Meeting called to order by Council President, Tyrone Johnson.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes: Add: R-14 (“Order authorizing addendums to the engineering contracts.) Add: R-15 (Repeal Ordinance Sec. 2-76 – Chief Administrative Officer.) Add: R-16 (Decrease Executive Salaries by $90,000.) Add: R-17 (Order authorizing an investigation into Hostile Work Environment; compelling the attendance of witnesses to the January 7, 2020 City Council Meeting.) Add: Executive Session (To include Personnel Performance and move the session to the top of the agenda.) Voting yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas.

An executive session was requested regarding litigation and personnel performance. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and unanimously passed by the Council to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss litigation and personnel performance. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session with action to follow.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes: R-18 (Order authorizing signing of proposed settlement agreement.) Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated December 03, 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 Order:

ORDER #16879 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF HYDRA-STOP SYSTEM PIPE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EQUIPMENT FROM HYDRA-STOP COMPANY ON A NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS
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. #6249 RESOLUTION FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019, WAS DULY PUBLISHED AS REQUIRED BY LAW; THAT NO SUFFICIENT PROTEST DESCRIBED IN SAID RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FILED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS; AND FOR RELATED 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

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

ORDER #16880 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF RONALD J. TURNER TO COMPLETE GARY HOUSTON'S UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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, Lindemann.
Nay: Houston.

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

ORDER #16881 IN THE MATTER OF: THE APPOINTMENT BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF STEVEN J. ANDERSON TO THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION

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

ORDER #16882  ORDER RETAINING THE FIRM OF BKD, LLP TO PREPARE THE EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

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

Yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #16883  ORDER RETAINING THE FIRM OF BKD, LLP TO PREPARE THE EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE BONITA LAKES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

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

Yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Thomas.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to open routine item R-6 (Order authorizing acceptance of Hold Harmless agreement for drainage repair at 1518 49th Avenue, Darold White.) for discussion. Upon discussion it was determined that this is totally private property and the flooding doesn’t pose a risk to the health and safety of others nor to the infrastructure. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to Table the matter. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16884 ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FROM CHARLES AND ROSETTA ROBERTSON TO RE-ESTABLISH STORM DRAINAGE ON PROPERTY AT 4709 30TH STREET, MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

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 #16886 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT (ENGINEERING SERVICES) BETWEEN BURK-KLEINPETER, INC., AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (PRELIMINARY PLANNING CONSULTATIONS, BIDDING, ETC.; VIA TASK ORDER)

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.

Routine item R-9 (Order authorizing a Mobile Application Agreement with Citysourced, Inc.) was introduced by Council President for a motion to discuss. No motion was given. The item died. No Action Taken.

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

ORDER #16887 ORDER AUTHORIZING CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,000.00 TO THE MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND ACTIVITIES FUND

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

Yea: T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Thomas.

Councilman Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:
RESO. #6250 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING $15,000 EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF THREE ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR FY’2020

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, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: F. Johnson.

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

ORDI. #4530 RESOLUTION AND ORDER OF THE MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI CITY COUNCIL IN LAWFUL, REGULAR AND PUBLIC MEETING DECLARING AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OPEN CONTAINER AND RECREATION DISTRICT WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI AND DESIGNATE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS INCLUDED WITHIN AND BOUNDARIES OF SAID DISTRICTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

Yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Lindemann.
Nay: T. Johnson, Houston.

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 $1,471,940.64. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. 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 $1,123,779.22. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: T. Johnson, Lindemann.

Total amount approved/passed $2,595,719.86 claims docket dated, December 12, 2019.

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

ORDER #16889 ADDENDUM TO THE ENGINEERING TASK ORDER CONTRACTS FOR KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC., NEEL-SCHAFER, INC., AND WAGGONER ENGINEERING, INC.

And, Councilman T. Johnson seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed,
Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to open routine item R-15 (Repeal Ordinance Sec. 2-76 – Chief Administrative Officer.) for discussion. After discussion a vote was taken on this item. Voting yea: T. Johnson, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston. Item Failed.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to open routine item R-16 (Decrease Executive Salaries by $90,000.) for discussion. After discussion a vote was taken on this item. Voting yea: Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Item Failed.

Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to open routine item R-17 (Order authorizing an investigation into Hostile Work Environment; compelling the attendance of witnesses to the January 7, 2020 City Council Meeting.) for discussion. After discussion a vote was taken on this item. Voting yea: T. Johnson, Lindemann. Voting nay: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston. Item Failed.

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

ORDER #16889 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY/S TO SETTLE THIS CASE FOR NO LESS THAN $450,000.00 FOR 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.

President T. Johnson called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – Thank you for passing most of the items on the agenda. I think the communication offered by the mobile application (that the Council did not pass) would have furthered communication between the City and the citizens. It is a good idea to market the city and keep the citizens abreast of what is going on within the city. And I want to bring this back to the table in 2020 to move forward with this type of technology. We do have in the budget professional services that allow department heads to do certain things. Because we have already been in executive session and talked specifically about items 15, 16, and 17, I’m not going to go into further discussion on them. We understand that
we all need to work together and when we have issues with a person in a position, that’s one thing, but a lot of times we are hearing about the person and not the position. The position of CAO is greatly needed in a city of our size and with everything that happens in this city concerning growth on a day to day basis, a CAO is needed. Mr. Doug Stephens is in the office now, doing some of those duties while Mr. McAlister is on leave. If there is communication needed to address anything in each of your Wards you can send those concerns to me and Doug thru the council clerk.

President T. Johnson called for citizen comments:

a. Christopher Burchfield – no show
b. Melinda Vinson Northam – spoke
c. Loretta Bennett - spoke

President T. Johnson called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

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