Planet Playground contribution Councilwoman Houston asked the CAO, Richie McAlister, would any maintenance for this playground ever be done by the city. Mr. McAlister’s answer was that no maintenance would be done by the city for this playground. Councilwoman Houston requested that this question and answer be reflected in the minutes.)

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

ORDER #16420   ORDER AUTHORIZING MATCHING CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF $7,593.00 TO THE PLANET PLAYGROUND FUND THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EAST MISSISSIPPI

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. #6143 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASE OF SPACE IN THE R.E.A.BUILDING TO THE JIMMIE RODGERS FOUNDATION

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.

The hour of 5:15 p.m. or thereafter having arrived, the hearing as called for in Resolution #6128 regarding unclean property was opened with motion by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council. Thomas T.C. Parker was the only person signed up to speak. Mr. Parker had no property on the list under discussion; he was interested in finding out how to acquire some of the property in question. Code Enforcement Officer, Wiley Quinn showed slides of the properties and called once again for any parties that had ownership or interest in any of the properties and would like to speak. B.A. Knight had not signed in, but he came forward to talk on his property at 5403 Manning Street. He said he had not received notice because the address we have is incorrect. Mr. Quinn informed Mr. Knight that we only have contact information from the land records on file and the address notice was sent to the address listed on file and notices were also posted at the property. Mr. Knight gave Mr. Quinn the correct address and said he was going to clean his property. Two properties on the list for this hearing were sold before this hearing took place; they are 2129 35th Avenue, PPIN Number 6728 and 3507 22nd Street, PPIN Number 6729. Those two properties are removed from the list of properties. Code Enforcement Officer, Quinn, advised that the property was still unclean and a menace to the health and safety of the community. Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the hearing. RESO. #6146 was adopted.

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

ORDER #16421 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF PROPOSAL FOR JENNIFER P. DAVIS AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (JPD) TO IMPROVE THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION

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:


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 #16423 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DATA MANAGEMENT, INC., AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR ELECTRONIC TIME-CARDS AND SCHEDULING (FIRE DEPARTMENT)

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 #16424 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF LYLE MACHINERY COMPANY, MERIDIAN, MS FOR THREE (3) BOBCATS, TWO (2) COMPACTORS, ONE (1) BREAKER, ONE (1) TRENCHER IN THE AMOUNT OF $246,041.00

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.
Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to open discussion on R-13 (FY 2017 budget amendments). R-12c was tabled on the September 05, 2017 agenda, but was lifted from table and placed on this September 19, 2017 agenda for discussion.

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

RESO. #6144 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: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #16425 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT UNITED HEALTH CARE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 #16426 IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING RENEWAL OF EXISTING PROPOSAL OF VITAL CARE TO CONTINUE AS THE EXCLUSIVE COMPOUND DRUG PROVIDER FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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. #16427 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT DELTA DENTAL GROUP DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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. #16428 IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING PROPOSAL OF PRINCIPAL FOR GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 Resolution:

RESO. #6145 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, 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.

Councilman T. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:
ORDI. #4491  ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A REVENUE AND
LEVY A TAX FOR THE MERIDIAN SEPARATE
SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

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

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

ORDI. #4492  ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A REVENUE FOR THE
CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

And, Councilman Lindemann 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 Resolution:

RESO. #6146  RESOLUTION ADJUDICATING PARCELS OF LAND 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.

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 September 14, 2017 in the amount to
$2,266,758.50 with added amendment of payment #707189 for $21,500.00, bringing the docket total to
$2,288,258.50.
President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland said the administration works from the budget the council approves. All of the departments stayed within their budgets for FY 2017. The issues that arose were the overtime issues. We also made a decision to go after a grant that we had to match by 20%. Those grants totaled upwards of three to four million dollars. And we are going to address some of the issues and work to continue to stay within the budgets allotted to each department. Each year we have to do a year end transfer to close the year, there is no way around it. This is homecoming week for Meridian High School. We have the homecoming parade this Thursday, September 21st and it will start downtown at 5:30 p.m. Our website has been updated and all of our high schools with a football team will have updated play information on the site, Meridian High, Lamar, and Northeast each have weekend games and the information is on the site. I am sure that the kids, Mr. Hubbard, the band, and the homecoming court will have just as great a showing on the City Hall Lawn this year, as they had for last year’s parade. Thank you guys again for the budget you passed, the things we agreed on, and the things we didn’t. We are going to work within this budget together. One team, one dream, one Meridian together! And we will be coming to the council with different ideas concerning our water meters, our efficiency efforts and all around improvements for the city. We are going to work in each department to make sure every dollar counts.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

a) Allen Shute – spoke on city issues  
b) Dennis Allen – spoke on the State Flag  
c) Sam Bell – spoke on the State Flag

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann thanked Mr. Allen and Mr. Bell for their input on the State Flag, but he said there is just nothing the council can do about people displaying the Flag. I will be meeting with the Superintendent at the Meridian Public Schools to look at ways to improve the schools. Thursday I will be in Jackson lobbying our State Legislators for a fairer share of the sales tax revenue collections. Right now we receive less than 2% of the sales tax collected and I think a fairer number for us would be around 25% of the collections. I’ll probably have more information for you the next time we meet, thank you.

Councilwoman Houston said thank you all for coming out tonight. If you want to do something for Meridian Public Schools, show up, get involved and volunteer. Show support not only for the sports arena, but also in the classrooms. This is homecoming week for Meridian High and the school district needs volunteers. Whether you can do that after school or during school hours start a mentoring program in your home, your neighborhood, whatever you can do to help our students achieve, it’s going to have a great impact on the entire city. We are going to be looking to have a community meeting in the Oakland Heights area. We will keep you posted on when that will be taking place. Thank you all for coming to the meeting, it has been a long meeting, God bless you.

Councilwoman Johnson said thank you all for coming, as Kim said, it’s been a long meeting, have a good night.
Councilman Johnson said good evening, we had our graveyard clean-up last weekend and it was a phenomenal turnout! If you drive by 10th Avenue and 24th Street and look at the graveyard, it is now a huge difference for the better; we are shooting for one more clean-up before the cold weather sets in. It will be October 7th, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Now speaking of the department heads, I thank you all for the work you do, I think you guys do an awesome job in this community, and I know some of the other councilmembers thank you too. And as far as negativity goes and expressing it to the council, you can hear a concern from a citizen and respond with the appropriate action without the cursing from that citizen. We will never move forward if people continue to behave in this type of manner. We can hear someone if we communicate logically. We work here together, we live here together, we may not eat together, but we should represent one another. When you bring negativity into the community you are not helping, you are hurting the community. That being said, I encourage you guys to come out October 7th at 8:00 a.m. to the graveyard clean-up. Thank you.

President Thomas said I want to mention four good opportunities for you. The Riley Center, they have their programs out and if you want to attend some of the performances act quickly, they already have several sold out. MCC has their Arts and Letters programs out, there are shows presented that anyone can afford; a lot of them don’t cost anything. The Little Theatre, again a great opportunity for people who want to participate, be a part of the theatre and get out and do things. The Meridian Symphony, we are one of the few cities in the nation that still has a symphony orchestra. People need to take advantage of these opportunities and go out and participate. A lot of these things are free. There are live music programs somewhere in Meridian almost every night, all you have to do is show up. It goes anywhere from hard rock to down home country, so there’s plenty out there of whatever you’d like. People say there is nothing to do; on the contrary, there is a lot to do if you just get out and take advantage of it!

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