REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2018 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 Gary Morris of Life Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

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. 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 passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated January 18, 2018. 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 Order:

ORDER #16485 ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FROM MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1200 LINEAR FEET OF 8’ TALL BLACK VINYL COATED CHAIN LINK FENCE WITH FRAMEWORK, FITTING AND TWO GATES

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. #6166 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF TITLE, PRESENTED BY MERIDIAN DOWNTOWN HOTELS, LLC

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 #16486 ORDER DETERMINING THAT CERTAIN POLICE VEHICLES ARE USED FOR CRIME DETECTION AND UNDERCOVER WORK AND SHOULD NOT BE MARKED SO AS TO BE IDENTIFIABLE AS CITY VEHICLES

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 Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16487 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF RHAE R. DARSEY AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE PRO TEM FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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. #6167 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI DIRECTING THE AWARD OF FINANCING IN CONNECTION WITH A REQUEST FOR FINANCING BID FOR AN ENERGY SERVICES LEASE IN THE
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FOURTEEN DOLLARS ($9,991,214) PURSUANT TO SECTION 31-7-14 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; AND 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 #16488 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF FY 2019 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY (IMPAIRED DRIVING)

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

ORDER #16489 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF FY 2019 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY (402 POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES)

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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16490  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF CONTRACT WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS

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

ORDER #16491  ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FROM BRENDA EASTERWOOD FOR STORM SEWER PIPE REPAIR ON PROPERTY AT 5235 16TH AVENUE, MERIDIAN, 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.

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

ORDER #16492  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT #2 TO WATER USE AGREEMENT (GRAY WATER) DATED AS OF JULY 2, 2009 BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY

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 #16493 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SUPPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN TERRY SERVICE, INC., AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (HEATING & COOLING 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 Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16494 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 20, 2018 THRU JULY 19, 2018 FOR ASPHALT MIX FROM APAC-MISSISSIPPI, INC., MERIDIAN, MS

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 #16495 ORDER ESTABLISHING THE NEIGHBORHOOD LOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN TO CONVEY VACANT AND/ OR ABANDONED CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PURSUANT TO MISSISSIPPI CODE § 21-17-1(11)

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

ORDI. #4496 ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES FOR BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, PLUMBING & GAS PERMITS

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.

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

ORDER #16496 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF LAURA A, CARMICHAEL AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

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 February 01, 2018 in the amount of $5,168,864.82. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

President Thomas advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:
a) Herbicide Treatment - Sowashee Creek;  b) Concrete Mix (12 month source of supply);

President Thomas called on Mayor Bland for his report:

Richie McAlister, CAO said that Mayor Bland had to leave for Meridian High School to attend the vigil for the students that recently passed away. Richie said he would like to remind everyone about the events coming up from the list Ms. Carmichael gave him. A
Job Fair will be held at the Tommy E. Dulaney Center on Thursday, February 08, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 09, 2018, the Ardor Day Celebration will be at 10:00 a.m. at the Velma Young Center, and the Mardi Gras kick off will be Friday, February 09, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the city hall lawn. Meridian Mardi Gras on the city hall lawn is Saturday, February 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be a Mardi Gras Parade if the weather holds out. Plus, the EMBDC Bridal Show will be 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Riley Center. We want to thank the Council for the confirmation of Laura Carmichael as the Community Development Director, and for passing the items on the agenda.

President Thomas called for citizens comments.

  a) Allen Shute - spoke
  b) Thomas Harden - spoke

President Thomas called for Council comments:

  Councilman Lindemann said thank you all for coming out. It’s an unusually large crowd this morning and that’s a good thing. The Young Entrepreneurs Club at Meridian High School is now going into phase two of the program; where they start working on a business plan with persons in the business community in different groups to get their ideas together in order to present to the panel of investors “Shark Tank” style. We are looking for mentors right now; we need about four in total, so if you are interested please contact me via phone, email or Facebook. I’m planning a crowd funding interest, I’m working with a business alliance and maybe a local bank to try to get some interest in crown funding as a possible solution for people who can’t just go out and start a business on their own. Senate Bill 2455 is the Sales Tax Diversion Bill. This bill could bring in about 1.4 million dollars to the City of Meridian for infrastructure repairs. So it’s really important that before February 8th; which is the deadline on this, for everyone to call your Senator to encourage them to vote for this bill, otherwise the bill will never come up. These 1.4 million dollars could be a big benefit for the City of Meridian. I’d like to thank Sally Gray for organizing an event that showed support for public education last Friday; and each Friday during the Legislative Session people are encouraged to go to the web and #hashtag certain sites in support of public education. There is an attempt to move public dollars to support private education; and it’s important for people who support public education speak out against that. Thank you all for coming out.

