

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 02, 2016 AT 9:00 A.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 Gary Houston, of New Hope Blackwater Baptist Church 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 Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated July 19, 2016.

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

ORDER #16131 ORDER DESIGNATING MODERN OUTFITTERS AS THE SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER FOR THE "MODERN CARBINE RIFLE" TO BE USED BY THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 Order:

ORDER #16132 ORDER DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID VEHICLES TO BE SOLD

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 ORDER:

**ORDER #16133 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT
BY THE MAYOR OF MARY WILSON AS COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS**

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 #16134 IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT
BY THE MAYOR OF GREGORY LANE TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN**

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 #16135 ORDER DECLARING WEAPON SURPLUS AND TO BE SOLD TO
RETIRED POLICE OFFICER ARTIS JOHNSON AS ALLOWED BY
STATE LAW 45-9-131**

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. #6070 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF BLIGHTED REAL PROPERTY

PURSUANT TO *MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-17-1*; APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING; AND, AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND QUITCLAIM DEED

And, Councilwoman Henson 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 #16136 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF
FY17 MOHS GRANT AGREEMENT (TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS) FROM
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MISSISSIPPI OFFICE
OF HIGHWAY SAFETY**

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 #16137 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF
FY17 MOHS GRANT AGREEMENT (ALCOHOL COUNTERMEASURES)
FROM MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY**

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 #16138 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AS-NEEDED BASIS
AGREEMENT BETWEEN EVANS & MONSOUR, PLLC (ATTORNEYS
AT LAW) AND 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.**

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

**ORDER #16139 ORDER APPROVING AN OVERLAY AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SIGNAGE PERMITS FOR A SPECIFIED AREA AROUND BONITA
LAKES MALL**

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 Order:

**ORDER #16140 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION
FOR THE 2016 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT
PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AN URBAN FOREST RESOURCE
ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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 #16141 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF 2016
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM HOMEOWNER
REHABILITATION APPLICATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI HOME
CORPORATION**

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 HENSON OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

**ORDER #16142 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE
LOCATION OF A NEW FIRE STATION FROM COVINGTON PLACE
LP AND B. H. GAVIN, AND EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DEEDS**

**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, Hammon.

Nay: None.

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

**RESO. #6071 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, COUNCILWOMAN HENSON 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 #16143 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THE
AUGUST 16, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM CITY HALL 3RD FLOOR AUDITORIUM TO UNION STATION
2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM @ 5:00 P.M.**

**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.

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 29, 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,458,577.26. VOTING yea: Markham, Henson, Houston, Hammon. VOTING nay: Thomas.

PRESIDENT HOUSTON ADVISED OF THE NOTIFICATION OF LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- a) ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND DEMOLISH STRUCTURES**
- b) SOLID WASTE.**

PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED ON MAYOR BLAND FOR HIS REPORT. MAYOR BLAND REMINDED EVERYONE THAT TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY THE 3RD WAS THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. HE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVES THIS WILL BE A GOOD YEAR UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT, DR. AMY CARTER. MAYOR BLAND COMMENDED ALL INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESSFUL AND SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES OFFERED FOR THE COMMUNITY: MOTHER & SON DANCE, BACK THE BADGE RALLY (HAD A GREAT TURNOUT AT DUMONT PLAZA), HANDS ON SCIENCE PROJECT HELD AT MT. OLIVE CHURCH AND SPEARHEADED BY MRS. MABLE OTIS. THE MAYOR SAID THIS LIST IS JUST SOME OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOING ON IN THIS COMMUNITY. MAYOR BLAND THANKED THE COUNCIL ON THEIR AMENABILITY TO LOOKING INTO SALARY INCREASES WITH HOPES OF BRINGING THOSE MORE IN LINE WITH SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. THE MAYOR CALLED ON PARK DIR., KELVIN MCGRUDER TO ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE SITUATION OF PARK LIGHTING REPAIRS, MR. MCGRUDER SAID THE REPAIRS ARE ABOUT 50% COMPLETE. HUGH SMITH, PUBLIC WORKS DIR., SAID THE PAVING BIDS WILL BE IN BY AUGUST 30TH AND THE IN HOUSE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL WILL START THIS FALL SO THAT INTERNAL PAVING CAN BEGIN IN THE SPRING. BUNKY PARTRIDGE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIR., SAID THE DOWNTOWN PAVING PROJECT IS STILL ON TARGET.

PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR CITIZENS COMMENTS. LORETTA ALLEN BENNETT APPEARED AND SPOKE. ALLEN SHUTE WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK, BUT LEFT THE MEETING BEFORE HE WAS CALLED ON.

PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR COUNCIL COMMENTS. COUNCILMAN HAMMON SAID HE WOULD LIKE A NAME FROM EACH DEPARTMENT, OF AN ALTERNATE CONTACT PERSON TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF CONCERN, OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT HEAD. COUNCILMAN HAMMON ALSO SAID THAT SPECULATING ON THINGS WITHOUT HAVING ALL THE INFORMATION AND FACTS IS NOT A GOOD THING AND WE MUST DEAL WITH WHAT IS REALITY. COUNCILWOMAN HENSON SAID THERE WERE EXCITING THINGS GOING ON AT HIGHLAND PARK OVER THE WEEKEND. COUNCILWOMAN HENSON SAID SHE HAD NOT SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE ENJOYING THEMSELVES AND USING THE AMENITIES AT THE PARK IN YEARS. COUNCILWOMAN HENSON ASKED MR. MCGRUDER WHAT WAS GOING ON, AND HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM THANKED EVERYONE FOR COMING OUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM MENTIONED THE BACK THE BADGE EVENT AS BEING WELL SUPPORTED, THAT 1ST UNION BAPTIST CHURCH HAD ITS 125TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY, AND THE SCIENCE PROGRAM PROVIDED AT MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH WAS GREAT, AND HAVING THE STUDENTS MOVING FROM STATION TO STATION PERFORMING HANDS ON EXPERIMENTS, WAS VERY EDUCATIONAL AND ENJOYABLE FOR THE KIDS. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM STATED THAT THESE ARE ALL VERY POSITIVE THINGS IN THE

community and all much appreciated. Councilman Markham said the new coach at Meridian High School is very capable of bringing about a championship season. He thanked the Mayor for supplying uniforms to the students that needed them, the Love City Fellowship Church backpack giveaway project and the free haircuts done by the Rick B Salon for the students heading back to school. Councilman Markham said these are more examples of the good things going on in Meridian. Councilman Markham also wanted to echo Councilman Hammon on subject of speculation, it being a dangerous thing, sometimes used to distract from the real issues of doing what is right. Councilman Thomas urged everyone to support our teachers. He said more and more students are coming back to the public schools and we must strive to continue to do better, average isn't good enough, we can and must be above average. Councilman Thomas said The Riley Center has announced the new entertainment lineup for the new season, and the Meridian Community College has a new student educational unit opening soon. Councilman Thomas said the opportunities are here, we need only take advantage of them, by supporting the things this community has to offer. President Houston asked Dr. Amy Carter to stand, so the people will see our new superintendent for the Meridian Public Schools. Councilwoman Houston said there is energy within the district, we all need to invest and continue to support this community, not only today, but all year long. Councilwoman Houston asked that people come out Friday night for the Mother & Son Dance and continue to pray for unity.

An executive session was requested regarding potential economic development. Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson 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 Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to declare an executive session in order to discuss potential economic development. The Council then went into executive session. Motion was made by Councilman Hammon duly seconded by Councilman Thomas and unanimously passed by the Council to go out of executive session.

President Houston called the regular meeting back to order.

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