REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council Vice-President, Kim Houston.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Tim Wise, of Central United Methodist 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: Add R-11 (Order to override the Mayor’s veto of order #16720 “Order authorizing the execution and acceptance of a cooperation agreement between the Roderick and Solange Macarthur Justice Center and the Southern Poverty Law Center and the City of Meridian (Municipal Court Procedures and Policies).” Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a majority vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendment: Add R-12 (Order to override the Mayor’s veto of order #16731 “Order suspending the Chief Administrative Officer pay.”) Voting yea: T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas, F. Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a majority vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendment: Add R-13 (Order authorizing an investigation of the Chief Administrative Officer.) Voting yea: T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas, F. Johnson.

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated April 02, 2019. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

RESO. #6215 RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

And, Councilwoman F. 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.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16732 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF USE OF OFFICE SPACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THEIR PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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.

City Attorney, Ronnie Walton: On the revised consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency that arises concerning the city’s alleged violation of the clean water act which is just a by-product that arises from an aging sewer collection system that we have in the city. After the Council approved the consent decree the EPA decided they wanted to review the decree and they made what I consider to be some rather minor and non-substantive changes. And I told the EPA that even if a comma was changed in the consent decree it would have to come back before the body for approval. I anticipated having it on the agenda back in September for the Council to approve the amended consent decree. Then in October I learned the Attorney General of Mississippi issued an opinion related to the City of Greenville, Greenville is about three years farther down the road with the EPA than the City of Meridian is now, and Greenville was running into a situation where it appears the cost the City of Greenville was going to incur would possibly cause the city to exceed the debt ceiling that municipalities in Mississippi have to operate under. And the Attorney General’s opinion, I thought, clarified that question to the point of if those issues also needed to be addressed in the consent decree. So, we reopened our negotiations with the EPA and anticipated we would be presenting a finalized version to the Council in December, but we got a little bogged down with negotiations when the lead lawyer with the EPA had some illness right around Christmas time. And then the government shut down for 35 or so days. Finally, we are in a position to go ahead and ask you to take action on the revised consent decree that is the result of negotiations that we undertook after taking into account concerns that I had based on the recent opinion from the Mississippi Attorney General.

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

ORDER #16733 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF A REVISED CONSENT DECREE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ACTING THROUGH THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (EPA CWA ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST THE CITY OF MERIDIAN)

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 Resolution:

RESO. #6216 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR APPEAL OF APPROVAL FOR REZONING 29.95 ACRES-NE CORNER OF KNIGHT-PARKER ROAD (ABUTTING US 11/80 TO THE NORTH AND KNIGHT-PARKER ROAD TO THE WEST)

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16734 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN E. HOWELL AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE PRO TEM FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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 Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16735 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN P. WILSON AS APPEALS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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 #16736 ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16713 ENTITLED “ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LAUDERDALE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (ASSET SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE APPORTIONMENT GUIDELINES)

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.

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

ORDER #16737 ORDER AUTHORIZING DONATION OF THE USE OF UNION STATION’S NEW ORLEANS ROOM TO HOST A FUND RAISING EVENT (APRIL 25, 2019) FOR MISSISSIPPI ACTION FOR PROGRESS, INC.

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 Resolution:

RESO. #6217 RESOLUTION OF INTENT: PUBLIC NOTICE TO ADVERTISE FOR CAP LOAN $1,025,000 (ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO AN INDUSTRY)
And, Councilwoman F. 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.

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

ORDER #16738 ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2019 BUDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES (STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI $10,000)

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.

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

ORDER #16739 ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2019 BUDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES (ANY GIVEN CHILD $15,000)

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 and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $1,292,777.94. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.


Total amount approved/passed $2,053,644.15 claims docket dated, April 11, 2019.

