

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2014 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Markham.

Present: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Bro. Robert Moore and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to: remove R-1; remove R-2; add an amendment to R-6 claims docket; add as C-2 a contribution to the Youth Excitement Team; add as P-2 a presentation by Karen Rooney with Main Street.

Motion was made by Councilwoman duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the minutes dated November 18, 2014. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

Councilwoman Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

ORDER #15776 ORDER ALLOCATING FY 2015 BUDGET SUBSIDIES, GRANTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURES FOR YOUTH EXCITEMENT TEAM (YET)

And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.

Nay: Thomas.

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

ORDER #15777 ORDER AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF BIDS FOR MUNICIPAL DEPOSITORIES

And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Order was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

**Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.**

COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

ORDER #15778 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND WEEMS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

AND, COUNCILWOMAN HENSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHEREUPON SAID ORDER WAS DISCUSSED, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL BY A VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

**Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.**

COUNCILMAN THOMAS OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

ORDER #15779 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE TEMPLE THEATER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, INC. (KIDZ ZONE)

AND, COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHEREUPON SAID ORDER WAS DISCUSSED, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL BY A VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

**Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.**

THE HOUR OF 9:15 AM HAVING ARRIVED, THE HEARING AS CALLED FOR REGARDING THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM WAS OPENED WITH MOTION BY COUNCILMAN THOMAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HENSON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL. THOSE WHO SIGNED UP TO SPEAK WERE AS FOLLOWS: (1) MRS. JENIFER BUFORD (1514 50TH AVENUE) WITH EAST CENTRAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT APPEARED REGARDING THIS PROGRAM. SHE SAID SHE MET WITH STAFF AT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO IDENTIFY AREAS THEY CAN CHECK OUT AND ECPDD MAPPED OUT POTENTIAL AREAS. SHE SAID SHE VISITED THESE AREAS WITH MR. VANCE WITH THE INSPECTION DIVISION AND LEFT INFORMATION WITH RESIDENTS. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS HOME GRANT INCLUDE: LIVE IN MERIDIAN, OWN THE PROPERTY WITH A FEE SIMPLE TITLE, TAXES HAVE TO BE CURRENT, HAVE UTILITIES IN THEIR NAME AND ECPDD HAS TO CHECK THEIR INCOME. THEY WERE HOPING TO FIND THREE TO FIVE HOMES IN A CONCENTRATED AREA BUT THERE WERE A LOT OF RENTERS IN THE AREAS THEY VISITED. THEY CAN HAVE SCATTERED PROPERTY OWNERS QUALIFY FOR THESE HOMES, HOWEVER, THE CITY'S GRANT WOULD GET LESS POINTS. THIS IS A VERY COMPETITIVE GRANT AND THE MORE POINTS YOU GET FOR YOUR CITY OR COUNTY HELPS. THE PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE TO AGREE FOR THEIR HOUSE TO BE TORN DOWN AND A NEW ONE BUILT ON THEIR LOT. THIS IS NOT

a re-hab grant that the city has qualified for in the past. There is a maximum of five houses (\$550,000) and a minimum of three houses (\$325,000). She said their office will make the selections for the recipient of these homes based on the documented qualifications presented to them. (2) Mrs. Esther Stephens (2012 32nd Avenue) appeared and stated that she thought she qualified for this program when she read about it in the newspaper. She asked for help if she can get it. Mrs. Buford said she would talk to Mrs. Stephens after the meeting. (3) Mrs. Fonda Rush with Habitat for Humanity appeared and stated that she understands the housing needs in the city. Habitat started out with new construction and they built three bedroom two bath green homes with central heat and air for less than that these houses will cost to be built. They already have a list of homeowners who have been approved by Habitat who would qualify for the homes to be built with this grant. (4) Mr. Jackie White stated that there are a lot of vacant homes that can be purchased and fixed up for less than the cost of these houses. He said there are a lot of bankruptcy homes in nice neighborhoods that can be purchased for less also and fixed up. (5) Ms. Kristin Cockrell appeared and stated she was there representing Red Cross and advised they would like to partner with this program to make sure fire alarms would be put in these homes. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to close the hearing. Councilwoman Houston offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5941 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM GRANT; TAKE OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO SUBMIT SAID APPLICATION; AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION, TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

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

**Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon.
Nay: None.**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated November 25, 2014 in the amount of \$1,776,830.76 with an amendment to add Purchase Order No. 501148 in the amount of \$14,503.99. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

President Markham called on Mayor Bland for his report. He went over the upcoming holiday events to be held in Meridian. He asked Councilman Thomas to talk about an award the city received. Councilman Thomas stated he accepted an award from the National League of Cities while he was attending the NLC conference in Austin, Texas. This award is recognizing the City of Meridian as a member of the National League of Cities for 50 years.

PRESIDENT MARKHAM CALLED ON KAREN ROONEY WITH MAIN STREET. SHE APPEARED AND WENT OVER VARIOUS EVENTS TO BE HELD IN THE CITY THAT MAIN STREET IS HELPING SPONSOR.

PRESIDENT MARKHAM CALLED FOR COUNCIL COMMENTS. VARIOUS COMMENTS WERE MADE.

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED REGARDING A POTENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN HENSON DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO MAKE A DETERMINATION ON WHETHER TO DECLARE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION. MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN THOMAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL TO DECLARE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. THE COUNCIL THEN WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN THOMAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HENSON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

PRESIDENT MARKHAM CALLED THE REGULAR MEETING BACK TO ORDER. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. SINE DIE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Pam McInnis, CLERK OF COUNCIL