REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President, Houston.

Present: Thomas, (Davis via phone), F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann.  
Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Matt Farmer, Central United Methodist 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: Remove: R-3 (Order confirming the re-appointment of Kyle Temple to the Lauderdale County Tourism Commission.) Add: R-6 (FY' 2021 budget amendment to move $200,000.00 from Legislative to Park & Recreation for the bids to repair Frank Cochran Center.) Add: R-7 Order approving and accepting DPG North Hills Commercial Park Subdivision final plat.) Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated November 03, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER #17037 ORDER DECLARING TORO REELMASTER 3575 MOWER SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO BE TRADED

And, Councilman Thomas 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 Order:

ORDER #17038 ORDER DECLARING FOUR (4) LEOPOLD MK4 SCOPES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO BE TRADED

And, Councilman Thomas 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 Order:

ORDER #17039 ORDER DECLARING 2006 FORD CROWN VICTORIA VEHICLE SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SAID VEHICLE TO THE MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT

And, Councilman Thomas 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 Order:

ORDER #17040 ORDER DECLARING 1977 CHEVY SWAT VAN SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SAID VEHICLE TO THE NAS MERIDIAN RCTA UNIT

And, Councilman Thomas 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 Order:

ORDER #17041 ORDER DECLARING 2019 DODGE CHARGER, SERIAL NO. 2C3CDXKTXK647509, CONTROL NO. 153-144 SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, REMOVING FROM SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING SERPLUS VEHICLE TO BE TURNED OVER TO TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY

And, Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:
Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

**RESO. #6300** RESOLUTION GRANTING EUGENE PERRY THE TITLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY CLERK WITH SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

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.

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

**ORDER #17042** IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DARRELL WAYNE RALEY TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

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.

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

**ORDER #17043** IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARY RUTH SHARP TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

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.
BY THE MAYOR OF HARRY F. (TREY) COOPER TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

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.

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

ORDER #17045 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARTIN JACK TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

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.

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

ORDER #17046 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARKEY JOINER TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

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.

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

ORDER #17047 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JAMES F. COPELAND AS REPRESENTATIVE OF NAVAL AIR STATION MERIDIAN TO BE AN EX OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE MERIDIAN PLANNING 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.

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

ORDER #17048 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF FIXED PRICE RESEARCH AGREEMENT BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY-STENNIS INSTITUTE AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (COMPREHENSIVE JOB DESCRIPTION AND COMPENSATION STUDY)

And, Councilman Thomas 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.

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 $2,096,234.40. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $1,912,393.44. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Total amount approved/passed $4,008,627.84 for claims docket dated, November 16, 2020.

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

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

RESO. #6301 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, 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, F. Johnson, Houston.
Nay: Lindemann.
Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #17049 IN THE MATTER OF: APPROVING AND ADOPTING FINAL PLAT OF THE DPG NORTH HILLS COMMERCIAL PARK SUBDIVISION, A COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.
Nay: Lindemann.

President Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:
   a) Bids for Asphalt Mix (12-month source of supply)
   b) Bids for Safety Shoes (12-month source of supply)
   c) Bids for Municipal Depository
   d) Bids for Street Sweeper

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – The Fire Department has received a new rescue pumper truck that was delivered to the city on November 13, 2020, it was inspected and put in service on November 20, 2020 and if anyone would like to see it it’s right outside tonight Chief Leister is proud to show it.
   December 5th is the scheduled date for the City of Meridian Christmas Parade and we are also working on our tree lighting.
   We had a meeting with the residents of the Druid Hills community, a lot of people attended to discuss the dam issue in that area, we will get you more information as we receive it.
   Police Chief Read has added additional police patrol for the holiday shopping season from November 26 through December 26, 2020 to the various shopping areas.
   The Explorer Program is going to be kicked off tonight, a meeting will be held at the Meridian Police Department tonight from 6:30 to 7:30.
   Parks & Recreation are having a Beautify Highland Park Project in conjunction with the Meridian Freedom Project and Highland Park, some students from the University of Mississippi are also working to help the beautification project.
   Youth Basketball registration for boys and girls is now open; and we are doing some fencing improvements at the Phil Hardin field this week.
   Since March 2020, the city’s mask program through our Public Safety Division, the city has issued out close to 25,000 reusable masks and 14,000 disposable masks, 2500 bottles of hand sanitizers and 1400 containers of disinfectant. Friday, we submitted the final documents for reimbursement for over $960,000 worth of expenses due to COVID from the CARES Act Funding, we are hoping to get that money back to us.
   The public works leaf pickup season begins November 18 thru December 24, 2020.
Apache Ridge Road paving is complete, the crew will be moving to 17th Avenue, the street maintenance hotline is up and running 7:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, and the number is 601-485-1991.

Also, our month to date sales tax revenue numbers are 15.81% higher this time in November than we were in 2019.

As you know the State mask mandate goes through December 11, 2020, but the Mayor’s office has extended the mask mandate through December 31, 2020.

A slide presentation and update were given by the three contractors working on the Consent Decree Agreement between the City of Meridian and Environmental Protection Agency concerning the city's sanitary sewer system, these companies are: Waggoner Engineering, Inc., Kimley-Horn and Associates and Neel-Schaffer, Inc. All the deadlines have been met and the reports turned in to the required agencies to date.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Chris Anderson – did not appear
2. Eugene Boger – spoke

President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.
A Council Work Session will be set for December 8th 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation and potential property purchase. 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. Councilwoman F. Johnson had left the meeting before a motion was made and vote taken. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and unanimously passed by the remaining Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential litigation and potential property purchase. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session with no action take.

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