REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Fannie M. Johnson.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Wade Phillips, Northcrest Baptist Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

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 with the following amendment: Remove (Order authorizing amendment to Order #16559, consent decree on the EPA matter). Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated September 04, 2018. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Houston.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the following Proclamation to be issued by the Mayor:

September 17-23, 2018 – "Constitution Week"

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

ORDER #16617 ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16448 DATED OCTOBER 17, 2017 ENTITLED “ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2018 BIDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES” IN ORDER TO RESCIND GRANT DONATION TO YOUTH EXCITEMENT TEAM, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $8,400.00

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16618 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLE SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, REMOVING FROM SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING SURPLUS VEHICLE TO BE RELEASED TO THE INSURANCE COMPANY

And, Councilman T. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Nay: None.
Abstain: Houston.

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

ORDER #16619 ORDER DIRECTING THAT COLLECTIONS LAWSUITS BE PURSUED AGAINST DEVILLE MANOR APARTMENTS AND QUALITY INN FOR UNPAID WATER AND SEWER BILLS OWED TO 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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Abstain: Houston.

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

ORDER #16620 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASTE PRO AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MERIDIAN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY)

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.

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

RESO. #6199 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF 2018 CONTRACT FOR THE USE OF THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY JAIL

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.

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

ORDER #16621 ORDER RE-ESTABLISHING PETTY CASH FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

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

ORDER #16622 ORDER TO CHARGE OFF INACTIVE AND UNCOLLECTIBLE WATER ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 IN THE AMOUNT OF $129,547.71

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.
Council President F. Johnson 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.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated September 13, 2018 in the amount of $1,614,235.78. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson. Voting nay: Houston, Lindemann.

Mr. Louis Sutton and Mrs. Mable Oatis, committee members for the “53rd Annual National Council of Meridianite Convention & Picnic” gave an update on the upcoming event, which is the tenth anniversary of the picnic being held here in Meridian, scheduled for June 26-29, 2019.

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

Mayor Bland said he wanted let everyone know about the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony to be held tomorrow right here in the City Hall Auditorium at 10:00 a.m. Presented by NAS and The 186 Refueling Wing of the Air National Guard with guest speaker, Marine 1st Sergeant and Purple Heart recipient, Antonio Marquez. Mayor Bland asked Paul Breazeale, of Breazeale, Saunders & O’Neil, LTD (independent auditor firm for the City of Meridian) to speak on the city budget about the trends now happening, not only in the city, but throughout the states.

The hour having now reached 5:30 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Thomas to recess the regular city council meeting in order to open the FY’ 2019 Proposed Budget with Tax Increase Public Hearing. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Those signed in to speak for or against the tax increase were:

1. Elic Purvis (for)
2. Tricia LaBiche (against)
3. Name marked out
4. Quincy Cole (discussed raise for city employees)
5. Mable Oatis (signed in error)
6. Harry Mayer (against)
7. Louis Sutton (signed in error)
8. Johnnie Delk (for)
9. Name marked out
10. Percy Bland (for)
11. A. J. Asmar (for)
12. J. Buford (signed in error)
13. Michael Colburn (against)
14. Kenneth Storms (for)
15. Tony Pompeelia (forego)
17. Marie Franklin (against)
After all had spoken that wished to speak, motion was made by Councilman Thomas, duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson to close the public hearing. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas, duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson to reconvene the Regular Council Meeting. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

President F. Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Allen Shute – did not appear
b) Jackie White – did not appear
c) Quincy Cole – spoke during Public Hearing Section

President F. Johnson called for Council comments:

Various comments were made and the Council thanked everyone for coming.

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