Meeting called to order by Council President T. Johnson.

Present: Thomas, F. Johnson, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.

Absent: None.

COPY OF WAIVER OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Shon Willis.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to open the public hearing on the Re-routing of Sweet Gum Bottom Road.

Archie McDonell, Chairman of East Mississippi Business Development Corporation and Bill Hannah, Director of East Mississippi Business Development Corporation were both present to answer questions and stressed their strong support for re-routing the Sweet Gum Bottom Road. They feel the re-routing of the road is vitally necessary. It will close the separation in the I-20/59 Industrial Park; then the site can be promoted to businesses as one large site, instead of two smaller parcels of land. The East Mississippi Business Development Corporation believes that taking out the thru traffic dividing road and making the Industrial Park as one whole space will make it more of an attractive and cohesive site for large industry to build and grow more jobs here in Meridian/Lauderdale County.

There was 25 names placed on the hearing sign in sheet, these are citizens that the re-routing of the road would affect. The majority of the persons signed to speak were against the re-routing of the Sweet Gum Bottom Road, but some were for the re-routing because they are for the possibility of economic development; the community will get a newly paved road with lights and the old road will not be closed until the new road is completed. The prediction was that the new road would be complete around April 2019. Assistant Police Chief Griffith and Fire Chief Leister drove the potential new road and the distance will be about the same as Sweet Gum Bottom Road with no adverse effect on service times, such as fire, police and medical response. Some people passed on their turn to speak, saying the ones speaking before them had said it all. Those signed in to speak were:

2. Sadie Martin    15. Nancy Malone
4. Kathy Granger   17. Denise Malone
Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the public hearing.

President T. Johnson called the regular meeting back to order.

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:

ORDI. #4505

ORDINANCE CLOSING AND VACATING THAT PORTION OF SWEET GUM BOTTOM ROAD FROM SOUTH OF THE BRIDGE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST LINE OF MALONE RANCH ROAD AND ESTABLISHING A NEW PUBLIC ROAD BETWEEN 46TH AVENUE EAST AND SWEET GUM BOTTOM ROAD

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.

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