

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.**

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

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

**Absent: Hammon.**

**The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Sidney Luvane, of Wesley Chapel and Sylvester Methodist Churches and followed by the pledge to the flag.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda with the following changes:**

**Move C-2 to R-13 Order authorizing salary band increase.**

**Remove R-5 Order authorizing billets and approving salary range for Public Works Dept.**

**Remove R-7 Order authorizing billets and approving salary range for Parks & Recreation.**

**Remove R-9 Order authorizing billets and approving salary range for Community Dev.**

**Adding R-12 Order authorizing engagement of MSEG, Inc. for drainage repair at IHOP site.**

**Adding R-14 Order authorizing agreement with Amtrak for space at Union Station.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated October 04, 2016.**

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

**ORDER #16209      ORDER APPROVING TAXI PERMIT FOR:  
                         ANGELEQUE ADAMS**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

**Motion was made by President Houston duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to "Take From the Table" Order authorizing acceptance of contract with McNeil Rhoads for Investment Grade Energy Audit. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston. Voting nay: Thomas. Absent: Hammon.**

**COUNCILMAN MARKHAM OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWER ORDER:**

**ORDER #16210      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN MCNEIL RHOADS, LLC AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (INVESTMENT GRADE ENERGY AUDIT)**

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

**Yea: MARKHAM, HENSON, HOUSTON.**

**Nay: THOMAS.**

**ABSENT: HAMMON.**

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

**ORDER #16211      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF FUND AGREEMENT BETWEEN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EAST MISSISSIPPI AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (PLANET PLAYGROUND)**

**AND, COUNCILWOMAN 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.**

**Nay: None.**

**ABSENT: HAMMON.**

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

**ORDER #16212      ORDER ADOPTING AND AUTHORIZING POLICE PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR SWORN POLICE PERSONNEL AS SPECIFIED TO BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST PAY-CHECK IN OCTOBER, 2016**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

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

**ORDER #16213      ORDER ADOPTING AND AUTHORIZING FIRE FIGHTER AND FIRE FIGHTER SENIOR PAY ADJUSTMENTS TO BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST PAYCHECK IN OCTOBER, 2016**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

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

**ORDER #16214      ORDER APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THREE (3) CIVIL SERVICE BILLETS TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN WORK FORCE**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

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

**ORDER #16215      ORDER APPROVING THE ADDITION OF TWO (2) CIVIL SERVICE BILLETS TO THE CITY OF MERIDIAN WORK FORCE**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

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

**ORDER #16216      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM-MERIDIAN, LLC AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI**

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

**Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN MARKHAM DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HENSON AND PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET DATED OCTOBER 13, 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,946,962.49. VOTING YE: MARKHAM, HENSON, HOUSTON. VOTING NAY: THOMAS. ABSENT: HAMMON.**

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

**ORDER #16217      RESOLUTION AND ORDER AUTHORIZING ENGAGEMENT OF MSEG, INC., FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT GRANT FROM NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR REPAIRS TO THE DRAINAGE STRUCTURE ON NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD RESULTING FROM THE COLLAPSE OF THE STRUCTURE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

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

**ORDER #16218      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RAISE OF THE SALARY BAND**

**FOR THE BILLETED POSITION OF CITY ENGINEER**

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

**Yea: Thomas, Markham, Henson, Houston.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

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

**ORDER #16219      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SECOND  
AMENDMENT TO STATION LEASE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND NATIONAL  
RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION "AMTRAK"  
(SPACE AT UNION STATION)**

**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.**

**Nay: None.**

**Absent: Hammon.**

**President Houston called on Mayor Bland for his report: Richie McAlister, CAO informed the Council that Mayor Bland is out of the country on a trip to China with the EMBDC Director, Bill Hannah. They are touring a company that uses algae to make a variety of products. They are seeing how the process is done. Mr. McAlister said that in the coming weeks they need to come before the Council to talk about the dire need for signs along the Interstate to increase our presence. And the need to come to the Council with designs of LED lights from I-20 to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Bridge. Mr. McAlister called on Events Coordinator, Laura Carmichael, to report on upcoming activities. Mrs. Carmichael said Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> on the City Hall lawn would be the Halloween Candy Crawl from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Family fun for all. Come out to Trick or Treat.**