Mayor Bland: My understanding is that it will be very difficult for us to operate and provide what is required in the terms and conditions of this agreement. That is why I
vetoed this measure. In saying that I don’t want the city to sign off and commit to something that we cannot execute. I hope we can discuss this with the group or they may sue us after this vote. But, either way, there is no way we can process this based on my communications with the judge and his staff. The communication I sent to the Council for my veto stands.

Councilman Thomas: I speak in favor of overriding the veto. Our attorneys that we pay to represent the city, has advised after looking at the agreement and negotiating terms of that agreement, that we enter into this agreement with the Southern Poverty Law Center. If we are paying attorneys to represent the city and they advise us to sign the agreement as opposed to waiting and see if we get sued and possibly cost the city upwards of $200,000, I am in favor of overriding the veto.

Councilwoman Houston: I am somewhat in agreement, because we asked specifically if we would be able to handle the requirements of the agreement at the work session. And it was my understanding that a lot of the things that agreement is asking us to do is already being done and this agreement would just be a two year window.

Councilman Lindemann: Can we hear some of the things we would like to renegotiate, were we given that opportunity?

City Attorney Matt Watson: As of now, we are not being given the opportunity to renegotiate. When we informed Macarthur Center they informed us that they have already done all the negotiating by bringing it down from three years to two years. And if this is the city’s position, I anticipate we will be sued in the next few weeks.

Councilman Thomas: As our attorneys you have already negotiated with them?

City Attorney Matt Watson: Yes. We brought this to the Municipal Court and we did not get any feedback from the Municipal Court until after the Council voted on it, and then we received a packet from the Municipal Court. But at that point we had already been in negotiation for six to nine months.

Councilwoman Houston: So, if this goes to court is there a time limit as to how long this could drag out?

City Attorney Matt Watson: It would be like the EPA, where we would be spending money to defend the city. We would likely get a consent decree issued by the court and if they are successful, they will be entitled to treble damages, attorney’s fees, and possibly punitive damages. Depending on how many plaintiffs are named in the class action. Defense costs will be 100’s of thousands and possible million plus for damages. If we are following the law now, this shouldn’t be a problem to execute.

Councilwoman Houston: So, instead of spending hundreds of thousands on legal fees, we can possibly hire a couple more people to comply with this. What are your thoughts Judge?

Judge Robbie Jones: With all due respect to Mr. Watson, he and I certainly differ about this; he is not going to be the one to implement this. We don’t have the procedures or personnel in effect to carry this out. The underlining principle is that innocent people should not be incarcerated because they don’t have the ability to pay, is fair and constitutional and I support that 100 percent. But the devil is always in the details, it’s easy to sit on the podium and decide how this will be carried out when you don’t have the personnel to do it. This agreement requires (amongst other things) a hearing for every individual that owes some money with the ultimate result of a written finding by the judge. We don’t have a stenographer to take down written key by the judge. That’s just one issue they are requiring. When you put somebody in jail, even if you rightly do so,
you’ve got to send it to attorney and they’ve got to report that within 48 hours to the
Southern Poverty Law Center, we don’t have the staff or time to do that.

City Attorney Matt Watson: Judge Jones, hold on, those are from the original draft,
those terms were renegotiated. We don’t need a court reporter; the clerk can just send
whatever written findings the judge enters.

