REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2018 AT 9:00 A.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 Gary Morris, Life Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendments: Add: Presentation Agenda (Notification of advertisement of a possible 2.46 millage increase and 2019 Budget.) Add: R-8 (Mayor’s Emergency Declaration for possible damage from Tropical Storm Gordon.) 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 unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated August 21, 2018. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER #16608 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS VEHICLES TO BE SOLD

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

ORDER #16609 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD TO ASSIST WITH FUNDING OF SALARIES FOR SAFETY TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

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, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16610 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY (402 POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES FY19)

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

ORDER #16611 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID COMPACT (SMAC) AGREEMENT AMONG THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY AND THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS FOR RECIPROCAL EMERGENCY AID AND ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES TOO EXTENSIVE TO BE DEALT WITH UNASSISTED

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

ORDI. #4500 BE ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, THAT CHAPTER 12, ARTICLE II, SECTION 38 FEE SCHEDULE OF THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES BE AMENDED

And, Councilwoman Houston 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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16612 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT UNITED HEALTH CARE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 #16613 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT DELTA DENTAL GROUP DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16614 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT PRINCIPAL GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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

ORDER #16615 ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE BENEFIT INSURANCE PLANS AND OPTIONS FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYEES

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

RESO. #6198 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

And, Councilman T. 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.

Concerning the documentation of pay raises given to city employees the brings them outside of their pay bands, Councilman Lindemann wanted the minutes to reflect that both the Mayor and the CAO, Mr. McAlister have consistently stated that there are no forged documents. Mr. McAlister said “that is correct”.
Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated August 30, 2018 in the amount of $1,720,022.11. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson. Voting nay: Houston, Lindemann.

Council President F. Johnson said that it is documented that the question was asked, that the Council Members that did vote yes voted in good faith that everything on the claims docket is legal and in order.

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

Mayor Bland asked Public Works Director, Hugh Smith, Chris McNeil of McNeil Rhoades and Kevin Locke, Senior Planner, to give an update on the water meters being changed out, the computer network built to monitor them and the lighting upgrades in city facilities being done by these Energy Services upgrades. City Attorney, Matt Watson asked the Council to consider amending the agenda to include an emergency declaration for possible damage from Tropical Storm Gordon, as the Governor has declared one for Jackson. Mayor Bland thanked everyone for coming to the Council Meeting and reminded all about the budget meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER #16616 ORDER RATIFYING DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, DUE TO POSSIBLE DAMAGE AND SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM GORDON

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 advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:

a) Notice of a tax increase and a public hearing on the proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the City of Meridian
President F. Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Allen Shute – did not appear
b) Dr. Thomas Huebner, Meridian Community College President – spoke
c) Freeman Walker, Jr. – spoke

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