**President Houston called for citizens comments. The citizens listed below spoke.**

**a) Allen Shute**

**b) Steven LaBiche**

**PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**COUNCILWOMAN HENSON SAID WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG THE LAND OUT THERE NEAR WHERE SHE LIVED ON MOSBY ROAD, WAS PURCHASED BY MR. JOHN THOMAS BALL ROSHERE. THEN, A MARVELOUS THING HAPPENED, RIGHT ABOUT THAT TIME WE WERE INVITED TO COME INTO THE CITY. WE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SOMETHING! A MAN CAME AND CUT US A DRIVEWAY, AND WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CAR. IT WAS A WONDERFUL TIME. THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL YELLOW STRIPE GOING DOWN A BRAND NEW PAVED ROAD. THE CITY PAVED THAT ROAD, AND WE WERE SO PROUD. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL. EVERYTHING OUT THERE IS WONDERFUL, EXCEPT, WE DIDN'T HAVE CITY SEWERAGE, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, AND IN ALL THESE YEARS WE STILL DON'T HAVE CITY SEWERAGE. BUT WE'VE BEEN DOING OKAY. I JUST WANT TO SAY WE LIVE IN A REAL GREAT CITY. I APPRECIATE YOU FOLKS FOR BEING A PART OF WHAT MAKES IT SO VERY GOOD.**

**COUNCILMAN MARKHAM SAID HE WANTS TO THANK THE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION FOR BEING HERE. OUR BUSINESS OWNERS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DOWNTOWN MERIDIAN, AND VITAL FOR A BETTER DOWNTOWN. ESPECIALLY TO THOSE OF YOU THAT HAS A LOT OF LONGEVITY DOWNTOWN, A SPECIAL THANK YOU. I HOPE MR. McALISTER AND MR. PARTRIDGE WILL GET TOGETHER WITH YOU TO OPEN COMMUNICATION AS TO HOW TO RECEIVE HELPFUL INPUT FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION. AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM WANTED TO CONGRATULATE MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS ON AN OUTSTANDING SOFTBALL SEASON; THEY CAME UP SHORT IN GEORGE COUNTY LAST WEEKEND, BUT DID EXCEPTIONALLY WELL THIS YEAR. LED BY NEWLY HIRED COACH, MARK DAVIS, HE'S DOING A REALLY GOOD JOB. THE TEAM HAD AN OUTSTANDING RECORD, I THINK AT ONE POINT A 26 TO 5 STANDING. PLEASE SUPPORT THE CANDY CRAWL, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS HAVE WORKED REALLY HARD TO MAKE THIS A GREAT EVENT. WITH THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES AND THE BULK OF THE ACTIVITIES HELD ON THE CITY HALL LAWN, IT SHOULD BE A GOOD SAFE EVENT FOR THE KIDS, SO PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT. ALSO, OCTOBER FEST WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. AT MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 534 JAMES CHANEY DRIVE. THERE WILL ALSO BE A YOUNG LADIES FORUM CALLED "LET'S TALK - BEING A BETTER YOU" PRESENTED BY THE DANCING DIVAS OF MERIDIAN, 2119 HWY 19 NORTH, HELD SATURDAY OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M., THIS IS THE SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH EVENT. THERE WILL BE A "TRUNK OR TREAT" AT THE GREAT STAR LEARNING CENTER PARKING LOT, 4521 35<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE ON OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 2:30 - 6:30 P.M. AND, DR. RACHEL HULL WILL BE PRESENTING A "TRAILS FOR TRAIL" HEALTH SCREENING EXAM FOR VISION, HEARING, AND DENTAL. PLUS, A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN WILL BE DEMONSTRATING CARDIO EXERCISE MOVEMENTS AT THE SCREENING. CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS AND MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS ARE ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATING.**

