REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 05, 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 Gary Houston, 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 payment #902225 from the claims docket. Add Tommy Williams to the Citizens Comment 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 19, 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 #16708     ORDER DESIGNATING DATA MANAGEMENT, INC. / TIMECLOCK PLUS AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER OF SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FOR THE TIMECLOCK SOFTWARE THE CITY IS CURRENTLY USING

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.

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

RESO. #6212     RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR APPEAL OF DENIAL FOR REZONING (1400 BEECH STREET) MARCH 19, 2019

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.

Agenda Item R-2 (Order confirming the re-appointment of Rebecca Combs-Dulaney to the Meridian School Board.) Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson for discussion of this agenda item. After lengthy discussion on various topics of the possibilities of the position, a vote was taken on Agenda Item R-2. The vote was equally split, 2-2 the item did not pass. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson. Voting nay: Houston, Lindemann. Voting abstain: T. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16709 ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIP FROM THE BONITA LAKES MALL/ROCKSTEP MERIDIAN, LLC (FOR THE 2019 HEALTHY HOMETOWN CHALLENGE)

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: T. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16710 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VENUE USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI, INC.

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, Lindemann.
Nay: T. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16711 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM
OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND
THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
(EMERGENCY ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIR (ERBR)
BRIDGE #SA3800000000101)

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 #16712 ORDER AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF COMPLAINT IN THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID EPIDEMIC SUIT

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

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

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

ORDER #16713 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LAUDERDALE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (ASSET SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE APPORTIONMENT GUIDELINES)

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: T. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16714 ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS FROM PEGGY SPENCER, TAVIO RAND, AND WILLIE RUSHING
FOR DITCH CLEANING ON PROPERTY AT 16TH STREET THROUGH 18TH AVENUE, 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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4519 ORDIANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM B-2 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT TO R-2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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, 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 the claims docket dated February 26, 2019 in the amount of $2,608,854.59 with payment #902225 in the amount of $1,700.00 removed, bringing the new claims docket total to $2,607,154.59. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

President Johnson advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:

a) Water Filtration Replacement – B Street Freshwater Treatment Plant.

President Johnson called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland said Ms. Jones gave me information for March 8th promoting International Women’s Day.

Betty Lou Jones came up to invite the Council and the entire community to a very special event that has our community at the center of a worldwide event. About ten years ago the Ken Burns Organization, Florentine Films, came to Meridian and began making
inquiries about Jimmy Rodgers and all the activities that have occurred in our city and our state regarding Jimmy Rodgers over the years. Ken Burns, who is known worldwide for the documentaries he has produced, has produced a documentary called ‘Country Music’ this is a sixteen hour, eight session film. This film will premiere on PBS all over the world in September of 2019. Prior to the premiere of the documentary there will be a promotion of it throughout the country and the world. It begins here in Mississippi and it begins here in Philadelphia and Meridian, and it begins this month. I’m here to invite you to a special screening on March 29, 2019, at Peavey Electronics at 10:30 a.m., where we will have the opportunity to meet the producers of this exciting event and exciting film. This is very important to our community, because the statistics show that in the United States and around the world, that when Ken Burns produces a documentary and the world sees it and loves it, whether it’s baseball or jazz or world wars or national parks or The Roosevelts, whoever and whatever he singles out, the tourism related to that specific area quadruples. We will be seen through the eyes of the world in September, as the birthplace of America’s Music. We invite you and our community to come out on March 29th to embrace this wonderful documentary that will showcase our community and one of our founding fathers, Jimmy Rodgers! This screening will be about an hour showing. There will be a showing in Philadelphia the night before with Marty Stuart, who by the way is the narrator of this documentary. And there will be a show with Marty and Connie and the screening at the Alice Theatre that night. After the screening in Meridian, they will move to Hank Williams’ part in Montgomery, Alabama, the night of March 29th.

The Mayor said we had a very big event this weekend on the city hall lawn; Mardi Gras events and parade and a lot of people came out downtown this weekend at the MAXX and other places. I want to thank Laura and Terrence and their team and Public Works for helping put everything together. We will try to continue to do more things downtown to engage families and friends. At the upcoming working Council work session, I would like to discuss the budget the Council will give for the Juneteenth Festival.

After the rainstorm a couple of weeks ago we had to do a lot of cleaning up and we had to go out, particularly James Lloyd, had to go out to all the areas that had issues and he also went out with you President Johnson driving around and going back to Waste Pro to find out what they would charge us for removing a lot of that material. Some may have been from the storm and some may have been from people who utilized the storm to put out debris that had nothing to do with the storm. There was about eight or nine properties he identified with pictures. We are out of money on our end with that $400,000 we had to expend to Waste Pro. The amount of debris Mr. Lloyd found would cost about $2,500 to $3,000 to pick up in the area he identified. There may be other areas not yet identified. We will need this money possibly from Legislative to do this if the Council wants to move forward.

We did get the bids in on the sidewalk project in your ward Councilwoman Houston and it will be presented at the next meeting in March.

I want to say that in business anybody can make a decision today and changes can be done tomorrow. Government is a little different in the way we have to talk to figure out which line item the expenditure will come from, once we see we don’t have it in the budget, we talk and communicate with the Council to see if it can be moved from another line item.
If there is something that needs addressing and you have turned in a request two or three time with no response, please let Richie or me know, so I can check on what my departments are not doing so I can take care of that.

President Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Tommy Williams – 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