

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Tom Sikes from First Christian Church and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated March 18 and March 21, 2014.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the following proclamation to be issued by the Mayor:

SUPPORT OF a Long Distance Passenger Rail Study

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

**ORDER #15613 ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF A STREET
LIGHT AT 1813 33RD AVENUE**

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.

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

**ORDER #15614 ORDER DECLARING WEAPONS SURPLUS AND TO BE SOLD TO
RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS AS ALLOWED BY STATE LAW 45-9-131**

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.**

AT THIS TIME PAUL BREAZEALE WITH BREAZEALE, SAUNDERS & O'NEIL APPEARED AND MAKE A SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2012 AUDIT FOR THE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS TO GET AN IDEA OF WHERE THE CITY WAS PRIOR TO THEM TAKING OFFICE. MR. BREAZEALE STATED THEY WOULD BE COMING BACK TO MERIDIAN SOON TO PRESENT THE FY 2013 AUDIT.

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

**ORDER #15615 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF
JAMIE BULLOCK CATER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

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.**

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

**ORDER #15616 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF
TISHOUNNA L. KNOX TO THE MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL SEPARATE
SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEES**

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 HENSON OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

**ORDER #15617 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN WASTE PRO AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (MERIDIAN**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY)

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 Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

**RESO. #5893 RESOLUTION APPROVING FY 2014 BUDGET MODIFICATION
IN ORDER TO FUND THE OPERATION OF THE CITY JAIL**

And, Councilwoman Houston 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.**

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

**ORDER #15618 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF TROLLEY USE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE
MERIDIAN COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS (MERIDIANITES PICNIC)**

And, Councilman Markham 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 Henson offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Order:

**ORDER #15619 ORDER GRANTING PERMISSION TO HILARIA REVELS TO TIE INTO
CITY WATER LINES FOR SERVICE AT 7302 OLD 8TH STREET ROAD**

And, Councilman Markham 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 #15620 ORDER AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF TRACK TYPE TRACTOR (DOZIER) FROM PUCKETT MACHINERY, MERIDIAN, MS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$114,961.00

AND, COUNCILMAN MARKHAM 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 MARKHAM OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

ORDER #15621 ORDER ACCEPTING THE BID OF SIMMONS EROSION CONTROL, INC., LAKE, MISSISSIPPI FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT FOR SAID WORK

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.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN HENSON DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MARKHAM AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET DATED MARCH 27, 2014 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,301,822.98.

PRESIDENT THOMAS ADVISED OF THE NOTIFICATION OF LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR: SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

AT THIS TIME MR. M.A. COPELAND AND OTHERS REPRESENTING THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING APPEARED TO THANK THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND TO ANNOUNCE THEIR ANNUAL FISH FRY TO BE HELD FRIDAY, MAY 2ND AT FRANK COCHRAN CENTER. SOME FESTIVITIES WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 a.m. WITH THE FISH FRY TO START AROUND 11:30 OR NOON.

MEMBERS OF THE THREEFOOT PRESERVATION SOCIETY APPEARED AND INVITED EVERYONE TO THE 84TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE THREEFOOT BUILDING THAT AFTERNOON FROM 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT THOMAS CALLED ON MAYOR BLAND FOR HIS REPORT. HE THANKED THE CITY COUNCIL FOR CONFIRMING HIS APPOINTMENTS. HE STATED THAT WALLY QUINN, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FROM HATTIESBURG, IS IN MERIDIAN WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ON CODE ENFORCEMENT. MAYOR BLAND STATED THAT HE AND CAO MCGREVEY MET WITH THE CEO OF AMTRACK TO DISCUSS THEIR PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE OPTIONS TO RESIDENTS IN THIS AREA FOR LONG RANGE RAIL SERVICE. FUTURE PLANS ARE TO PROVIDE MORE SERVICES TO MERIDIAN. HE STATED THAT TRANSPORTATION NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED IN THE AREA AND THE CITY DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE THE AIRPORT. SOME PEOPLE ARE HAVING TO GO TO JACKSON TO FLY OUT. CODE ENFORCEMENT NEEDS TO BE STEPPED UP. REVENUES NEED TO BE INCREASED THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY. HE SAID THEY WILL BE MEETING WITH THE AMTRACK CEO AGAIN THURSDAY. MAYOR BLAND MENTIONED THE THREEFOOT BUILDING PARTY. HOPEFULLY THE CITY WILL HAVE AN INVESTOR FOR THIS BUILDING. THEY ARE LOOKING AT PROPOSALS FROM THREE PARTIES. HE MENTIONED THE ACTIVITIES AT HIGHLAND PARK THIS PAST WEEKEND. THERE ARE SIGNS AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS TO GET TO PLACE IN THEIR YARDS ANNOUNCING THEIR CHILD IS AN HONOR ROLL STUDENT. P&R DIRECTOR MCGRUDER WILL BE GOING TO THE SCHOOLS IN MERIDIAN WITH THESE SIGNS TO PASS OUT TO STUDENTS. MAYOR BLAND STATED THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF ISSUES TO ADDRESS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT. THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING AND MAKING CHANGES THAT ARE NEEDED AND THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DONE FOR YEARS. THEY ARE WORKING THROUGH ISSUES AND DOING TRAINING. IT GOES FROM HIM DOWN TO DEPARTMENT HEADS. THEY ARE DOING THIS INTERNALLY BY ADDRESSING ISSUES ACROSS THE BOARD. THEY HAVE COMMUNICATED TO EVERYONE WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM.

PRESIDENT THOMAS ASKED WHEN THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK WOULD BE READY. ATTORNEY GOGGANS SAID THAT THIS HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE HEARINGS AND WORK REGARDING THAT. PRESIDENT THOMAS SAID THEY WERE TOLD THAT EVERYONE WAS CONTACTED AND THE HEARING WOULD BE HELD THIS THURSDAY. THE HEARING HAS BEEN SET FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10 BEGINNING AT 8:30 A.M. THE PRE-TRIAL ORDER SHOULD BE ISSUED AROUND NOON TODAY. HE WILL PROVIDE THE CLERK OF COUNCIL WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO DELIVER TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AFTER HE RECEIVES THE INFORMATION.

PRESIDENT THOMAS CALLED FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS. THOSE WHO SIGNED UP TO SPEAK WERE: 1) RUTH H. K. JONES.

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

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