**COUNCILMAN THOMAS SAID DR. HULL IS A GRADUATE OF MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL, ONCE AGAIN PROVING THERE IS OPPORTUNITY IN MERIDIAN. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LAMAR GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING ANOTHER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. COUNCILMAN THOMAS SAID SOME GOOD NEWS IS THE REPORT THAT AVERY DENNISON IS KEEPING OVER 100 JOBS IN MERIDIAN, ABOUT A YEAR AGO WE WERE TOLD WE WOULD LOSE ALL OF THOSE POSITIONS. THEY ARE ALSO GOING TO SPEND OVER A MILLION DOLLARS RENOVATING THAT BUILDING, AND THAT WILL BE SOME JOBS THERE. MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUES TO DO A GREAT JOB, IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE NEW STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER, YOU NEED TO GO SEE IT. THE GOLF TEAM CONTINUES TO WIN BIG TOURNAMENTS AND AWARDS. THE ARTS PROGRAM AT MCC IS VERY REASONABLE AND MOST FOLKS CAN AFFORD THAT PROGRAM. MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY MADE A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK, THE NAMING OF THE ROSENBAUM BUILDING DOWNTOWN. MISSISSIPPI STATE HAS DEVELOPED THE ENTIRE BLOCK DOWNTOWN, AND THE REASON THEY'VE DONE THIS IN MERIDIAN IS BECAUSE OF TWO FOUNDATIONS," THE RILEY FOUNDATION AND THE HARDIN FOUNDATION", THEY MADE THESE THINGS HAPPEN. MISSISSIPPI STATE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY; A LOT OF US HERE IN THE**

**CITY FORGET THAT THESE THINGS WERE CREATED BECAUSE OF THESE TWO LOCAL FOUNDATIONS. THE RILEY CENTER CONTINUES TO OFFER A VARIETY OF HIGH CLASS ENTERTAINMENT THAT COULD BE OFFERED ANYWHERE IN THE NATION. THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD THINGS HERE. DR. CARTER CONTINUES TO IMPROVE THE OFFERINGS AND THE WORKINGS OF THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. SHE DOES A GOOD JOB, IF YOU GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO DR. CARTER, DO SO, AND THANK HER FOR HER EFFORTS, SHE'S CONTINUALLY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS. SHE IS DOING A GOOD JOB WITH THE SCHOOLS, AND MAYBE ONE DAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO LURE SOME STUDENTS BACK TO THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THERE.**

**PRESIDENT HOUSTON THANKED EVERYONE FOR COMING OUT AND SHE SAID IT IS REALLY GOOD TO SEE PEOPLE TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT. WE WANT TO ASK YOU TO KEEP COUNCILMAN RANDY HAMMON LIFTED IN YOUR PRAYERS, HE HAD SURGERY THIS WEEK, AND WE DEFINITELY WANT TO REMEMBER HIM, HE IS MISSED TONIGHT. COUNCIL PRESIDENT HOUSTON SAID THE ROTARY CLUB OF EAST MISSISSIPPI IS SPONSORING A VETFEST MUSIC CONCERT ON OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:00 P.M. OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, AND ON OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> A BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR RECEPTION WILL BE HELD FROM 12:00 TO 1:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM. PLEASE COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT. MULTI COUNTY IS OFFERING TUTORING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SCIENCE AND MATH, ONE HOUR A DAY FOR EACH SUBJECT. IF YOU ARE IN THE MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TRANSPORTATION IS NEEDED, MULTI COUNTY WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORT. PLEASE VOLUNTEER AND SUPPORT MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. WE ALSO WANT TO ANNOUNCE THE MERIDIAN ACTIVITY CENTER (ONE OF OUR HIDDEN JEWELS) WILL BE HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> FROM 10:00 TO 12:00 P.M. COME OUT TO SEE THE CLASSES THEY HAVE TO OFFER, MEET THE INSTRUCTORS, AND SEE SAMPLES OF WORKS COMPLETED AND IN PROGRESS. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**Jo Ann Clark, Clerk of Council**