REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 03, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council Vice-President, Kim Houston.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Beverly Henson, Life Baptist 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: Add: R-17 (Order authorizing the waiving of building permits and water tap fees for Partners In Recovery.) Add: (Executive Session concerning pending litigation, sale of city property and personnel performance.) Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated February 18, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER. #16909 ORDER REMOVING 2005 CHEVROLET TAHOE, VIN #1GNEC13Z95R215660 FROM LIST PREVIOUSLY DECLARED SURPLUS BY CITY COUNCIL ORDER NO. 16829 AND PLACED BACK IN SERVICE

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, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER. #16910 ORDER DETERMINING THAT CERTAIN POLICE VEHICLES ARE USED FOR CRIME DETECTION AND UNDERCOVER WORK AND SHOULD NOT BE MARKED SO AS TO BE IDENTIFIABLE AS CITY 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, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

RESO. #6258 RESOLUTION SETTING AN ELECTION DATE FOR CITY COUNCILPERSON OF WARD 2 (APRIL 14, 2020)

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

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

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

ORDER #16911 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARJORIE M. ALEXANDER TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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: None.

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

ORDER #16912 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MATT SAMPLEY TO THE ELECTRICAL EXAMINING BOARD

And, Councilwoman 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: None.

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

ORDER #16913 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF RONALD J. TURNER TO THE MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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: None.

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

ORDER #16914 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARY JOHNSON TO THE TAXICAB ADVISORY BOARD

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: None.

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

ORDER #16915 ORDER APPOINTING THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN ON THE TAXICAB ADVISORY BOARD

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: None.
Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16916  ORDER APPOINTING THE MERIDIAN POLICE CHIEF AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN ON THE TAXICAB ADVISORY BOARD

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: None.

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

RESO. #6259  RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEPUTY CLERKS OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

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

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

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

ORDER #16917  ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIP FROM DR. RACHEL HULL FOR MERIDIAN'S KIDZONE EVENT

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: None.

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

ORDER #16918  ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIP FROM JOHN O'NEIL JOHNSON TOYOTA FOR MERIDIAN'S
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: None.

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

ORDER #16919 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT WITH QUEEN CITY WAREHOUSE AND TRANSLOAD, LLC

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: None.

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

ORDI. #4532 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MS, TO REVISE CERTAIN POLLING PLACES

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

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

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

ORDER #16920 IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF EDDIE R. KELLY AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN
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.
Nay: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #16921 ORDER APPOINTING KIM HOUSTON AS PRESIDENT OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVE MARCH 03, 2020

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: None.

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

ORDER #16922 ORDER APPOINTING WESTON LINDEMANN AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVE MARCH 03, 2020

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: 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 $816,774.60. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $693,385.72. Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Total amount approved/passed $1,510,160.32 claims docket dated, February 27, 2020.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #16923 ORDER WAIVING COST OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES AND WATER AND SEWER TAP FEES FOR PROPERTY DAMAGED BY THE APRIL 2018 TORNADO, REPAIRS BEING DONE BY PARTNERS IN RECOVERY (1619 7TH 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, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

Vice-President Houston called for citizen comments:
   a) Melinda Vinson Northam – spoke

Vice-President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

   Mayor Bland – Thanked the Council for the confirmation of the new CAO, Eddie Kelly and reminded everyone that the upcoming week is spring break for the schools.

Vice-President Houston called for Council comments:

   Various comments were made.

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation, sale of city property and personnel performance with possible action to follow. Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman Thomas 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, sale of city property and personnel performance. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session with the following action:

   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 additional amendment: Add: (Order authorizing creation and confirming position
of Crime Data Specialist to Dr. Amanda Cook.) Voting yea: Thomas, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER #16924 IN THE MATTER OF: CREATING THE POSITION AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. AMANDA COOK AS CRIME DATA SPECIALIST FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN EFFECTIVE MARCH 03, 2020 FOR THE TERM OF THE MAYOR OR UNTIL HER SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED

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: None.

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