

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Houston.

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

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor William Carey, of College Park Church of Christ and followed by the pledge to the flag.

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

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated July 05, 2016.

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

ORDER #16127 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
2016 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
(JAG) PROGRAM – LOCAL SOLICITATION APPLICATION TO THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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 #16128 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI AND COUNTY OF
LAUDERDALE MISSISSIPPI; (2016 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AWARD)

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.

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

ORDER #16129 ORDER ACCEPTING STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING) GRANT FOR MS STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,778.00

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.

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

RESO. #6069 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK IN REFERENCE THERETO

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

ORDER #16130 ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FROM ROCKSTEP MERIDIAN, LLC, THE RIGHT TO USE A PORTION OF ACCESS DRIVE #1 AND #3 AT BONITA LAKES MALL FOR NEW SIGNAGE ON CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY

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 Ordinance:

ORDI. #4473

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY'S ZONING ORDINANCE
NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF
MERIDIAN FROM P-PUBLIC USE DISTRICT TO B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS
DISTRICT (NORTHEAST CORNER OF 5TH STREET @ 12TH AVENUE)
INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY
OF MERIDIAN

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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Hammon and passed by a majority vote of the Council to approve the claims docket dated July 14, 2016 in the amount of \$2,394,083.48. Voting yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. Voting nay: Thomas.

President Houston advised of the notification of legal advertisement for the following: a) Carousel House repairs.

President Houston called on Mayor Bland for his report. Mayor Bland was not present and standing in as Acting Mayor was Councilwoman Houston, to present a plaque to former firefighter Grady McWilliams as the 1st African American Firefighter for the City of Meridian. CAO Richie McAlister continued with the Mayor's report, saying the Mayor was in Washington DC to meet with our Congressional Delegation. He then presented the Mayor's report on the status of the Planet Playground project. Mr. McAlister said they were going out for repair estimates for the playground and asking for donations of funds and labor from the community to help with the painting, staining, mulching, etc. Mr. McAlister said he is hoping to build a section of the playground that is ADA compliant, so that all children have the ability to play there. Mr. McAlister said they will be setting a date in the near future for the start of the work. Councilman Thomas asked where we are on RFP's for a new garbage contract. CFO, David Whitaker responded that those RFP's have already been sent out. Plus the paving project bid will be presented at the next council meeting. Mr. McAlister responded to Councilman Thomas' inquiry on the completion date of the drainage project downtown, saying it was still on track to be done by August 01, 2016. Bunky Partridge, Community Development Dir., said the last portion of the project between 25th and 26th Avenues will be a MDOT project starting on August 01, 2016.

President Houston called for citizens comments. James Dillard appeared and spoke.

President Houston called for Council comments. Councilman Hammon thanked everyone for the get well wishes during his illness with digestive problems. He also stated that we have serious problems within this city that are not being addressed. Councilman Markham thanked the coaches and parents for their unstinting support of the kids and the teams for the baseball tournaments. He commended his team 'Popeyes' for all the hard work and

sportsmanship. He also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the excellent work they do in supporting the various recreation events for the city. He commended Love Out Loud for the community programs they are presenting and the labor and dedication put forth to make this city a good place for our citizens. Councilman Markham mentioned the Carter Foundation's, 'Christmas in July' fun day on the 24th, and Love City Fellowship giving out book bags on July 23rd. Councilman Thomas also commended Love Out Loud for showing the good things going on in this city. He said there are a lot of people in this city that remain anonymous, but are constantly giving, being a productive influence on all of our lives. Councilman Thomas named some of the good things going on; one being the Distinguished Young Women Program last week, he said one of the young ladies has a prosthetic arm which she didn't let hold her back from doing anything the other girls were doing, she even removed the arm to perform the physical routine required. Councilman Thomas said he has a love of old music and he listened to Marvin Gaye's song 'What's Going On' and Elvis Presley's song 'In the Ghetto'. People fighting, killing, robbing, stealing, too many mothers are crying. Councilman Thomas said we have to do a better job to make life better for us all. Council President Houston thanked all for coming out and being involved, she also thanked Parks & Recreation for the work with the summer basketball teams. President Houston reminded the public about the Mother and Son dance Aug. 5th, this being the first presented, with the hope of it becoming an annual event. She mentioned back to school rallies and Meridian Public Schools registrations going on.

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