REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 03, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Fannie Johnson.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Melvin J. Hendricks of First Union Baptist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendments: Move: Public Hearing (9:00 a.m. Crossroads Project Phase II Tax Increment Financing Plan) to the first item on the Routine Agenda; Add R-1a: (Resolution approving the Form of the Development Agreement.) for the Crossroads Project; Add: (Mayor’s appointment of Richard Leister as Fire Chief.) Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated June 19, 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 #16575 ORDER ACCEPTING AN ANONYMOUS DONATION OF NON-CASH ITEMS TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

The hour having reached 9:00 a.m., the Public Hearing was opened by a motion from Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council. The Crossroad Project Phase II Tax Increment Financing Plan Public Hearing began. Tray Hairston of Butler Snow LLP and Nnamdi Thompson of Government Consultants, Inc., were present on the City’s behalf. Wesley Walls of Collett Properties, Inc. was present on the developer’s behalf. Only one other person signed in
to speak, that was William E. Heidelberg of 4418 27th Street, Meridian, MS 39307. An explanation of the project and financing was given, questions were asked and answered. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to close the Public Hearing. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

RESO. #6190 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI (THE “CITY”), APPROVING IN SUBSTANTIAL FORM AND THE EXECUTION OF A DEVELOPMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT (THE “AGREEMENT”) IN CONNECTION THE CITY’S TAX INCREMENT LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS (THE MERIDIAN CROSSROADS PROJECT PHASE II) OF SAID CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR CERTAIN SITE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO THE MERIDIAN CROSSROADS PROJECT PHASE II; APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT OF MUNICIPAL ADVISOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE CITY BONDS AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

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 Resolution:

RESO. #6191 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FORM OF AND EXECUTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT (THE “DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT”), BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI (THE “CITY”) AND COLLETT PROPERTIES, INC., A NORTH CAROLINA CORP. OR ITS AFFILIATED ENTITY (THE “DEVELOPER”)

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 Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman Thomas to open discussion on R-2 (Ordinance authorizing approval of Downtown Leisure & Recreation District “Go-Cup-Zone”). After discussion of the issue, Council President F. Johnson called for a vote. The issue failed by a majority vote of the Council. Voting yea: Thomas, Lindemann. Voting nay: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Failed Issue

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated June 22, 2018 in the amount of $2,021,405.01 with the following amendments: add payment number 805194 for $390.83 bringing the claims docket total to $2,021,795.84. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson. Voting nay: Houston, Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16576 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF RICHARD W. LEISTER AS FIRE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

President F. Johnson called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland was out of town and the CAO, Richie McAlister gave the report. Mr. McAlister said that Mayor Bland wanted him to mention that the 2018 Juneteenth Festival was one of the best in recent memory. Mr. Tampa was recently approved for a tax exemption from which they recently applied. The city is now looking forward to a good July 4th Celebration and invite everyone to come out for the event. Councilman Thomas asked Richie if he has any idea when the proposed FY’ 2019 budget would be ready for the Council to work on, because it is going to be a difficult task to bring in the six million needed to meet the demands of the EPA Decree and come up with the money needed to meet the required, almost two percent increase, for the Employee’s Public Retirement System. City Clerk, Brandye Latimer said they are preparing the draft of the budget to try getting it ready for Council to see by the end of July.
President F. Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Allen Shute – spoke
b) Dennis Allen – did not appear
c) Sam Bell – did not appear
d) Delvecchio Coburn - spoke

President F. Johnson called for Council comments:

Various comments were made.

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