REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 05, 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 Chuck Meador of Poplar Springs United Methodist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated August 15, 2017.

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

ORDER #16401    ORDER APPROVING COMPROMISE AND SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

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. #6137    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT PURSUANT TO INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT DATED APRIL 21, 2014 – PROJECT BRONCO

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 Order:
ORDER#16402 ORDER AMENDING ORDER #16052 ACCEPTING VEHICLE LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING PROPOSAL FROM CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK OF MERIDIAN WITH A QUOTED RATE OF 1.42%

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 #16403 ORDER ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF NOTICE FROM LEDIC REALTY COMPANY, LLC (DEVILLE MANOR APARTMENTS) STATING THEIR INTENT TO APPLY FOR TAX CREDITS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI HOME CORPORATION (MHC)

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 #16404 ORDER DECLARING FEMALE MALONOIS “FANTA” SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SAID ANIMAL TO HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF’S 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 #16405 ORDER DESIGNATING ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS INTERNATIONAL (EDI) AERATION AS THE SOLE SOURCE MANUFACTURER OF OEM REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT DIFFUSER SYSTEM
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 #16406 ORDER DESIGNATING FLUID PROCESS & PUMPS, LLC AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER OF THE MUFFIN MONSTER MANHOLE SYSTEM FOR THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC WORKS 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 Resolution:

RESO #6138 RESOLUTION (1) AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2017, OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI (THE “CITY”), IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED NINE MILLION DOLLARS ($9,000,000) TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR (A) (1) THE ADVANCE REFUNDING AND DEFEASANCE OF CERTAIN MATURITIES OF THE CITY’S OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER AND SEWER BONDS, SERIES 2007, DATED APRIL 1, 2007, ISSUED IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $3,600,000 AND (2) THE ADVANCE REFUNDING AND DEFEASANCE OF CERTAIN MATURITIES OF THE CITY’S OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2009, DATED JUNE 1, 2009, ISSUED IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $10,000,000; AND (B) PAYING THE COSTS OF ISSUANCE IN CONNECTION THERewith; (II) APPROVING THE FORM AND EXECUTION OF AN ESCROW AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH REFUNDED BONDS; (III) APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ESCROW AGENT, AS DEFINED HEREIN, UNDER THE ESCROW AGREEMENT; (IV) APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONALS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; 
AND (V) FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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 Order:

ORDER #16407 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF KEN STORMS TO THE E-911 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.

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

ORDER #16408 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASTE PRO AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MERIDIAN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY)

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 #16409  ORDER ACCEPTING FEMA-HOMELAND SECURITY
FY 2016 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHT GRANT FOR
FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY IN THE AMOUNT
OF $53,253.00

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.

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

ORDER #16410  ORDER APPROVING AND RATIFYING ADOPTION OF AND
MAYOR’S EXECUTION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
MEMA DISTRICT 6 REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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 #6139  RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF
BLIGHTED REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MISS.
CODE ANN. § 21-17-1; AND, AUTHORIZING MAYOR
TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM

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.

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

ORDER #16411  ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT
NO. 4 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CDM SMITH, INC., 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.

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

ORDER #16412 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BIDS FOR 12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR PIPE, VALVES & FITTINGS

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 #16413 ORDER RE-ESTABLISHING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

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 #16414 ORDER TO CHARGE OFF INACTIVE AND UNCOLLECTIBLE WATER ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF $122,010.59

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 Ordinance:
ORDI. #4487 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 12-38, 25-40 AND 25-41 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, 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.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to open discussion on R-12 (FY 2017 budget amendments). Order was discussed and motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson to Table R-12 section (c) of budget amendments. 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 Resolution:

RESO. #6140 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 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 Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated September 01, 2017 in the amount to $6,205,484.10.

