REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Tyrone Johnson.

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

Absent: None.

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

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated February 05, 2019. 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 #16703 ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16660, SETTLING CLAIM FOR DAMAGES BY SUPER 8 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, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Agenda Item R-1 (Order confirming the re-appointment of Rebecca Combs-Dulaney to the Meridian School Board.) Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston for discussion of this agenda item. After it was determined that the appointee was not available to speak to the Council, the item was tabled until the appointee was available. Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson to Table Agenda Item R-1. 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 #16704  ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIPS FROM MITCHELL COMPANIES FOR THE MERIDIAN MARDI GRAS

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 #16705  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ENTERTAINMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNFAZED SHOW & BAND LLC AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL)

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 #16706  IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AND ADOPTING CROSSROADS PHASE II, HOBBY LOBBY PARCEL A COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 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.

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

RESO. #6210  RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERIDIAN, INC. (3309 27TH STREET) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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.

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

RESO. #6211 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1310 18TH AVENUE) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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 Council asked the Mayor to expound on this order discussing job duties. Mayor Bland said there were nine employees outside their pay band after the Council had increased the bands. He said it is because of their additional duties, so those duties were put into the record with each employee’s name; this vote is to include their job description and additional duties. Councilwoman Houston asked if any of the employee’s duties change, how would the Council be made aware of that, so an adjustment can be made? The Mayor said that Attorney, Matt Watson and the Clerk of Council have received a list with each of these nine additional duties with a percentage given to each additional duty, and that duty would be taken off along with the percentage of pay in regards to that duty. Councilwoman Houston said that is what she is asking, how will Council be notified should the need arises? City Attorney Matt Watson said, it will be up to the Administration to let the Council know of any such changes in job duties.

Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #16707  ORDER ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES’ SPECIFIC JOB DESCRIPTIONS

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

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

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 February 14, 2019 in the amount of $1,950,002.30. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

President Johnson called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland said in respect for Mrs. Combs-Dulaney, she is in a school board meeting in Jackson, and I will let her respond to any questions the Council may have at the next Council Meeting. In regards to School Board Members, those are people that serve on the board and I try to make sure that anyone I present to the Council for confirmation has a lot of integrity from business folk, community folk, pastors or whomever we put forward, I would rather they answer the questions the Council may have themselves. I do think that Rebecca Dulaney answered a lot of those questions the first time she came here four months ago to the Council. Her bio detail was given to the Council and she will come to address the Council at the next meeting.

We will have our Mardi Gras Festival on Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 on the City Hall Lawn from 11:00 until 4:00 p.m.

There is a lot of effort going on right now; we are shooting for Sunday at 5:00 p.m. to complete Planet Playground. We also have a lot of other projects that we are working on to bring back to the Council. Some will need your input, so we would like to have a work session in March if possible.

The Meridian High School boys and girls teams are going to be in the playoffs this week. The girls are really playing very well, and the boys, after they beat up on Pearl tonight, they have two tough games. One in Pascagoula and the next will probably be in Biloxi. The girls are going to host a game this week, so people get out and come see them play, they are playing some very good basketball right now.

Also, there is a big play with the Meridian High School on March 1st, 2019, Friday night. I think it will be at the Temple Theatre, so support them too.

President Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Melinda Vinson Northam – spoke
b) Tommy Williams – cancelled
c) **Shirley Stennis - spoke**

**President Johnson 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