

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Hammon.

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 Councilman Markham duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting with an amendment to add two amendments to the claims docket.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated June 16, 2015.

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

ORDER #15892 ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT
AT THE NW CORNER OF 25TH AVENUE & 6TH STREET

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

ORDER #15893 ORDER DESIGNATING TASER INTERNATIONAL, INC. AS THE
SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR TASERS FOR THE MERIDIAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

ORDER #15894 ORDER DECLARING EQUIPMENT SURPLUS AND NO LONGER
NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING THE
SALE OF SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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

ORDER #15895 ORDER ACCEPTING DONATION OF VARIOUS MERCHANDISE
FROM WAL-MART FOR THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 #15896 ORDER RATIFYING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND WILLIAM C. HAMMACK WITH
GLOVER, YOUNG, HAMMACK, WALTON & SIMMONS, PLLC
TO SERVE AS CITY ATTORNEY

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 #15897 ORDER ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$700.00 FOR THE JAMES CHANEY PARK REVITALIZATION FUND

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 #15898 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF 2015
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)
PROGRAM LOCAL APPLICATION

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 #15899 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI AND LAUDERDALE
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI (2015 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
[JAG] PROGRAM AWARD)

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.

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

ORDER #15900 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF BJA
FY 15 BODY-WORN CAMERA PILOT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

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 #15901 ORDER APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ACCEPTING FINAL PLAT OF
LINMOOR EAST UNIT-2 SUBDIVISION, A RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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.

Next on the agenda was an ad valorem tax exemption request from JTM Hospitality. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Thomas to authorize a five-year exemption. After discussion was held, motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to table this matter. This will be discussed at a future work session.

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

ORDIN. #4461 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18 OF ORDINANCE NO. 3801,
 BEING THE ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF TAXICABS,
 SAID SECTION APPEARING AS SECTION 24-43 OF THE CODE OF
 ORDINANCES OF THE CITY, TO ESTABLISH THE FARES TO BE CHARGED
 PERSONS USING THE SERVICES OF TAXICABS AND OTHER VEHICLES
 FOR HIRE IN THE CITY AND RELATED MATTERS

And, Councilwoman Henson seconded the motion, whereupon said Ordinance 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 #15902 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF
 H. C. "BUNKY" PARTRIDGE AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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

Yea: Henson, Houston, Hammon.

Nay: Markham.

Abstain: Thomas.

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

ORDER #15903 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF
BUCK ROBERTS AS PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAINING DIRECTOR
FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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

ORDER #15904 ORDER AUTHORIZING A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE AGENCY
OF RECORD AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEADING EDGES, LLC AND
THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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 Councilwoman Houston and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated July 02, 2015 in the amount of \$1,944,879.91 with an amendment to add PO #504960 in the amount of \$909.84 and PO #504846 in the amount of \$232.20. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

At this time Dr. Alvin Taylor with the Meridian Public School District appeared to give an update on the schools. He advised as follows: language arts, grades 3-8, English II the % proficient or above went from 36% in 2010-2011 to 44% in 2013-2014; mathematics, grades 3-8, Algebra I the % proficient or above went from 47% in 2010-2011 to 56% in 2013-2014; graduate rates went from 65.5% in 2010-2011 to 75% in 2014-2015; number of "C" or better schools went from 1 in 2010-2011 to 4 in 2013-2014; number of "F" schools went from 6 in 2010-2011 to 0 in 2013-2014; the total discipline referrals went from 10,425 in 2011-2012 to 6,960 in 2014-2015; the total exclusionary discipline went from 8,179 in 2011-2012 to 4,052 in 2014-2015; and the turnover rate for certified personnel went from 26.5% in 2010-2011 to 15.7% in 2014-2015. They will continue working with third graders to develop their reading skills in order to pass the mandated testing. He encouraged people to volunteer to read and work with third graders. They will be working very hard in August to get this effort started up again.

President Hammon advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following: a) asbestos abatement & demolition of 27 structures; b) pipe, valves & fittings (12 month source of supply); c) irrigation pumping station – Lakeview Golf Course.

President Hammon called on Mayor Bland for his report. He stated that a work session was needs. Public Works Director Hugh Smith is working on a paving plan. There is about \$900,000 left in a bond issue for paving. It will take Mr. Smith a couple of weeks to get this plan completed. This is one item to be discussed at an upcoming work session. They will also present a pay increase plan at the work session to be effective October 1.

President Hammon 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