REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Tyrone Johnson.

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Glenn Jackson, of Central Baptist Church, and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes: Add: R-13 (Order authorizing Change Order No. 1 on Energy Services Contract with McNeil Rhoads, LLC.) 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 September 17, 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 #16829 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID SURPLUS VEHICLES

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

ORDER #16830 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS VEHICLES TO BE DISCARDED

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

ORDER #16831 ORDER DESIGNATING PRO-VISION VIDEO SYSTEMS AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR 1080P HD IN-CAR VIDEO BASE KIT AND TWO CAMERAS DVE-808LE2 FOR THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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.

CAO, Richie McAlister said our bond council team Mr. Hairston and Mr. Thompson were unable to be here today, but they will be here for the November 5, 2019 public hearing to answer any questions the public may have and to explain the unwinding of the 2012 tax structured lease agreement of the police station on 22nd Avenue and move forward with renegotiating that contract to take ownership of the station.

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

RESO. #6239 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI TAKING OFFICIAL ACTION TOWARDS THE AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, URBAN RENEWAL PLAN (LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER PROJECT); SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON SUCH URBAN RENEWAL PLAN REGARDING THE UNWIND OF CERTAIN NEW MARKET TAX CREDITS UTILIZED FOR THE PROJECT IN 2012; AUTHORIZING AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

And, Councilman Lindemann 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:

ORDER #16832 ORDER RECORDING INTO THE MINUTES OF THE
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 #16833 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GLORIA BRASSFIELD TO THE MERIDIAN PLANNING 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, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16834 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF QUINN CARLISLE TO THE MERIDIAN PLANNING 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, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16835 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DR. OTIS GOWDY, JR. TO THE MERIDIAN PLANNING 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, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16836  IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF BILLY MITTS TO THE MERIDIAN PLANNING 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, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16837  IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GEORGE MYERS TO THE MERIDIAN PLANNING 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, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16838  ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FROM BADCOCK & MORE HOME FURNITURE OF TWIN BEDS, FRAMES, FOOTBOARDS, HEADBOARDS, RAILS, MATTRESSES, ETC. FOR THE #5 FIRE STATION

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 #16839 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF PROPOSAL FROM EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT PROFESSIONALS (EEP) TO PROVIDE TWO YEARS OF FLOW TESTS, WARRANTY WORK AND TRAINING IN EXCHANGE FOR POSI CHECK MACHINE

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

ORDER #16840 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTY (50) ACRES OF LAND NEAR THE JAYCEE SOCCER COMPLEX

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

ORDER #16841 ORDER SETTING FEES AND ADOPTING POLICY AND GUIDELINES REGARDING USE AND RENTAL OF CITY FACILITIES

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

ORDER #16842 ORDER ADDING AS AN OVERLAY THE NAME "DAVID RUFFIN BOULEVARD" TO 8TH STREET FROM 22ND AVENUE TO 26TH AVENUE

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 #16843 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI; LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI (ABANDONED ELMWOOD CEMETERY UPKEEP)

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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4526 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR SMALL CELL TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

And, Councilwoman Houston 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.

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

ORDER #16844 ORDER TO CHARGE OFF INACTIVE AND UNCOLLECTABLE
WATER ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF $154,116.88

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.

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 $801,615.28. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $758,396.58. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Total amount approved/passed $1,560,011.86 claims docket dated, September 26, 2019.

Hugh Smith, Public Works Director and a McNeil Rhoads representative said that two properties that were included in the cost of the energy services project were removed because City Hall was a site with an updated efficient lighting system already and the Northridge Police Station was a leased facility and not city owned, so the city is due this amount $56,125.51, reduced from the contracted price.

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

ORDER #16845 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 BETWEEN MCNEIL RHoads, LLC AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (ENERGY SERVICES CONTRACT - CONVERT TO LEDS AND INSTALL FIXED BASE NETWORK METER READING SYSTEM)

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.

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

Mayor Bland said I just want to update the Council on some of the projects we have going on in Meridian. You’ve seen the progress and dirt work being done on the Children’s Museum I think in a month or two there will be some type of ground breaking for all of us to
attend and that's currently going on along the Sela Ward Parkway. Also Ulta will be opening in November of this year. Hobby Lobby will be opening in late December or January. The Threefoot Marriott is making plans to open October/November of 2020.

