Meeting called to order by Council President, Houston.

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Lovell Mosley, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Council President Houston requested we all keep Councilwoman Fannie Johnson raised up in our prayers, as she is trying to recover from COVID-19 and Pneumonia.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas and duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes: Add R-10 (Order authorizing the surplus and retirement of police bomb dog “Hippie”). Add Executive Session: potential litigation. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

After the Executive Session: Motion was made by Councilman Lindemann and duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to amend the agenda with the following changes: Add R-11 (Resolution authorizing the rescinding of Resolution No. 6262, the sale of the Old Police Station.) Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated January 05, 2021. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDER #17073 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JENNIFER PEEBLES TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:
RESO. #6306  RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI TO THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE IN SUPPORT OF CREATING THE MERIDIAN-LAUDERDALE SPORTS COMMISSION, A SPECIAL HOTEL SALES TAX TO FUND THE MERIDIAN-LAUDERDALE SPORTS COMPLEX AND THE PASSAGE OF THE MERIDIAN-LAUDERDALE SPORTS COMPLEX LOCAL AND PRIVATE LEGISLATION

And, Councilman Lindemann seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: Davis.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

ORDI. #4543  ORDINANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY MISSISSIPPI, A CERTAIN PORTION OF 2ND STREET THAT INTERSECTS WITH 8TH AVENUE

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

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

RESO. #6307  RESOLUTION OF THE MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI CITY COUNCIL IN LAWFUL, REGULAR AND PUBLIC MEETING AUTHORIZING THE RECEIPT OF REAL PROPERTY (FROM HSC MERIDIAN 8, LLC)

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

Councilman Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:
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, Houston, Lindemann.
Nay: None.
Absent: F. Johnson.

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

**ORDER #17075** ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ARCHITECT SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND DAVIS PURDY ARCHITECTS, PLLC (FRANK COCHRAN CENTER)

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

Motion made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to discuss R-7 (Order authorizing contribution of $40,000 to the East Miss Business Development Corporation) Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Lindemann and duly seconded by Councilman Davis to TABLE the matter. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

Motion made by Councilman Davis duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council to discuss R-8 (Order authorizing contribution of $9,029.34 for Boys and Girls Club water account.) Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Lindemann and duly seconded by Councilman Davis to TABLE the matter. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None. Absent: F. Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (1) Payroll of the claims docket in the amount of $1,849,269.41. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann. Absent: F. Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Davis and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve Section (2) Mandatory & Operational Items of the claims docket in the amount of $2,280,272.02. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann. Absent: F. Johnson.
Total amount approved/passed $4,129,541.43 for claims docket dated, January 15, 2021.

The City Council reviews the routine financial reports of the city; claims dockets and monthly reports of payroll, revenue, expenditure and combined FY’ 2021 budget.

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

ORDER #17076 ORDER DECLARING GERMAN SHEPARD BOMB DETECTION DOG “HIPPIE” SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP TO OFFICER KAYLA GOULD

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

President Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following:

a) RFP for Consultants for construction, engineering, & Inspection services for the Sela Ward Parkway/22nd Avenue Enhancement Project.
b) RFP for Solid Waste Disposal.
c) Lease purchase advertisement for ten (10) police patrol vehicles.

President Houston called for the Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Bland said work begins this weekend by local artists are set to begin on a mural of David Ruffin at Dumont Plaza, and hopefully in the next few weeks it will be ready for display.

We have a new building inspector that started in Community Development last week.
Popeyes Restaurant opened last Monday on North Hills Street.
There will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m., with business owners concerning the Sela Ward Parkway.

Our Deputy Fire Chief attended the Mid-Winter Fire Chief’s Conference in Starkville, the Fire Chief received a Fire Chief Level One designation, from the Fire Chief’s Association and the Mississippi State Fire Academy. “Congratulations!”

Phase II of the HVAC upgrading at Fire Station #1 is underway and progressing well.
Last week our Police Department had three officers starting at the Police Academy on January 10, 2021. Four officers have been hired this month and we have ten applicants scheduled for the January 30, 2021 new hire program.

President Houston called for Citizen Comments.
1. Consuella Rue – spoke
2. James Powell – spoke
3. Lisa Brookins Mercer – spoke
4. Loretta Bennett – did not appear
5. Alleane Parnell – did not appear

President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding potential litigation and sale of land and building. 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. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Lindemann and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential litigation and sale of land and building. 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 the following action:

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

RESO. #6308  RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 6262 ENTITLED “RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SELL OF SAME AND EXECUTION OF DEED (PPIN #18975)”

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

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