  Councilwoman Houston said good morning everybody. I will echo Councilman Lindemann in thanking you all for coming out this morning. It’s good to see so many young people coming out and taking an interest in what we do here at City Hall. It was good to see all of the grant applications coming in, which is awesome. Because we have been
hearing that the grant money was drying up, but it appears that we are being aggressive trying to find some of that grant money still available. We had a successful event this weekend with our middle school girls and we are going to continue that program. Mr. Smith, where are we on the sidewalks project along the Oakland Heights and Western Gardens area? Mr. Smith replied that the moving of power poles along the right-of-ways is still being worked out with Mississippi Power Co. He said the company has to work within their employee manpower schedule to have the poles relocated. All the areas in question must be cleared before bidding for the project can be done. Councilwoman Houston asked Mr. McGruder where are we on the Sowashee Walking Trail? Mr. McGruder said he spoke to Joe Norwood of Lauderdale County a couple of weeks ago and was told that they are going to apply for a grant extension to do it in two phases and they are looking at an April start date. Councilwoman Houston said thank you all for being here, and those of you looking for a job; the Job Fair is Thursday, February 08, 2018 and Arbor Day is Friday, February 09, 2018.

Councilwoman F. Johnson said thank you all again for coming. Everybody’s trying to stay well; most of us have had a little sickness going on. February is Black History Month and Councilwoman Houston has helped me over the last two years do a program we call ‘Shaking Hands with Your Future’ we’re hoping that children and adults will come out so we can get some positive interactions and conversations going about Black History Month. The Job Fair has a lot of jobs and I hope everyone looking for a job will be successful; go to the Job Fair.

Councilman T. Johnson said thanks to everybody for coming this morning. Prepare your resume, dress for success and go get that job on February 08, 2018! Plenty of opportunity will be at the Job Fair. Thank you Meridian High for bringing the students out, I spoke with many of you guys last week and thank you for the invite, I had a really great time at Meridian High School. Thank you guys for what you are doing, taking the opportunity to step up and be a leader. I see my daughter back there in the group and I’m going to call her out! “Ty’Kerria, stand up”. It humbles my heart to see her in here watching her dad, after coming from where we have. The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree, so I’m hoping to lead by example, I’m a prayerful dad and I’m a proud dad. This Sunday, February 11, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. we will have a Unity Memorial Day at the Ben Arthur Park. This is specifically for the recent loss of some of our young people 21 and younger. So, I’m asking you all to come out and support this day. I ask the families of these young people, please come out. There will be the burning of candles, community leaders, pastors, deejay, food and beverage. We need burgers, sodas, hotdogs, candles, napkins, etc. anything you would like to bring in support, please do so. We need the community to come together to support the families and try to heal. Thank you.

Council President Thomas asked the Mayor if he had anything he would like to add: Mayor Bland said he would just like to say that he has just gotten back from Meridian High School, where a lot of the students are hurting right now after the things that happened this past weekend. And like Councilman Johnson said, we need to let the young people know that we care about each one of you. Whether you know each other or not,
you never know when your time or your fellow person’s time has come. So, live every
day to stay in touch and have a relationship with your God and you will be living in the
best days of your lives going through your high school and college days. Anything can
happen, so all of you stay connected to each other, and know that this city and our city
council people love you, and we make decisions for your best interests each and every
day. There was a lot of grieving at Meridian High School during that short vigil. We want
to extend our sympathies to each one of you students; we know it’s a tough time for all
of you.

Councilman Thomas said, on a good note; the Meridian High School Basketball Team
is ranked #1 in the state! It’s a tough time, but a lot of good things are going on. The
Riley Center’s having their announcement for the next series of programs coming up.

Councilwoman Johnson announced that First Christian Church is having their
Annual Kentucky Ham Breakfast; it’s going on now, $8.00 a plate, everybody go by and
get a plate!

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