Right now the Downtown Jimmie Rodgers Museum transitional location will be on Front Street. As you know we are moving forward with the Sela Ward Parkway Streetscape Project and Neel-Schaffer is the engineer for this project and they will be reaching out to each one of you about their timeline for this project and they start talking again to the business owners along that stretch.

P J’s Coffee is scheduled to open on Highway 39 within the next few months, Shipley’s Donuts on Poplar Springs Drive is finishing up construction.

Cookout will be opening soon in the old A&W Root Beer location on South Frontage Road. Kickin Crab, which is kind of like a Joe’s Crab Shack will be opening in the old Ryan’s Restaurant location. The Old Highway 80 sidewalk project is still coming along fine.

We have a Home Ownership Fair this Thursday at the Tommy Dulaney Center from 2:00 - 7:00. I discussed this event at the last Council Meeting. This Saturday, October 5th we have Earth’s Bounty at Singing Brakeman Park from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and next Thursday, before we meet again, on October 10th will be Earth’s Bounty and MAXX Night Market at the MAXX from 5 - 8 p.m.

Also, yesterday it was full at Union Station for the job fair for Hobby Lobby, so let people know they are starting the recruitment process.

The recruitment process is also starting for the Heights; it will be in the old Sears location in the Mall. They are looking for support staff and a manager for that facility, which will be one of a kind for the whole southeast, with 92 thousand square feet of entertainment. They will be going up on the roof with fun and entertainment for people of all ages to enjoy.

If you know of anyone looking for the types of jobs in the fields that the Heights are looking for, they can contact Renee’ at the Mall, she is the Mall Manager.

And for Hobby Lobby, they are set up at Union Station today until 5:00 p.m. because they had so many people there.

Councilman Thomas said when Hobby Lobby advertised that they would pay $15.00 per hour; yes, I imagine they had a few people.

Mayor Bland said yes, some people couldn’t get in yesterday.

The Mayor asked Hugh Smith to answer any questions the Council may have concerning Public Works.

Councilman Thomas said he hasn’t received the weekly paving list. Hugh said it’s just Tuesday now Dr. Thomas and I gave you a large list last week. Councilman Thomas said it was a large list but it helps us to know so we can let the public know which streets are blocked or closed. Hugh said we try to let the public know. Hugh said the sidewalk project going on at Highway 11 & 80 is going slow right now, we have an issue with our contractor there and he is really in arrears as far as work days and percentage of the project completed. We received notice from our construction engineers which basically is putting the contractor on notice that we need more activity and they need to keep in time with the scheduled project. So, we are staying on top of things and we are working with the proper procedures dealing with MDOT on this project.

Councilwoman Houston asked if they have worked things out with The Rustler’s owner and Hugh said they have. Councilwoman Houston asked is everybody good there and Hugh said at this moment everything is fine, Mayor Bland said they haven’t called you all, so
everything is fine. Hugh said we understand this business owner’s concerns as it may affect his parking. But, we do have a plan in place to totally address that.

Hugh said the Mayor briefed you all on the Sela Ward Parkway Project, we are in the beginning phases of that and I hope the consultant which is Neel-Schaffer, answered your concerns and questions in a positive manner. I haven’t had any feedback from those meetings, but if you still have questions or concerns from that please let me know. The next step is to reach out to the stakeholders, the business owners and we will start with a soft design or concept.

Councilman Thomas said I understand Neel-Schaffer will be back the end of this month or the beginning of November to present to the City Council, that’s what they told me.

Councilman Thomas asked if they got the part to repair the street sweeper, where are we now? Will it be repaired and back by the end of this month?

Hugh said he doesn’t know when it will be repaired, but he will get a timeline and hold them to it as hard as he can to make sure that it happens.

Councilwoman Houston asked if anything has been heard about the walking trails that the County plans to do?

Julia Norman said they haven’t heard anything, but she will follow up on it.

President T. Johnson called for citizen comments:

   a. Melinda Vinson Northam – 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