

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Markham.

Present: Thomas, Markham, Hammon.

Absent: Henson, Houston.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Council President Dustin Markham and followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to: add an executive session regarding settlement of civil litigation and pending litigation; add as R-7 consideration of the Mayor's veto of Ordinance #4457.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated May 05, 2015.

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

ORDER #15864 ORDER RESCINDING ORDER NO. 15863 ENTITLED "ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VENUE USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND THE URBAN WORLD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP (SOUTHERN SOUL MUSIC CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF EAST MISSISSIPPI AT Q.V. SYKES PARK ON JUNE 13, 2015)"

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, Hammon.

Nay: None.

Absent: Henson, Houston.

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

ORDER #15865 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF OLIVER PEEBLES III TO THE TAXICAB ADVISORY BOARD

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, Hammon.

Nay: None.

ABSENT: Henson, Houston.

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

ORDER #15866 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL LITTER REMOVAL/MOWING CYCLES TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF I-20/59 WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 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, Hammon.

Nay: None.

ABSENT: Henson, Houston.

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

ORDER #15867 ORDER AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERS (BVP) GRANT APPLICATION

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, Hammon.

Nay: None.

ABSENT: Henson, Houston.

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

ORDER #15868 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF FIREWORKS DISPLAY CONTRACT BETWEEN PYROTECNICO, NEW CASTLE, PA AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (JULY 4, 2015 FIREWORKS DISPLAY)

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, Hammon.
Nay: None.
Absent: Henson, Houston.**

**COUNCILMAN THOMAS OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING
RESOLUTION:**

**RESO. #5968 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY USE OF MEMA/KATRINA
COTTAGE BY THE CITY OF MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**AND, COUNCILMAN HAMMON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHEREUPON SAID RESOLUTION WAS DISCUSSED, PASSED
AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL BY A VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN HAMMON DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MARKHAM AND PASSED
BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET DATED MAY 14, 2015 IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$3,576,571.59. VOTING YE: MARKHAM, HAMMON. VOTING NAY: THOMAS. ABSENT: HENSON, HOUSTON.**

**AT THIS TIME MAYOR BLAND COMMENTED ON HIS VETO OF ORDINANCE NO. 4457 WHICH REVISED
CERTAIN POLLING PLACES.**

VETO PACKET NO. 111

**COUNCILMAN THOMAS STATED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ACTS IN GOOD FAITH. THEY LOOK AT THE CITY AS
A WHOLE. THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS WORKED DILIGENTLY ON THIS MATTER AND MADE A HOUSE TO HOUSE
SURVEY. ALL THE INFORMATION HE REQUESTED WAS GIVEN TO HIM. HE SAID HE WOULD VOTE TO OVER-RIDE
THE VETO. COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARKHAM STATED THE CITY COUNCIL HAS CONTINUED TO WORK WITH THE
MAYOR IN GOOD FAITH. HE SAID HIS DECISIONS ARE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CITY. HE STATED THERE WAS
MENTIONED A LETTER DATED MAY 1 FROM MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH STATING THEY WOULD ALLOW ELECTIONS
AT THE CHURCH, HOWEVER, THIS LETTER WAS NOT PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL AT THE MAY 5TH MEETING WHEN
ASKED IF MT. OLIVE HAD RECONSIDERED THEIR DECISION NOT TO HOLD ELECTIONS THERE. HE COMMENTED ON A
SUPREME COURT CASE TITLED SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER AND SECTION 23-15-557 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE
ANNOTATED. COUNCILMAN THOMAS OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING
ORDINANCE:**

**ORDIN. #4458 ORDINANCE TO OVERRIDE MAYOR'S VETO OF ORDINANCE NO.
4457 DATED MAY 05, 2015, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE**

CITY OF MERIDIAN, MS, TO REVISE CERTAIN POLLING PLACES"

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

Yea: Thomas, Markham, Hammon.

Nay: None.

Absent: Henson, Houston.

At this time motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to open the 5:15 p.m. hearing regarding the amended and restated tax increment financing plan of 2006 – Meridian Crossroads Project. Mr. Trey Hairston with Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens appeared before the Council. He stated this was for an additional \$2.8 million TIF issue to pay for the infrastructure for proposed improvements at Meridian Crossroads. The estimated investment for the improvements is \$19 million. There will be no increase in taxes to the citizens of Meridian. Increased sales tax revenues will pay for the TIF bonds for this project. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to close the hearing. No action was taken.

President Markham called on Mayor Bland for his report. He stated that there was a petition going around that the Mayor and City Council have kept the Juneteenth celebration from being held at City Hall. He stated this was not true. He understands the committee chose Singling Brakeman Park for this event. He thanked P & R Director Kelvin McGruder, the Police Department and the Fire Department for their efforts for James Chaney Day. There has been a job announcement from Certain Teed. There will be 65 new jobs to start with and hope to have about 100 in six months. He said it was great to have them back here. The Run for the Wall was held in the day before and the city received a plaque from them which was accepted by CAO Mike McGrevey.

Signed up to speak during citizens comments was: 1) Mike Russell.

President Markham called for Council comments. Various comments were made.

An executive session was requested regarding settlement of civil litigation and pending litigation. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon 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 Hammon and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss settlement of civil litigation and pending litigation. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Hammon 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