REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 04, 2019 AT 9:00 A.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 Pastor Gary Houston, of New Hope Blackwater 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: Remove R-2 (Ordinance granting Telepak Networks, Inc., a non-exclusive franchise for fiber optic cable.). Add R-4 (Order authorizing acceptance of sponsorship donations from Citizens National Bank and John O’Neil Johnson Toyota for the Juneteenth Festival.) Add R-5 (Lifting from the table: The rezoning appeal of the 29.95 acres on Knight-Parker Road.) 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 May 21, 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 #16756 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, REMOVING FROM SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING SURPLUS VEHICLES TO BE RELEASED TO THE INSURANCE COMPANY

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 #16757 ORDER ADOPTING REVISED PROCEDURES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD LOT PROGRAM AND UPDATED
INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES

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.

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

RESO. #6224 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $799,870.19. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

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 $589,297.78. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.


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

ORDER #16758 ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIPS FROM CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK AND JOHN O’NEIL JOHNSON TOYOTA FOR THE MERIDIAN 2019 JUNETEENTH 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, F. Johnson, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to discuss R-5 (Lifting from the table: The rezoning appeal of the 29.95 acres on Knight-Parker Road held at the May 21, 2019 meeting.) The issue was discussed and a vote was taken; results below:

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

ORDER #16759 ORDER REJECTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REZONING OF 29.95 ACRES AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF KNIGHT-PARKER ROAD (ABUTTING U S 11/80 TO THE NORTH AND KNIGHT-PARKER ROAD TO THE WEST) FROM R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY AND AGRICULTURAL TO B-4 REGIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

And, Councilman Lindemann 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.

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

Community Development Director, Laura Carmichael and The Arts Council have an Intern from Millsaps College, Ms. Asia Allen, she is from Houston, TX. She is a Senior Business Administration Major at Millsaps College. Asia is set to graduate in the spring of 2020. This Intern opportunity is funded by The Phil Hardin Foundation. Ms. Carmichael said Asia is a pleasure to work with and we are lucky to have her during this program.

Mayor Bland said I like to remind everyone that June is the month for the Juneteenth Festival and the Meridian Picnic. Parks & Recreation, Community Development, Public Works and Police Department have been working really hard to get those events underway.

We have also had a verbal contribution request of $1,300 for a table at the Boys and Girls Club annual event.

We are also trying to do all we can with Parks & Recreation to provide part-time services and all the other services. I think Mr. President, Representative Young has reached out to you for certain things that we need to put on the table if we are going to get those things approved. There are a lot of things going on, as you know the summer months are some of our busiest months as they relate to Parks & Recreation and Community Development. So, some of these things we are trying to get approved and done to provide services this summer.

I want to thank all of those Departments and Council Members who planned and organized everything for your Wards this weekend.
President T. Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Roger Smith – spoke
b) Mary Bowen – spoke
c) Loretta Bennett – spoke
d) Melinda Vinson Northam - spoke

President T. Johnson called for Council comments:

Various comments were made. The Council scheduled a Special Council Meeting on June 11, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m., to allow the city auditors to present the 2018 Audit and to allow the Council to take action on the audit.

An executive session was requested regarding personnel performance and potential litigation. 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. Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss personnel performance and 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