REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018 AT 10:00 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 Glenn Jackson of Central Baptist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendments: Move: Presentation Agenda item 2 (FY 2017 CAFR and Audit Review – Paul Breazeale, of Breazeale, Saunders & O’Neil, LTD.) to the first item on the Routine Agenda; Remove: (Karl Donald) from the Citizen Comments Agenda; Add: (Potential Executive Session for personnel performance.) Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated June 05 2018. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Paul Breazeale of Breazeale, Saunders & O’Neil, LTD., gave the presentation of the FY 2017 CAFR and Audit Review. Mr. Breazeale gave an oral and slide presentation of the 2017 audit and answered all questions asked concerning his review of the city’s audit. The audit was then accepted by the following Order:

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

ORDER #16566 ORDER ACCEPTING FISCAL YEAR 2017 CAFR/ANNUAL AUDIT AS PREPARED BY BREAZEALE, SAUNDERS & O’NEIL, LTD.

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

ORDER #16567 ORDER ACCEPTING AN ANONYMOUS DONATION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

ORDER #16568 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ALLAN WILLIS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF DIANNE HUDNALL

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

ORDER #16569 ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION OF $479.00 PROCEEDS FROM THE MITCHELL COMPANY’S BUDWEISER CLYDESDALES EVENT AND DONATE SAID $479.00 TO THE PARTNERS IN RECOVERY COMMITTEE (FOR LAUDERDALE COUNTY VICTIMS OF APRIL 14, 2018 TORNADO)

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.
Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston to open discussion on R-3 (Order authorizing filing of complaint against the manufacturers of prescription opioids.) After discussion of the issue, Councilwoman F. Johnson moved to table the issue and Councilman Lindemann duly seconded. The issue was tabled by a majority vote of the Council. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #16570 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ENTERTAINMENT CONTRACTS WITH RODRICK FOX & THE TRIO AND DANIEL HOUZE (JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT BONITA LAKES 2018)

And, Councilman Thomas 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 #16571 IN THE MATTER OF: EXTENSION OF WORK UNIFORMS FROM ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, SALEM, VA FOR 12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY (JUNE 2, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2019)

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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4498 ORDINANCE AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TELE-
COMMUNICATION TOWERS INSTALLATION SERVICES

And, Councilman Thomas 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 Order:

ORDER #16572 ORDER APPOINTING FANNE M. JOHNSON AS PRESIDENT OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 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.

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

ORDER #16573 ORDER APPOINTING TYRONE JOHNSON AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018

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 Order:

ORDER #16574 ORDER APPOINTING JO ANN CLARK AS CLERK OF COUNCIL EFFECTIVE JULY 01, 2018
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 Councilman Thomas to discuss the claims docket. Questions were asked and Councilman Lindemann moved to table the claims docket and it was duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

President Thomas advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:
   a) Pipe, Valves and Fittings (source of supply)

President Thomas called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland said we made internal moves to recruit and retain police and fire personnel and in doing that it has really changed our total payroll. It also hurt us last year with overtime because as we dealt with public safety issues of police and fire pay adjustments. Our administration has not changed any Standard of Procedure or Employee Manual without going to Council to get a vote. I’ve given the Council a list of unbudgeted items that were voted on in the 2016-17 budgets and the serious overtime in the Fire and Police Departments. We will continue to work to get the overtime under control. We all as a group made decisions to move forward to raise salaries of some of the fire and police positions to keep and bring in good people. We will continue to try to be as efficient as we can. I want to thank all of you that came out to support the State Game and the Juneteenth Festival this weekend. They were very successful events.

Councilwoman Houston said she wants to make it clear that these items on the list that the Mayor passed out were not unbudgeted items. That these items were discussed and the money put in the budget, it was just held in the legislative account and then moved over to the administrative accounts when they were ready to purchase or implement the project. I just want the record to reflect that and be clear.

Mayor Bland said I now want to introduce a young man that has worked with us for over 30 years. June 29th of this month is his last work day. I would like to present him with a proclamation and thank him for his service, Fire Chief, Anthony Clayton. Chief Clayton I want to thank you for all you have done, you have been with us for 35 years.

Chief Clayton said, “Thirty-five years is a long time. I can remember when I first started, I’m standing where Community Development used to be and back behind me was Engineering. I almost brought my old paystub; I still have it, 3.44 an hour. It wasn’t so much the money, it was the reliability of the city being able to sustain, and that’s why I stayed here. It was truly like a family. We took care of each other; the city took care of you and you took care of the city. I’d like to thank my wife, Jennie Clayton, for putting up with me for 35 years. Without her, I don’t know if I could have finished this out. She
turned me around. I will miss you guys and the process. I'll also miss the Mayor and the CAO, these are two of the best people I have worked for, and they know how hard it is. Dr. Thomas, I know you know, the budget and the other things that go along with it, but at the end of the day (as the Mayor says) you have to move forward, make bold decisions and deal with it together.” Dr. Thomas said, “Anthony, I know you had one big project you wanted to get finished before you retired, tell the people what it is.” Anthony said, “Thank you Doc, this is my last chance to get this in. I hope you guys take my recommendations as fire chief to heart. I've given Ricky some of the budget moves and budget realities, but what I'd really like to see done is to get No. 2 Fire Station built. We purchased the land and there is a way to do it, by piggy backing on some other things. I've talked to Chief Leister about it. I just thank you all.”

President Thomas called for citizen comments:

a) Allen Shute – spoke  
b) Wade Demers – did not appear  
c) LaVale Leggett – did not appear

President Thomas called for Council comments:

Various comments were made.

An executive session was requested regarding personnel performance. Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss personnel performance. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session. The meeting was called back to order.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket being lifted from the table for discussion. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated June 14, 2018 in the amount of $3,965,456.71. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson. Voting nay: Houston, Lindemann.
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