REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.

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

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

Absent: T. Johnson.

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. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: T. Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to amend the agenda to add the request for an executive session concerning economic development. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: T. Johnson.

Motion made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated August 06, 2019. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: T. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16798 ORDER DETERMINING THAT CERTAIN POLICE VEHICLES ARE USED FOR CRIME DETECTION AND UNDERCOVER WORK AND SHOULD NOT BE MARKED SO AS TO BE IDENTIFIABLE AS CITY 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, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: T. Johnson.

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

RESO. #6231 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT
AND RESTATEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, ADOPTED ON MAY 7, 2019, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF TAX INCREMENT LIMITED OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2019 (MERIDIAN CROSSROADS PROJECT), OF THE CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (1,980,000) (THE “BONDS”), PLUS PREMIUM, IF APPLICABLE, TO RAISE MONEY, TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN TRANSFERRED FUNDS, AS HEREINAFTER DEFINED, AND AS APPLICABLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR (I) THE REFUNDING OF ALL OF THE CITY’S OUTSTANDING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING BONDS, SERIES 2009 (MERIDIAN CROSSROADS PROJECT), DATED DECEMBER 17, 2009, ISSUED IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $4,000,000; (II) PAYING COSTS OF ISSUANCE FOR THE BONDS; (III) APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

ORDER #16799 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JOE D. SEMMES TO THE ELECTRICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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

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

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

ORDER #16800 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DANIEL R. BARNARD TO
THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

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

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

ORDER #16801 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF TRACY L. ALFORD TO
THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

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

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

ORDER #16802 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF BRAD HUFF TO
THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

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

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

ORDER #16803 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ANGELA TURNER TO
THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
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, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: T. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16804 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF LAMAR ARRINGTON TO THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

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

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

RESO. #6232 RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SALE OF SAME AND EXECUTION OF DEED (HIGHWAY 39 NORTH AND 33RD STREET)

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

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 $744,222.26. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann. Absent: T. Johnson.

Motion was made Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $1,008,568.70. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann. Absent: T. Johnson.
Total amount approved/passed $1,752,790.96 claims docket dated, August 15, 2019.

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

Mayor Bland said he wants to thank Vice-President for serving as Mayor during his absence.

Mayor Bland also reminded everyone about the Prayer Walk from the Old Village Fair Mall to the Dumont Plaza that will be held Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

He said we are working on our budget right now and we are going to do all we can with the resources we have and making the cuts we can to balance that budget.

Last week I was in Westfield, Massachusetts with a group of young baseball players representing Meridian and the state of Mississippi in the Southwest Region, for some of the kids this was their first to leave the city and the state of Mississippi plus first time on an airplane for most of the kids, that was paid for by Babe Ruth, it was a really exciting time. I want to thank all you guys that worked with my team and Dr. Jones that really helped a lot, and the entire support of the city during this series, I really appreciate that.

Councilman Thomas said he saw on social media that we are doing some paving on North Hills Street, what are they going to do and when, I’ve asked four times. Public Works Director Hugh Smith said they are paving North Hill Street between Poplar Springs Drive and 16th Avenue, all four lanes. And will be doing the work at night to try to be as non-disruptive as possible. This will start on Monday, August 26th, and we will have detour signs posted. The goal is to have it finished within a matter of three to four days if all goes well with the substructure of the roads once they are revealed.

Vice-President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Melinda Vinson Northam – spoke
2. Loretta Bennett - spoke

Vice-President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding economic development. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. When the subject for the executive session was presented the city attorney deemed it not sufficient to warrant an executive session. The open meeting was called back to order by Vice-President Houston.

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