REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021 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 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: Change R-6 to (Order to ament the underground utilities contract with Mississippi Power Company.) R-6 changes to R-6a (FY’2021 budget amendment.) Add Executive Session: existing litigation. 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 December 15, 2020. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

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

ORDER #17071 ORDER DECLARING 2016 FORD TAURUS, VIN NO. 1FAHP2MK5GG136668, CIBTRIK BI, 153-114 AND A 2019 DODGE CHARGER, VIN NO. 2C3CDXKTXK647509, CONTROL NO. 153-144 SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, REMOVING FROM SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING SURPLUS VEHICLE TITLES TO BE RELEASED TO TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY

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 #17072 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF C. TYLER NORMAN TO THE MERIDIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

And, Councilman Thomas 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 #17066**  ORDER DESIGNATING MUNICIPAL DEPOSITORIES

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 #17067**  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SERVICE ORDER AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITI FIBER, LLC AND 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 Thomas offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

**ORDER #17068**  ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN C SPIRE AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (DATA LINES AT POLICE STATION)

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 #17069**  ORDER AUTHORIZING CONTINUATION OF INITIAL PROPOSAL BETWEEN INVOICE CLOUD AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN TO COLLECT CUSTOMER SURCHARGE FEES FOR INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE (IVR) FORM OF PAYMENTS ON WATER ACCOUNTS (FEES WERE WAIVED THROUGH DECEMBER 2020 DUE TO COVID-19)
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 #17070 ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 16658 “ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR CONVERSION OF EXISTING OVERHEAD FACILITIES TO UNDERGROUND FACILITIES BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN” AMEND AND RESTATE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

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. #6305 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

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.

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 $779,357.35. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston. Voting nay: Lindemann.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas 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 $944,754.03, add Payment #211198 for $15.00 and remove Payment #211163 for $520.80, bringing the amount to $944,248.23. Voting yea: Thomas, Davis, F. Johnson, Houston, Lindemann. Voting nay: None.

Total amount approved/passed $1,723,605.58 for claims docket dated, December 21, 2020.
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.

President Houston called for the Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bland offered time over to Meridian Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Amy Carter:

Dr. Carter said that this 2020-2021 school year is not a normal year. In March 2020 we were putting in process a new curriculum, but with the COVID Pandemic everything had to be restructured.

The Meridian Public-School District doors will be open again Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. for elementary students and 8:30 a.m. for secondary students, starting Monday, January 11, 2021, for 330 minutes per day, which adheres to state guidelines. And prayerfully, we will be able to keep those doors open. The pandemic holds challenges, but we plan to finish the second semester face to face. Meal deliveries are discontinued, the children that are behind will be given the instruction to get caught up. A grant with AmeriCorps, for additional staff to address the students with needed extra academic help, has also been acquired.

There were no citizen comments.

President Houston called for Council comments:

Various comments were made by the Council Members.

An executive session was requested regarding existing 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 Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman F. Johnson and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss existing 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 to follow.

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