REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 02, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Tyrone Johnson.

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

Absent: None.

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 Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendments: Add R-8 (Order accepting minutes, transcript and submitted exhibits for the special called Council Meeting on May 28, 2019.) Add R-9 (Order authorizing acceptance of engagement letter with Glover, Young, Hammack, Walton & Simmons, PLLC during transition period to Kermit Kendrick and Burr & Forman, LLP as the City’s attorney/s.) Add (Request for executive session: potential litigation.) Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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 June 18, 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 #16776 ORDER DESIGNATING TEMPLE, INC. AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FROM SIEMENS INDUSTRY, INC., FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL PRODUCTS 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.

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

ORDER #16777 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY (FY20 POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES)
Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16778 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VENUE USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE MERIDIAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (SUNFISH TRIATHLON)

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 #16779 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SOUND & LIGHTING CONTRACT WITH KABANA PRODUCTIONS-KENNY SUIRE (JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT BONITA LAKES 2019)

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, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16780 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF NATIONAL TURBINE CORPORATION, SYRACUSE, NY FOR TWO (2) CENTRIFUGAL MULTI-STAGE AIR BLOWER – BID #19-08 IN THE AMOUNT OF $105,917.00 (WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT)

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

ORDER #16781 ORDER SETTLING DISPUTED CLAIM FOR PAYMENT FROM APAC-MISSISSIPPI UPON THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

And, Councilman T. 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 Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6225 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO VAN ZYVERDEN, INC. AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-105 ET SEQ., OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

RESO #6226 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES FOR A SECOND FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO MAGNOLIA STEEL CO., INC. FOR A NEW AND/OR EXPANDED ENTERPRISE AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-105 ET SEQ., OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

RESO. #6227 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO COURTS OF PRAISE MINISTRIES, INC., (100 26TH AVENUE SOUTH) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 27-31-1(D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

And, Councilman Thomas 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 Resolution:

RESO. #6228 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO MACEDONIA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, (2012 LYNCH AVENUE) AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 27-31-1(D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

And, Councilman Thomas 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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $744,097.66. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made Councilwoman F. Johnson 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 $830,803.72 with an added
Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to discuss R-8 (Order accepting minutes, transcript and submitted exhibits for the special called Council Meeting on May 28, 2019.) After discussion on the recordings played by Mr. McAlister not yet received and time needed by some Council Members to read the official transcript, the Council took No Action.

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

ORDER #16782 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR LEGAL SERVICES BY GLOVER, YOUNG, HAMMACK, WALTON & SIMMONS, PLLC, TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO KERMIT KENDRICK AND BURR & FORMAN, LLP, AS THE CITY OF MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY/S

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, Houston, Lindemann.
Recuse: F. Johnson
Nay: None.

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

Mayor Bland proposed we conduct the July 9th Work Session out at the Sweet Gum Bottom Road location, in order for the Council and citizens to see what is being done at the industrial park and what the changes could bring to this area. The Council said they had all been out there and had seen the site and they saw no point in holding the work session out there. The work session will be held on at City Hall, July 9th at 9:00 a.m. and the Special Called Council Meeting to vote on closing the road, will be held at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Bland introduced Kristi Hicks, Mississippi Partnership Specialist of the Census Bureau. Ms. Hicks reminded us that the 2020 count for the census was beginning on April 1, 2020 and that federal funding and representatives in our government are all based on the census numbers for each state. It is critical that we all be counted.

Council President Tyrone Johnson said he is giving his comment time to a young man to say a few words; he called up Keithric Randle. Keithric said he wants to say we must do better and stop the violence. He said he is 19 years old and he has an interview for
The Council thanked him for coming in and encouraged him to continue to strive to do well for a better future.

Mayor Bland said we have had a lot of things going on in Meridian for the last couple of weeks. The Mississippi Picnic was a great success with an estimated 5,000 people coming into Meridian. We had the Juneteenth Festival, a big USA Track and Field and the State Games. Meridian hosted a lot of great events. The next great event is the July 4th Celebration, please come out and enjoy that also.

Council President asked if the Velma Young Pool will open this summer. Doug Stephens said the pool is repaired and the pool will open tomorrow.

Councilman Thomas asked that Public Works send out their paving and cutting schedule so the Council will be aware.

President T. Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Melinda Vinson Northam – spoke
b) Janet Moore - spoke

President T. Johnson called for Council comments:

Various comments were made.

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation. 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 Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential litigation. 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.

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