President Thomas advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:

a) Hydrated Lime  
b) Hydrofluorosilicic Acid  
c) Liquid Alum  
d) Liquid Chlorine  
e) Polymer  
f) Sulfur Dioxide (all 12 month source of supply)

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Mayor Bland said the Nickelodeon Day of Play will be Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 10:00 to 2:00 at Highland Park. There will be bouncers, face painting, splash pad, water slides, basketball, etc. and a lot of
giveaways, so please come out to enjoy the activities. Also the Meridian High football gave will be this Saturday night, September 09, 2017 at 6:00. As we continue to move forward on the water and sewer upgrades a lot of things go back as far as two or three administrations. We meet with the EPA on September 28th of this month and hopefully we can get some closure on the items they have discussed with us over the last two and a half years. We will also be moving forward with some items that improve our water and sewer collection and we want to bring some information on new meters so that we properly charge our citizens the correct rates and also our electrical efficiency in the new buildings, and we will bring this to the Council within the next few weeks. I wanted to give the Council and the citizens the reasons why we are doing the things we have to because we have a lot of outdated systems and equipment. The can has been kicked down the road for quite a few years, now it’s up to this Council and Administration to do the things needed to upgrade and be more efficient throughout the city.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

a) Allen Shute – spoke on city issues
b) Pat Norris – did not appear
c) Gregory Lane – Martin Luther King, Jr. parade
d) Dennis Allen – State Flag
e) Sam Bell – State Flag

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann thanked the citizens for coming and voicing their opinions on the State Flag. I think we should be looking ahead to our legislative agenda and while speaking to our MML representatives the consensus is that the cities should receive a larger share of the sales taxes collected. And we need to make sure our lobbyists and representatives in Jackson understand this is a priority. I feel it would be a good idea to live stream the council meetings on Facebook. I also think it would be a good idea to partner with Councilman Tyrone Johnson to have a community meeting together in the near future as Councilwoman Kim Houston and Fannie Johnson conducted.

Councilwoman Houston said thank you all for coming out and thanks to all of our citizens who take the time to bring things to our attention. I want to thank the Mayor and Department Heads that came out to our community meeting. There have been a few weeks since the meeting and we thank the community for the questions and information provided. I want to thank Miss Johnson for allowing us to come to the Boys and Girls Club that is in her ward for hosting that event. We had a great turnout and I want to encourage the citizens to attend these meeting when we set them up, because it’s your opportunity to basically have an open mic to let your voices be heard, to address those issues that are going on in your neighborhood. We take notes, we write names, we get phone numbers and then we take action, so it’s very important our citizens be a part of that. School is back in session, so I encourage the community to volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. I know there is a group that I re-posted on my Facebook page, I believe it is through the Meridian Star about reading, and they want volunteers to fill every single classroom on this particular day. I thought I had that information handy, but it is on my Facebook wall if you want to participate in that. We need volunteers to show up and read. I know this is just one day, but we are trying to show our students that we care about them. I know several people have mentioned the speed of our council meetings, but our president doesn’t like to waste any time. But if you have any questions you can
ask the CAO or ask us after the meeting if something needs further explanation.

Councilwoman Johnson said I just want to say thank you to those that came out. The community meeting went really well. I got a call from someone who had attended the meeting to tell me that something she had asked for got done, and that was a welcome surprise because we don’t usually get compliments. So, thank you all that come out to support us and give us the opportunity to support you.

Councilman Johnson said good evening, I believe the reading event that Kim is talking about is this Friday, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. The Edgewood Cemetery cleanup was a great success. We had a lot of people come out to help and support us. People were able to visit the grave of loved ones they had not been able to see in years. We will return to the cemetery this Saturday, September 9, 2017, from 8:00 – 12:00 a.m. We are asking everyone to come and show your support again. We ask you bring lawnmowers, weed eaters, and any equipment you can bring for a job like this. Thank you again for all the support.

President Thomas said, special thanks to Olive Garden for providing meals to the first responders, they took it upon themselves to provide this service for the last few days. They didn’t have to do this, but they wanted to show appreciation to the men and women that provide this critical service to our community every day. The Riley Center and MCC has revealed their schedule for the coming year and I encourage people to support those events, they are always fantastic. School has started and we all need to get out and support these youngsters. We still have too many children that leave school and don’t take advantage of what’s offered out there. We have been blessed that we didn’t have to suffer through the devastation those people had in Texas, Louisiana and possibly what’s coming to Florida, Carolina and maybe here in the next week or so. Those folks need help, they need money, and money goes a long way for goods and things they can’t even buy now because the stores are closed. September 12th is the budget hearing, if you have any questions about the budget you need to contact us and let us know. That meeting information was released to the media last week, so if you have any questions let us know. If council members have questions about agenda items you are welcome to discuss all you want to discuss, speak up, let me know.

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