REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2020 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 Dr. Beverly Knox, Holy Remnant Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman T. Johnson duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following amendments: Change: R-2 (Amendment to Resolution #6240 (Debt Collection for the City of Meridian) to include the appointment of Tarquez Hopson as Hearing Officer.) Change the Hearing Officer to Stella Anderson. Add To R-6 Claims Docket: (Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items add payment #201769 in the amount of $178,617.31 for the MAX.) Add: R-7 (Order authorizing Memorandum of Understanding between Kemper County Sheriff Department and City of Meridian on highway interdiction law enforcement.) Add: R-8 (Order confirming the Mayor’s selection of Lewis Robbins as interim Police Chief.) Add: (Executive Session personnel performance.) 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. #16896 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF FREDERICK LIDDELL TO THE CIVIL SERVICE 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, T. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO. #6253 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 6240 ENTITLED
“RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MUNICIPAL INTERCEPT COMPANY, LLC ("MIC") TO COLLECT THE CITY OF MERIDIAN’S DEBT BETWEEN MIC AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AS AUTHORIZED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT COLLECTION SETOFF ACT” IN ORDER TO APPOINT A HEARING OFFICER

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.

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

ORDER #16897 ORDER ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATION FROM THE CHARLES L. YOUNG, SR. FOUNDATION OF $500.00 TO THE VELMA YOUNG CENTER TO PURCHASE A PROJECTOR

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

ORDER #16898 ORDER ACCEPTING SPONSORSHIP DONATION FROM HOTEL & RESTAURANT SUPPLY, INC., OF $250.00 FOR THE MERIDIAN 2020 MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL

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.

Motion made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to open the discussion on R-5 (Ordinance authorizing adoption of the 2018 International Codes and 2020 NFPA Codes for the City of...
The issue was discussed and Councilman Thomas questioned if the prior Ordinance that gave the option of fire sprinkler systems to new buildings for one and two-family dwellings be superseded by this new ordinance. There was not a clear yes or no answer, so a motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson to Table the issue until the answer to the question was known. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston 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 **$818,707.11**. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of **$971,695.79** with an added payment of PO #201769 for **$178,617.31**, bringing the total to **$1,150,313.10**. Voting yea: Thomas, T. Johnson, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

**Total amount approved/passed $1,969,020.21** claims docket dated, January 30, 2020.

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

ORDER #16899 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND KEMPER COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT (LAW ENFORCEMENT HIGHEAY INTERDICTION)

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.

President Johnson called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – We are trying to make sure we communicate with the Council on the day to day functions. I want to let you know what is going on at Fire Station #9 and the things we will be doing in and around town. In the month of February, we will be coming to you with a proposal, we received a check from Mississippi Power a check close to $20,000.00 as part of our LED initiative. I wanted to share some of my thoughts on how it will help with some of the events that we are asking the Council to give money to help put on. It will also give the Council a chance to do something in your Wards that you may like to address.

We also want to move forward with the issue on the paving that we have talked about in the work sessions. We still need a Paving Index and we know it will take from three to six
months for a company to review and give us the results of that. But we feel the citizens want to address pot holes and paving all around town, and we can do that with this bond funding.

We will continue to work out arrangements with the County and arrangement with the New Commissioner for the Central District over MDOT. So, we wanted to take that money further than the bond capacity we have, we want to spread that bond out and utilize the revenue from the sales tax dispersal to do that. The administration will try to get you any information you need to vote on that.

This Thursday from 9:00 to 1:00 at the Tommy Dulaney Center we will have the Governor’s Job Fair with 60 to 75 businesses there, they will be interviewing people on the spot and giving out jobs on the spot.

There is the Mardi Gras as Mrs. Carmichael was talking about earlier and also, we have a list of events that we will email once the dates are set. We will finalize the $15,000.00 that the Council gave to get these events produced and Terrence Davis will get this information together to let you all know the particulars.

I know that we don’t always agree on the things that Myself and some of my Department Heads are trying to do, but we will try to communicate. I would like Chief Leister to come up and give an update on Fire Station #9.

Councilman Thomas – Do we still plan to have a work session next week?
Fire Chief Leister – We have contacted a roofing company and they had a scheduled start date of three to four weeks and the worst-case scenario is once they get started it will take about a week to seal up the roof. Next, we will introduce a negative pressure ventilation system on the inside for 48 hours, after that we will have a mold and air test re-done and compare to the baseline test that was first done. With all the research we’ve done over the last month all the numbers indicate that it is safe for the building to be occupied. We moved the firemen back in yesterday and we will continue to mitigate the situation as we go. After the roof is sealed up we will begin to repair or replace the sheet rock in there, and decide whether to do it in house or contract it out. At that point the issues should be completely taken care of. Any questions?
Councilman Johnson – Did you do anything to Fire Station No. 5?
Fire Chief Leister – We are waiting to get the word back on contractors to replace the roof-soffits and things like that, but on that particular job you don’t know what you will find until you get in there.

President Johnson called for citizen comments:

a) Melinda Vinson Northam - spoke

President Johnson called for Council comments:

Various comments were made.

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation with possible action to follow. 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 Councilman Thomas duly seconded by
Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential litigation. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman T. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session with action to follow.

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to amend the agenda and Add: R-8 (Order confirming the Mayor’s selection of Lewis Robbins as Interim Police Chief.) 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 #16900 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF LEWIS ROBBINS AS INTERIM POLICE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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


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