Judge Robbie Jones: With all due respect, Mr. Hammack came last week and he
provided me with that copy that still has that in it. They require an attorney for
everybody, regardless whether you are going to jail. We don’t have a single attorney
down there for people who are not presently going to jail. So, as soon as you execute this
agreement you are going to get sued, not because you are in violation of the uniform code
of rules, which you are not, they ask for more and you’ll get sued because you enter into
an agreement you can’t fulfill. I’m concerned that you are exercising a commitment we
cannot meet at the present time. They ask you to have two community service
organizations that the defendant can pick the one he wants to go to. We don’t have any
community service programs that are free to a defendant right now. They require a
commitment to work only 12 hours per month at the center; that seems like a very small
commitment for someone that continues to commit crimes. I urge each of you to come to
the Municipal Court and watch the court system work; you will not find a violation in my
opinion, of fairness to the defendant. But you will see probably, almost every defendant
that you saw last week, there again this week, and will be there again next month. When
you have that situation, at some point you have to start dealing with the fines. We have
people that owe in excess of $15,000 dollars. From the minimum fine to maximum fine
accessed, they want your payment at $25 dollars a month. You can do the math, that’s not
feasible for fines that exceed thousands of dollars. Therefore, the court personnel that
have to implement this requested the Mayor have the Council reconsider this so we can
work out the details, so you won’t be signing a document that you will immediately be in
default of. This is about a 28 page document that mostly exceeds the responsibility
required by law. We went under uniform criminal rules a year ago and we follow it. They
expect more in their control of the judicial branch. That’s really what you are doing;
you’re giving them control of your judicial branch. We’re not going to be able to meet
that, so that same money you are going to be exposed to regardless if they want to sue us,
not because we are in violation, but because you signed an agreement you cannot comply
with. I don’t want you to do that, I want you to give us time to work out the details, there
is too much in here at this time that the city does not have the capacity to proceed with
our manpower to control parts of it. It’s just unreasonable and it’s going to cost the city a
ton of money in the long run if you agree and then try to figure out how to get out of the
trap you got yourself in by agreeing. Matt said he submitted this to us and I had told him
on day one that this was unworkable in its present form. I’m not scared of the Southern
Poverty Law Center; if they want to sue us they’re going to sue us. But, I don’t want us to
agree to something we can’t do.

Councilman Thomas: We had over six months of negotiations.

City Attorney Matt Watson: If we enter this they can’t sue us, Section G of the first
paragraph is agreement to forego litigation, so during the course of this agreement they
will not be able to sue us. There are also provisions if we are having difficulties
implementing it, it’s like the EPA situation, if we have difficulties implementing the
agreement, we provide them notice and they come down and meet and we can renegotiate
terms. That is what they’ve communicated to us.
Judge Robbie Jones: We’ve already done it. We met with them and they gave us suggestions, said they had look at our court system, we followed the suggestions and they still threatened us with a law suit. I do not understand why they proceed the way they do. They called a meeting, wanted us to hear their suggestions, we took their suggestions to heart and tried to implement each and every one of them. Yet, you can’t seem to get them satisfied with the details, because the details are so overbearing that you cannot met the criteria. I think we are setting the city up for failure.

Councilman Lindemann: So, in the agreement if we don’t comply with the terms are there no penalties?

City Attorney Matt Watson: If we are not reporting, they will demand reporting and sue us for violating the law. There are terms for breach in here, but as long as we are in good faith working within the agreement they will not sue us for violating the constitution.

Judge Robbie Jones: That’s exactly what they are going to do in my opinion.

Councilwoman Houston: Matt, if we don’t override the Mayor’s veto tonight and they sue us, is there grace at that point or increased fines and court fees and other penalties?

City Attorney Matt Watson: I can only go from what has been discussed in negotiations; they allege they have about a hundred people who are willing to be named in a class action lawsuit. That’s a risk I don’t feel the city can take on at this point and that’s why it is our recommendation that we enter this agreement. We talked about $15,000 for Any Given Child and $10,000 for State Games and how the budget is tight, if those are concerns this should be of even greater concern because we are talking about substantially larger penalties. There’s nothing guaranteed that they will win, but we could spend one hundred thousand, two hundred thousand, three hundred thousand dollars defending a lawsuit.

Judge Robbie Jones: They have to fine a violation first; they have to convince some federal judge of what we did wrong. I would rather a judge tell us to fix something knowing with reasonableness how the court system works; than have you all to agree to something you cannot complete.

City Attorney Matt Watson: The judge is immune from any suit, so he would not have to pay anything, it would be the city paying for everything.

