REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2020 AT 9:00 A.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 Pastor Glen Jackson, Central 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: Add an Executive Session concerning pending litigation and potential settlements. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Motion made by Councilman Lindemann duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated September 15, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

**ORDER #17013**
ORDER DECLARING VEHICLE SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, REMOVING FROM SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING SURPLUS VEHICLE TO BE RELEASED TO THE ALFA INSURANCE COMPANY

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.

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

**ORDER #17014**
ORDER DECLARING WEAPON SURPLUS AND TO BE SOLD TO RETIRING POLICE OFFICER, LIEUTENANT TIM ELDRIDGE AS ALLOWED BY STATE LAW 45-9-131

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.
Councilman Lindemann offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #6293 RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEPUTY COURT CLERKS TO THE MUNICIPAL COURT

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, Lindemann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #17015 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VENUE USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI, INC., FOR VELMA YOUNG CENTER

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 Lindemann and duly seconded by Councilman Davis to discuss R-2 (Order authorizing Service agreement with Waste Pro for the Household Hazardous Waste Day held September 26, 2020.) After discussion as to the date of the event and the date presented before council, a motion was made by Councilman Lindemann and duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and passed by a unanimous vote to Table the issue. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Tabled

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

RESO. #6294 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI (DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS WHICH ARE UNSAFE)

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 #17016 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF EMPIRE TRUCK SALES, INC., MERIDIAN, MS FOR A KNUCKLE BOOM TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF $197,640.00 BID #20-07

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.

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

ORDER #17017 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF FAB TECH WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS FOR REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE GRIT COLLECTOR REHABILITATION AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK

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 $833,909.29. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, 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 $699,681.73. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Total amount approved/passed $1,533,591.02 claims docket dated, October 01, 2020.

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:
Mayor Bland – We have started the paving in most of the wards. We have paved 15th Street to 10th and 11th Avenues, 58th Avenue to 1st thru 5th Street, 59th Avenue to 1st thru 5th Street, 4th Street from 58th Avenue to 59th Avenue, 20th Avenue from 19th Street to 20th Street, 20th Avenue from 18th to 19th Streets on both east and west side. The plans for next week are 20th Avenue from 16th to 17th Streets, 16th and 17th Avenues to Apache Ridge Road to Hwy 493, 38th and 39th Street to Poplar Springs Drive to 29th Avenue. 38th Street to 23rd Avenue to Country Club Blvd, Old Marion Road to 25th Street to 33rd Street and 25 Street to Highland Avenue to State Blvd.

We have demolished houses on 17th and 18th Avenue and other various locations, we have done about 10 to 12 houses and we have about 35 more to present to the Council for condemnation, which should be around 50 houses that we end up demolishing. We also partner with the County to help us with these demolitions.

Candy Crawl will be October 27th at Dumont Plaza downtown, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. We had 550 people attend Earth’s Bounty this past weekend.

Our plans are for Halloween to be held on Saturday, October 31st, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for children age 12 and under. That is the time guideline for the City on Halloween this year.

We have multiple projects in and around the city going on; around downtown we have the Threefoot Marriott that will hopefully be complete around the first quarter of 2021. Progressive Pipeline have started plans for their building right off Front Street; we have all seen the work being done on the Children’s Museum on 22nd Avenue, Puckett Rentals is doing a major buildout on Jimmie Rodgers Parkway, the Threefoot Brewery’s rehab buildout is still underway across the street here from City Hall, Meridian Assisted Living is moving on with their building on Highway 39 North, there will be a new Burger King and Popeyes Chicken on North Hills Street, the old Fred’s Store will be a Dollar General on 8th Street, and we have eight new homes under construction in the City of Meridian.

There is a new CAD System has been installed in the Police Department, this allows our officers to access more information when they are patrolling the streets.

More LED lights will be going up all across this town, we are at 85% completion right now. You will see security cameras in the neighborhoods.

The update for COVID, our numbers has continued to decline and we are ready to make any decision we need to make on the executive side to keep our citizens as safe as possible and to keep our economy going. We are encouraging our citizens to get their flu shots to prevent multiple complications with flu and COVID.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. None.

President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding pending litigation and potential settlement. Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann 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 pending litigation and potential settlement. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by 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