REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020 AT 5:00 P.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 Lovell Mosley, St. John Missionary Baptist 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: C-3 (Order authorizing the surplus and demolish of the Old Velma Young Building.) Add: R-5 (Order authorizing City Council investigation into recent promotions and changes in duties/job assignments within the Meridian Police Department.) Add: R-6 (Order confirming the Mayor’s selection for Police Chief.) Add: R-7a&b (Resolution authorizing emergency condemnation of unsafe commercial structures -2413 5th Street and 2415 5th Street.) Add: R-8 (Resolution declaring Necessity of a Police Chief appointment by November 3, 2020.) Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, 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 September 22, 2020, September 29, 2020 and October 06, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

RESO. #6298  RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZED TO BE SOLD AT FAIR MARKET VALUE (902 GRAND AVENUE, PPIN #019551)

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #17019  ORDER RECORDING INTO THE MINUTES OF THE MERIDIAN
CITY COUNCIL “THE CERTIFYING CERTIFICATE OF THE CITY
CLERK OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY’S
AGREEMENT OF THE TERMS OF THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO IT BY
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN ELECTRIC FRANCHISE TO MISSISSIPPI
POWER COMPANY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS IN THE CITY OF
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI”

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.

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

ORDER #17020 ORDER RECORDING INTO THE MINUTES OF THE MERIDIAN CITY
COUNCIL THE “CERTIFICATION TO MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE
QUESTIONNAIRE”

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 Order:

ORDER #17021 ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIP FROM
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK FOR THE MERIDIAN CANDY
CRAWL 2020 ($500.00)

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 #17022**  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASTE PRO AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MERIDIAN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY)

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

**ORDER #17023**  ORDER AUTHORIZING A SECOND ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION BETWEEN WASTE PRO OF MISSISSIPPI, INC. AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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, 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 $995,768.34. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

**Total amount approved/passed $2,432,361.19** claims docket dated, October 15, 2020.

Councilman Thomas asked the financial question, if we buy uniforms for an employee and they leave what happens to the uniforms, we have spent over a $1,000.00 for an employee that left.

The answer was that the uniforms come back to the city in hopes the uniforms can be used by someone else.

The City Clerk was asked, did we correct the late tax report? The reply was yes, we did.
Another question was about an expenditure made payable on the claims docket about Smart Growth, what were these charges for this? Community Development Director said it was a planning education meeting about developing several areas.

Motion made by Councilman Lindemann and a second to the motion was not forthcoming to discuss R-5 (Order authorizing city council investigation into recent promotions and changes in duties/job assignments within the Meridian police Dept.) the item Failed.

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

**ORDER #17024**  IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GORDON CHRISTOPHER READ AS POLICE CHIEF FOR 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.

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

**RESO. #6295**  RESOLUTION ADJUDICATING PARCELS OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY (2413 5TH STREET)

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

**RESO. #6296**  RESOLUTION ADJUDICATING PARCELS OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY (2415 5TH STREET)
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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

The hour of 5:30 p.m. or thereafter having arrived, the hearing as called for in Resolution #6297 regarding unclean property was opened with motion by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council. The sign in list has eight names: 1) Karen Cluts, 2) Kay Esper, 3) Roger Marrell, 4) Casper Nichols, 5) Tommy Bynum, 6) Debra Dubose, 7) Greg Guy, and 8) William Massey. Terrell Thompson showed slides of the properties and called for any parties that had ownership or interest in any of the properties and would like to speak to come forward. 5009 Poplar Springs Drive and 310 33rd Street was removed from the list because these properties were brought up to code before the meeting. The following properties received a 90-day stay, because owners requested chance to try to bring property up to code, if successful, the resolution will be amended to remove the property.

311 41st Avenue – 4211 Royal Road - 2417 37th Avenue
3229 28th Avenue – 2430 Poplar Springs Drive – 2119 25th

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson to close the public hearing.

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

**RESO. #6297**  
RESOLUTION ADJUDIATING PARCELS OF LAND TO BE A MENACE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

President Houston called for the Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bland – The Punt, Pass & Kick will be at Ray Stadium. Thursday, from 5:00 -7:00 p.m., the Meridian Leadership Council will have a meeting on Community Issues and proactive ways to make a difference for the better in the community.

Community Development reports six new homes under construction and five homes demolished.
Halloween for the city will be on October 31st, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for children twelve and under.

The LED light conversion project is at about 90% completion.

Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. the will be a prescription drugs take back at the Bonita Lakes Mall.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Loretta Bennett - spoke

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 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