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

ORDER #16740  ORDER TO OVERRIDE MAYOR’S VETO OF ORDER NO. 16720 DATED APRIL 02, 2019, ENTITLED “ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AND ACCEPTANCE OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RODERICK AND SOLANGE MACARTHUR JUSTICE CENTER AND THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MUNICIPAL COURT PROCEDURES AND POLICIES)

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.

The Mayor had vetoed Order #16731, this action taken at the April 02, 2019 Council Meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a majority vote of the Council to discuss R-12 (Order to override Mayor’s veto of Order # 16731 to suspend Chief Administrative Officer pay). After discussion a vote was taken: Voting yea: T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas, F. Johnson. Not a 2/3 majority. The Mayor’s veto stands.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann to amend the agenda to include R-13 (Order authorizing an investigation of the CAO). The motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston. Voting yea: T. Johnson, Houston, Thomas. Voting nay: Thomas, F. Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston to discuss R-13 (Order authorizing an investigation of the CAO).

Discussion was conducted with Councilman Lindemann reading a proposed order for the CAO investigation. The questions were: who would be doing the investigation, what code number is being used to verify the investigation and is it allowed.

Councilman Thomas said this Council acts as a body not as an individual, I don’t know if this will be allowed with three councilmembers questioning people; the Civil Service Attorney Stephen Wilson said if three councilmembers get together even on the street to question a witness it violates the open meetings act. Councilman Thomas said there is even question now that if you do it individually for the same purpose that could be a violation of the open meetings act.

Councilwoman Houston said, while waiting for Councilman Lindemann to look up the code let me ask this quick question of the City Attorney Matt Watson, speaking of open meetings, the CAO replied to an email that I had sent Ms. Jo Ann our clerk had sent one of our monthly reports, I replied to all, I asked a question as to why our overtime seemed to be overspent, and the reply from the CAO was that I was in violation of the open meetings act because I hit reply all, I guess. Is that correct? Mr. Watson said we are researching that. Councilwoman Houston said so you are already familiar with that? Mr. Watson said we received an email from you today and we are looking into that. Councilwoman Houston said where did he get that? Mr. Watson said you sent an email to Bill, we are looking into that. Councilwoman Houston said where did you get that, why do you feel like I was in violation Mr. CAO? Mayor Bland said we’ll discuss at another time. Councilwoman Houston said it’s just another point of my no confidence, I can’t reply to a thing that was sent to me from your department. I asked a simple question because we are supposed to be over the money, and he replied back that I have violated the open meetings act because I hit reply all to my clerk and the people that it was originally sent to. Those are the kinds of things that create chaos and distrust.

Councilman Lindemann said all I’m trying to do here is vote on this proposed order that is right in front of us right now and all you want is the specific section number? We have added amendments before with no order to look at. Mr. Watson said technically that is a violation. Councilman T. Johnson said would be fair if you guys want to have a special meeting next week to gather any information you want to present? Councilman Lindemann
said I prefer not to wait because I take it on good words from individuals that work at City Hall that the CAO has been working with IT to delete emails off his computer as a result of public records requests.

Councilwoman Houston said President Johnson, are you asking us to table this item? Councilman Lindemann said there are over 40 Attorney General Opinions on this issue and they all say basically the same thing, that City Council has the authority to investigate any conduct and action that takes place in the city and the Council decides the manner in which that investigation is conducted as long as it is within the scope of the law. We can’t ask anyone to give a sworn statement, that’s all.

Councilwoman Houston said and should two three four or five of us as a whole wish to interview somebody as a body, we need to notify the media so it will be an open meeting. Councilwoman Houston asked Council President T. Johnson if ready for a vote? Councilman T. Johnson asked Mr. Watson is it legal? Mr. Watson said Council can conduct investigations but I don’t think there is a statute that states how it should be conducted. I think the question whether the investigation should be conducted by the Council or individual councilmembers is undetermined at this point. There is a difference in I have seen an Attorney General’s Opinion and citing an Attorney General’s Opinion. I have no issue on voting on something if we have it in writing or we can request an opinion from the Attorney General, they turn them around very quick.

