REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Houston.

Present: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Gary Morris, Life Church, 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 changes: Add to Executive Session: personnel performance. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated November 17, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER #17050 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT (ENGINEERING SERVICES) BETWEEN BURK-KLEINPETER, INC., AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (ENGINEERING CONSULTATIONS ON VARIOUS PROJECTS VIA TASK ORDERS)

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

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

RESO. #6302 RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE INACTIVE MERIDIAN AND BONITA LAKES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MBLDA)

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, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE #4541**

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM R-2 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-3 SPECIAL USE MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT NOT INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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

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

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

**RESOLUTION #6303**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND EXECUTION OF DEEDS FOR FOUR (4) LOTS UNDER THE NEIGHBORHOOD LOT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO MISSISSIPPI CODE § 21-17-1(11)

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

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

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $829,494.47. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $501,352.13 less payment #210546 removed in the amount of $81,474.25 leaving $419,877.88. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

**Total amount approved/passed $1,249,372.35** for claims docket dated, November 23, 2020.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #17051 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ROBERT H. JEFFARES TO THE MERIDIAN TREE COMMISSION

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

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

The City Council reviews the routine financial reports of the city; claims dockets and monthly reports of payroll, revenue, expenditure and combined FY’ 2021 budget.

President Houston called for presentations:

Ms. Deidre Bland of the Meridian Public-School District gave an updated report on the virtual learning, attendance, meal logistics and the information needed by the parents and students during these trying times of COVID-19, concerning virtual educational instructions. Students need to log on every single day as if they were in the classroom. Elementary students at 8:00 a.m. and their practice will end at 2:00 p.m. Secondary students log in at 8:30 a.m. and their day ends at 1:00 p.m. There are two platforms used to educate our students; elementary uses Google Classroom and secondary are using Canvas. Thursday, December 3rd, at 5:30 p.m. @ the Boys and Girls Club, a Canvas training for parents will be held for those parents needing help in navigating Canvas, to aid their children having trouble with the site.

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – Parks and Recreation will be having a soccer ball give away from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on December 4, 2020 at Highland Park and on December 12, 2020 at Velma Young Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Fire Department have four new hires, two starting tomorrow and two starting Friday.

We had a state-wide Public Safety Training Seminar addressing the following of all public safety guidelines at the Public Safety Facility on November 16th through the 20th

Public Works has begun the leaf pickup season.

We are hoping MDEQ will be coming tomorrow to alleviate some of the dam issues at the Druid Hills Lakewood Dam, by putting the pump in place to start draining off about 5 feet of water, and hopefully the beavers won’t cause any undue problems before the problem can be stabilized.

State of emergency process is still going on to address portions of the Highway 80 Trunk Line.

Our pothole hotline is up and running from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and the number is 601-485-1991.
APAC is closed this week so there is a halt to paving because we are unable to get asphalt.
The Christmas Tree Lighting will be today at 5:30 p.m. on the city hall lawn.
Police presence has been increased in the shopping areas all around town.
The Christmas Parade will be this Saturday, December 5th, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
The two commercial properties on 5th Street have been torn down and the debris is now being picked up.

There were no citizen comments.

President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding personnel performance. Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann 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 Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential personnel performance. 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 with no action taken.

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