

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 AT 5:00 P.M.**

**Meeting called to order by Council President Markham.**

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

**Absent: None.**

**The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Gary Houston and followed by the pledge to the flag.**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to: remove citizens comments; add as R-6 authorization for David C. Whitaker to sign documents, etc.; add an executive session regarding litigation and a personnel matter.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Houston and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated April 7, 2015.**

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

**RESO. #5958            RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO JUBILEE MENNONITE CHURCH AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 21-31-1(D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED**

**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.**

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

**RESO. #5959            RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MERIDIAN AS AUTHORIZED BY**

**SECTIONS 21-31-1(D) AND 79-11-33 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED**

**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.**

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

**RESO. #5960            RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO FEED BY FAITH AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-1 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED**

**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.**

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

**ORDER #15854            ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION FROM THE MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY OF A USED REFRIGERATOR FOR USE AT THE NORTH POLICE PRECINCT**

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

**RESO. #5961            RESOLUTION CLARIFYING COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 15560 REGARDING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAIRFIELD INN AS REQUESTED BY ASCENT HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT CO.**

**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.**

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

**ORDER #15855      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN SMITH SECKMAN REID, INC. AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (TRAFFIC STUDY – FAIRFIELD INN)**

**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 #15856      ORDER RATIFYING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN**

**And, Councilman Hammon 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. #5962      RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO**

**And, Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed 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 APRIL 16, 2015 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,789,332.09. VOTING YE: MARKHAM, HENSON, HOUSTON, HAMMON. VOTING NAY: THOMAS.**

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

**ORDER #15857      ORDER AUTHORIZING DAVID C. WHITAKER, CITY CLERK/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TO SIGN CHECKS, EXECUTE ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS, AND TO TAKE ALL OTHER ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR LEIGH M. BARBER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK**

**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.**

**PRESIDENT MARKHAM CALLED ON MAYOR BLAND FOR HIS REPORT. P & R DIRECTOR KELVIN MCGRUDER APPEARED AND STATED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST YEAR THEY HAD A WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE AND IT WENT VERY WELL. FELICIA BROWN WITH DIVAS ON THE RUN APPEARED REGARDING THEIR RECENT RACE. SHE SAID THEY NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY FOR THIS EVENT. MAYOR BLAND THANKED DAVID WHITAKER FOR BEING ON BOARD NOW. HE STARTED WORKING FOR THE CITY ON MONDAY. HE CONGRATULATED THE ENTIRE TEAM FOR THE OUTSTANDING AUDIT. THE KID'S FISHING DERBY WILL BE HELD AT SYKES PARK THIS COMING SATURDAY. THE JIMMY RODGERS FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON THE CITY HALL LAWN ON MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup>. RELAY FOR LIFE WILL BE HELD THIS COMING FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE AG CENTER. THERE WILL BE A TALENT SHOW AT THE TEMPLE THEATER THIS COMING FRIDAY NIGHT. A LARGE SOCCER TOURNAMENT WAS HELD THIS PAST WEEKEND IN MERIDIAN. THE LAST KIDZ ZONE WAS HELD ON APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> AND IT WAS THE LARGEST ONE YET. HE THANKED COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON FOR HER PROGRAM THIS PAST SATURDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE READING PROGRAM. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM WAS RECOGNIZED FOR READING AT PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY. THERE IS A LARGE TRAINING SESSION GOING ON AT THE TRAINING FACILITY THIS WEEK. HE CONGRATULATED THE MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S POWER LIFTING TEAM FOR WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. HE CONGRATULATED CAO MIKE MCGREVEY FOR BEING APPOINTED TO THE STATE VETERANS BOARD. THE HIGHWAY 80 BRIDGE IS FINALLY OPEN. THERE ARE A LOT OF PROJECTS BEING WORKED ON DOWNTOWN. HE THANKED POLICE CHIEF DUBOSE FOR THE NEW SUB-STATIONS ON 20<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND NORTH HILLS STREET. HE FELT THE AUDIT WAS AN EXCELLENT ONE. THERE ARE THINGS INTERNALLY THAT CAME OUT OF THE AUDIT THAT THEY WILL BE ADDRESSING. HE HAS A GREAT TEAM AND THEY ARE MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS. THEY HAVE EMPLOYED**

**a LOT OF PART-TIME AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES TO BETTER SERVE THE CITY.**

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

**AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED REGARDING LITIGATION AND A PERSONNEL MATTER. MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN HAMMON DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON 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 HOUSTON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL TO DECLARE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND A PERSONNEL MATTER. THE COUNCIL THEN WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN THOMAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY 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**