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

Meeting called to order by Council President, Houston.

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Jack Giles, Church of the Way, 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 Presentation Agenda 1-b (Advertisement for bids on paving of Sweet Gum Bottom Road.) Remove: R-10 (Order authorizing an Adopt-A-Block Program.) Add: R-12 (Order authorizing payment of confidential legal agreement.) Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: None. Absent: Lindemann.

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 October 20, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: None. Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17018  ORDER DECLARING POLICE DEPARTMENT RIFLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE TRADE-IN OF SAID SURPLUS RIFLES FOR NEW

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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17025  ORDER DECLARING 1993 E-ONE FIRE TRUCK SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING DONATION OR CRAP OF THIS VEHICLE

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

**ORDER #17026**  ORDER DECLARING ITEMS SURPLUS AND LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID SURPLUS ITEMS TO BE DISCARDED

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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

**ORDER #17027**  ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

**RESO. #6299**  RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE & RECORDS DEPARTMENT TO APPLY A BILL ADJUSTMENT TO EAST MISSISSIPPI STAT HOSPITAL'S WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNT

And, Councilwoman F. Johnson 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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17028 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GWENDOLYN HARDAY 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, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston.
Nay: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17029 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SUBRECIPIENT GRANT AWARD LETTER/GRANT RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FRO STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT NO. 20HS258

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

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

ORDER #17030 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (TRAINING FACILITY) AND THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – GRANT NO. 20HS258

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.
Nay: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17031 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD OF THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY

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

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

ORDER #17032 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID FOR B STREET WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS FROM MAX FOOT, BIRMINGHAM, AL, IN THE AMOUNT OF $4,595,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK (BID #20-09)

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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17033 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 1 BETWEEN NEEL SCHAFFER, INC., AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE SELA WARD PARKWAY PROJECT (22ND AVENUE) PROJECT NUMBER: STP9450-00(005) LPA/108008-701000
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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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

ORDER #17034  ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN EXISTING HIGHWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM ALONG INTERSTATE 20/59 WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

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

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

ORDER #17035  ORDER ADOPTING AND AUTHORIZING INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER & PROGRAMMER ANALYST SENIORS AND UTILITY PLANT OPERATORS & WATER LINES HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS PAY ADJUSTMENTS TO BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST PAYCHECK IN DECEMBER, 2020

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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Ordinance:
ORDI. #4540  ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING UPDATED PAY BANDS FOR WATER LINES HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $832,162.06. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: None. Absent: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson 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 $1,683,499.60. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: None. Absent: Lindemann.

Total amount approved/passed $2,515,661.66 for claims docket dated, October 29, 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.

President Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:
a) Bid for construction on the Frank Cochran Center
b) Bid for Paving of Sweet Gum Bottom Road

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – The Public Safety Division of the Training Facility has received a 2020 training grant of approximately $92,000 from the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security. We had equipment issues in regard to paving, we now are paving again around Apache Ridge Road.
Clean ups are going on along gutters and sidewalks.
Last week we had excellent turnout on downtown events, with Candy Crawl and Trunk or Treat at the Police Department.
There has been a big turnaround in regards to information to the Police Department we had two or three major issues that were positively handled last week just by the help from the community to the Police department.
And this week. there will be police permanently assigned to the downtown area.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Roshonda Ashford – spoke
2. Chris Anderson – rescheduled
President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas 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 Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session with the following action taken:

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

ORDER #17036 ORDER AUTHORIZING CONFIDENTIAL LEGAL SETTLEMENT

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: None.
Absent: Lindemann.

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