Councilman Lindemann said as we have done with other issues in the past. I would like to go ahead and vote on this and if by some miraculous circumstances it turns out to be illegal in any way or form, then we can revise it to fit the letter of the law. After extensive research it is clear to me we are not the first municipality to do this. Councilman Thomas said the Attorney General does not give an opinion on an action that has been taken; they only give opinions on proposed actions.

Councilwoman Houston asked Councilman Johnson, are you ready to vote? Councilman Johnson said if it is legal, Matt is this legal?

City Attorney Matt Watson said I can’t determine whether it’s legal without researching it.

City Attorney Will Simmons said it’s a lot easier for the lawyer to answer questions when you say here’s something in writing and don’t give a blank for the statute number. There are thousands of statute numbers, and then you say I’ve got an Attorney General’s Opinion. If you would give us the proposed statute before we come out and get surprised, then while I’m reading it off and never seen it while you sit in the back trying to get it off on your I pad and talk about Attorney General’s Opinions that I’m looking at on my phone but I’m not going to let you see them, but I’ll get them to you one day, but I want to vote before anybody has a chance to read it, and then Tyrone is on the phone asking is it legal? I don’t think that’s fair to Matt, I don’t think that’s fair to us, I don’t think that’s fair to Meridian. I think if you have a specific question, I think what you ought to do is give everybody a heads up, let everybody read it and then say here’s what I want, here’s what I plan and let’s think about that. Because right now you’re asking him on the spot is it legal, and you are saying I got an Attorney General’s Opinion that says this, this, and this. And you are reading it on the phone, you don’t have cites, you don’t have them in writing, we haven’t had a chance to look at them. You are talking about all the specifics of 21-8-27 and the Council shall have the power to investigate clearly. You’re asking about specific measures, he’s asking is it legal? We have never seen it in writing we heard it the first time you read it out. It’s not fair to us to ask for legal opinions when you read things on the fly, don’t give it to us a heads up, it’s not fair. So, Tyrone you asked is it legal or not,
we can’t give you that kind of opinion. When people email us minutes before a meeting and ask for detailed written responses to specific legal questions and give us minutes to respond, we cannot do research at the meeting. You need to give us a heads up. Mr. Johnson asks us if it legal, I don’t know I haven’t seen it in writing, if you want us to guess about it, I don’t think that’s fair to the city, so if y’all need to vote, y’all vote, but don’t ask what the legal opinion is because we can’t tell you without having a chance to read it.

Councilwoman Houston said Mr. Johnson you made mention about a special meeting? Mr. Johnson said yes, I’m in favor of tabling it or having a special meeting Monday if you guys are available.

Councilwoman Houston said motion to table; Councilman Lindemann said I want to ask one question to see if I can get a clear answer. On the deleted emails, are they retrievable in any way, from the CAO’s computer for instance? Dan Talbert, IT Manager said all email coming in or out is archived. Councilman Lindemann asked is there a way to delete them from that archive? Dan Talbert said no.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann to table R-13 and duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson. Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas. Motion Tabled.

Vice-President Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:

a) Request for Proposals – Engineering Services for 22nd Avenue Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements.

b) Bid – Centrifugal Multi-Stage Air Blower.

Vice-President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland said we have Easter Egg Hunts going on at Velma Young Park at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday and also at Highland Park at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you Council for moving forward on our consent decree, and as has been said everything that comes in on our email is archived. Let any investigation run its course and we will not agree on everything. We will continue to do business in this city. Thank you all.

Vice-President Houston called for citizen comments:

a) Emma Barfield – spoke
b) Patrick Kirby – spoke
c) Loretta Bennett - spoke

Vice-President Houston 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