REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 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 Beverly Knox, of Holy Remnant Church, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Lindemmann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes: Table R-8 (Ordinance setting millage rate for the Meridian Separate School District.) Table R-9 (Ordinance setting millage rate for the City of Meridian.) Add Executive Session concerning existing and potential litigation. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemmann. Voting nay: None.

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

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

ORDER #16994A  IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF C. D. SMITH TO THE MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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, Lindemmann.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #16995A  ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM 2020/2021 MARKETING GRANT AWARDED TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN’S EARTH’S BOUNTY FESTIVAL

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

ORDER #16996A ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM 2020/2021 MARKETING GRANT AWARDED TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN’S JUNETEENTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

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.

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

ORDER #16997 ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY TOURISM 2020/2021 MARKETING GRANT AWARDED TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN’S MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL

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 Resolution:

RESO. #6287 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY HERITAGE PRESERVATION GRANT WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY (REA BUILDING JIMMIE RODGERS MUSEUM)

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.
following Order:

ORDER #16998  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMICS SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT) FUNDING FROM THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM APPLICATION FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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 #16999  ORDER AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENTS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC EXPENSES

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 #17000  ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16749 ENTITLED “ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16728 ENTITLED “ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WAGGONER ENGINEERING, INC., AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (OLD HIGHWAY 80 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT)”

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.

Councilwoman F. Johnson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
ORDER #17001  IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF H. E. MOSLEY, INC., MARION, MISSISSIPPI, FOR SWEET GUM BOTTOM ROAD PROJECT (BID #20-04)

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 #17002  IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING INSURANCE RENEWAL PROPOSAL OF UNITED HEALTH CARE FOR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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

ORDER #17003  IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING RENEWAL PROPOSAL OF DELTA DENTAL TO PROVIDE DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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

ORDER #17004  ORDER AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE EMPLOYEE COBRA HEALTH CARE BENEFIT INSURANCE PLAN AND OPTIONS FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYEES

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

ORDER #17005 IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING RENEWAL PROPOSAL OF PRINCIPAL FOR GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN FOR CITY OF MERIDIAN EMPLOYEES

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 Resolution:

RESO. #6286 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

And, Councilman Lindemann 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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman F. Johnson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $805,883.36. 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 $1,615,125.39. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Total amount approved/passed $2,421,008.75 claims docket dated, August 27, 2020.

President Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:
a) Audio/Visual Equipment for City Hall Auditorium.

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland – Our CAO Mr. Eddie Kelly is in South Carolina on a family emergency, he will be there for a couple of weeks. So, for the next two weeks I ask that if any Council Member has a request for their Ward to reach out to myself or Doug Stephens.

Also, with Mississippi Power we have two initiatives that are going on and I would like to communicate with you all again. One is we have put LED lighting throughout 85% of the city. The administration is working to make sure we get the other 15% done in those areas that don’t have it right now. And we are trying to improve the lighting in our 4:00 highway exit working with MDOT and Mississippi Power to deal with that issue.

Over the next two weeks you will be seeing more of the cameras installed throughout the community.

Hugh has started paving within the city, and we are going to try to do more going forward, as weather permits. We have gotten a lot of requests and we want to pave each and every street, but we can only do what the budget allows. We want to deal with the building maintenance and roof issues as we are able, but sometimes the money is not there. We work together to do the best we can with the funding we have.

President Houston called for citizen comments:

1. Melinda Vinson Northam – did not appear
2. Rita Jack – cancelled
3. Joseph Denson – cancelled
4. Robert Ray – spoke
5. Lee Thornton – spoke Ken Flint

President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding pending litigation and potential litigation. 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 Lindemann 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 litigation. 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 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