REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Houston.

Present: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Absent: F. Johnson.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Ralph Henson, of Life Baptist Church, followed by the pledge to the flag.

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

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated July 30, 2020, and August 04, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16989 ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR PARTS

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16990 ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO BE REMOVED FROM INVENTORY AND DISCARDED

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16991  ORDER DECLARING PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND STOLEN
AND AUTHORIZE IT BE REMOVED FROM INVENTORY

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16992  ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER
NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID
VEHICLES TO BE SOLD

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

RESO. #6284  RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN MUNICIPALLY OWNED
REAL PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL
PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZED TO BE SOLD AT FAIR MARKET VALUE
(1180 SANDFLAT ROAD, PPIN #020521)

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:


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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16994    ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF FY 2020 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) LOCAL SOLICITATION APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #16995    ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SECURITY MONITORING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN PROTECTION SERVICES, INC., TO MONITOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN’S CAMERAS

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.
Councilman Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16996 ORDER AUTORIZING ERIC WILLIS TO TIE INTO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN’S WATER LINE FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AT 10164 OLD HIGHWAY 80 WEST, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WATER SERVICE

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

RESO. #6285 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD BALOREM TAXES TO HOPE VILLAGE FOR CHILDREN, INC., AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1(D) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

RESO. #6286 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

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

Yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.
Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a majority vote of the Council to **approve Section (1) Payroll** of the claims docket in the amount of $1,027,567.60. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann. Absent: F. Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to **approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items** of the claims docket in the amount of $693,239.34. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

**Total amount approved/passed $1,720,806.94** claims docket dated, August 14, 2020.

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

a) 2 - New Flush Trucks.
b) 1- Used Flush Truck, 2015 model.

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – I want to thank the Council for voting to move forward with the paving around the city. Over the next few weeks we will start some to the paving with inhouse employees. And Finance Department will be getting with Hugh Smith’s team to see what he needs in regards to the paving bond to start contracting out that paving. I want to let the citizens know that we are going to be doing some paving in the City of Meridian in the coming months for as long as we can, weather permitting.

In the next three to four weeks you will see more cameras with the Mississippi Power Contract going up, providing more security in more public spaces for our citizens. With the Council’s approval of a third-party vendor to review the security cameras throughout the city, we can move forward with that relationship with Mississippi Power to install those cameras and bring more public safety to our citizens.

We have had another soft month as it relates to our sales tax numbers, we are up about 6.7% higher this time than we were last year. We are only about .5%, which is less than 1% of where we were in 2019. From all standpoints we must continue to wear our masks, so we don’t have to go backwards during this virus. It would be rough on us from a budgeting position if we have to do that. A lot of communities and cities are in the process of making drastic cuts because of COVID and what it’s done to their timing and what it’s done to their budgets. We will continue to work forward and try to keep our finances in order, even with COVID here.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Melinda Vinson Northam – did not appear
2. Michael Allen – did not appear
3. Loretta Bennett – did not appear
4. Rita Jack – cancelled
5. Joseph Denson - spoke
President Houston 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