REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council Vice-President, Tyrone Johnson.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened by the pledge to the flag and followed with prayer by Lovell Mosley, St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendments: Add: R-8 (Order authorizing amendment to Order #165978 to the standard contract addendum to Pro-Vision’s camera data storage for the police department). Add: R-9 (Order authorizing payment of claim from Modern Landscape Design). Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated August 23, 2018, September 18, 25 & 26, 2018. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16623 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID SURPLUS 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.
Nay: Lindemann.

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16624  ORDER DECLARING ITEMS SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS ITEMS TO BE DESTROYED

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, T. Johnson, Houston.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16625  ORDER DECLARING WEAPON SURPLUS AND TO BE SOLD TO RETIRED ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF JAMES SHARPE AS ALLOWED BY STATE LAW 45-9-131

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16626  ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF BROCHURES, STICKERS, BANNERS, ETC. FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION AND STATE FARM INSURANCE TO BE USED FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IN OCTOBER

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16627  ORDER RECORDING INTO THE MINUTES OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL THE “CERTIFICATION TO MUNICIPAL
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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16628 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GANG SUPPRESSION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

And, Councilman 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 #16629 ORDER RESCINDING PERVIOUS RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE EVENT OF A DEFICIT(S) IN THE OPERATING BUDGET OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY E-911 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.

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

ORDER #16630 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING INSPECTION SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND BURK-KLEINPETE, INC. (HWY 80 PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT)

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

ORDER #16631 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 10, 2018 THRU OCTOBER 09, 2019 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.

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

ORDER #16632 ORDER APPOINTING TYRONE JOHNSON AS PRESIDENT OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 02, 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.

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

ORDER #16633 ORDER APPOINTING KIM HOUSTON AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 02, 2018

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 Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson to open discussion on the claims docket. The Council asked the question, is the payment for Modern Landscape Design on this claims docket we are now considering? The answer given by the Administration was yes it is. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Johnson to remove that payment #806791 in the amount of $4,890.00 from the docket, bringing the docket total from $1,276,660.77 to $1,271,770.77. The claims docket dated September 27, 2018 was passed by a majority vote of the Council. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

(Note: Councilman Lindemann wanted the minutes to reflect that he voted yea because he believed the vote was to remove the payment only; not to remove the payment and approve the docket.)

Council asked the question again of the administration, is there anything in the claims docket that is inappropriate or illegal? And the CAO, Richie McAlister replied that all the claims for payment have gone through the internal purchasing process and all appear to be in order.

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

ORDER #16634 ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16587 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SOFTWARE SERVICE AND HOSTING CONTRACT BETWEEN SECURAMAX BY PRO-VISION AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR CAMERA DATA STORAGE FOR THE MERIDIAN POLICE 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.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson to open discussion on the authorization for payment of the claim for payment from Modern Landscape Design in the amount of $4,890.00. After discussion the majority of the Council wanted to wait for more information. A motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson to Table the issue. Motion passed by a majority vote. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.
Vice-President Johnson called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland said he wanted to expound on the 18 month gang suppression grant that the police department is submitting an application to receive. Mayor Bland introduced U. S. Attorney General Mike Hurst, of the Southern District and Dr. Amanda Cooke; they are two of the persons from a group of organizations creating a partnership to try to address the violent crimes in our communities. Attorney General Hurst said he will be working with this partnership within the communities to get the crimes under control, and with the efforts ongoing in Jackson, violent crimes have dropped 20 percent. Dr. Cooke said there are a host of partners involved in this effort to attack the problem with a holistic disciplinary approach to getting crimes under control.

Mayor Bland said with the new asphalt bid we are looking to pave a lot of streets; and we plan to knock down a lot of condemned and dilapidated houses in the next six months or so. Police Chief Dubose reported that the FBI Crime Numbers at the end of 2017 were the best we have had since 1985, and I am saying 1985 because that is as far as I can go back to compare. Our property crime numbers have drastically been reduced; however violent crime numbers have remained constant. Gang suppression activities are so important, and with the assistance of the U.S. Attorney to conduct speedy trials, we will not have violent offenders sitting in county jail for years before they have a trial for crimes committed, while in the meantime the officer may have moved on and witnesses have died or moved away. This will help a great deal in reducing our violent crimes. A lot of these crimes are not necessarily planned, it’s usually relationships gone badly, somebody has a grievance with another person and they decide to use violence as a solution to their problems.

Vice-President Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Allen Shute – did not appear

Vice-President Johnson called for Council comments:

Councilman Lindemann said I voted against the consent agenda because of the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire that was on there; it’s my belief that some of the questions were answered incorrectly. Additionally, I meant to vote against the claims docket, I didn’t know that we were voting to accept it; I thought we were voting to remove a payment. The docket has employees that are being paid outside their pay bands, and it makes no sense to me, that the Council should be responsible for lowering their salaries when we never approved the pay raises to begin with. It appears to be a concerted effort to make us the bad guys in the media, when we have to come and clean up a mess that’s been made by the administration. We support the city employees, we think they do an excellent job, work very hard and deserve recognition, but these actions continue with this administration. And the city employees don’t understand that when the public works employees ask for a pay raise, that the pay raise could have been given to them with the same amount of money, give or take several thousand dollars, that would have been available had there not been inappropriate raises already given out to around 50 to 60
employees without Council approved. I think we will eventually come to the point where we can solve some of these issues.

Councilwoman Houston said today is Parent University for the Meridian Public Schools. If you have children in the Meridian Public School District I encourage you to get involved and go out to this event from 2:30 – 6:30, they have a lot classes offered. Please get involved, if Meridian Public Schools fail, we all fail.

Councilwoman F. Johnson said a couple of months ago we did a program on Gun Safety at the Boys and Girls Club, and one of the things that hurt most, was the children that raised their hands to tell about people in their household that needed a second chance, family members that couldn’t get a job because they had been incarcerated before. We’ve started a program at L.O.V.E.’s Kitchen to help people find a job; our first job fair is actually going on right now, with a representative from the chicken plant in Forrest, MS. One of the reasons we started with a company like this is that they will provide that second chance. So when we step out to help the children we also need to step out to help the parents and adults in their household. If anybody knows of any other companies that are willing to look at people and help them with a second chance, we can impact the kids, adults and city as a whole. And Tyrone is going to fill my shoes pretty good as new City Council President.

Councilman Johnson said there will be a Haunted House Event held at the Velma Young Community Center on October 26, 2018, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the basketball court. There will be barbeque, face painting, candy, and fun for all the kids. This is a free event and family and friends are invited.

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