

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 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 Odell Hopkins, of West Mt. Moriah 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 with amendment to add amendments to the claims docket.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated August 02, 2016.

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

ORDER #16144 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (OLD HWY 80 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS)

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

ORDER #16145 ORDER ACCEPTING STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL) GRANT FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

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.**

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

ORDER #16146 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE (MDAC) TO ASSIST THE EARTH'S BOUNTY AND FARMERS MARKET ACTIVITIES

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.**

Motion was made by Councilman Markham and duly seconded by Councilwoman Henson to open the discussion on Agenda item R-4 (Order authorizing cooperative agreement with Lauderdale County for Highland Park Project.) A discussion ensued. Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson and duly seconded by Councilman Thomas to table R-4. The Council concurred 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 Resolution:

RESO. #6072 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 27-31-1 (D) AND 79-11-3 (C) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED

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 Ordinance:

**ORDI. #4474 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 25 OF THE
CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MS, TO
REVISE WATER TAP FEES**

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.**

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

**ORDER #16147 IN THE MATTER OF: PURCHASE OF A TANDEM AXLE DUMP
TRUCK FROM EMPIRE TRUCK SALES, LLC, MERIDIAN, MS IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$111,952.00**

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.**

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

**ORDER #16148 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BID FOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR
THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 20, 2016 THRU JUNE 14, 2017 FOR
ASPHALT MIX FROM APAC MISSISSIPPI, INC., MERIDIAN, MS**

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 Order:

**ORDER #16149 ORDER ACCEPTING LOW BIDS FOR 12-MONTH SOURCE OF
SUPPLY FOR PIPE, VALVES & FITTINGS**

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, Henson, Houston, Hammon.

Nay: None.

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

**ORDER #16150 IN THE MATTER OF: PURCHASE OF A MOTOR GRADER
FROM CALDER BROTHERS CORPORATION, TAYLORS, SC
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156,900.00**

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, Henson, Houston, Hammon.

Nay: None.

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

**RESO. #6073 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.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN HENSON DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MARKHAM AND PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET DATED AUGUST 12, 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,169,339.61 WITH AMENDMENTS OF PURCHASE ORDERS 606076 FOR \$750.00, 606077 FOR \$1,300.00 AND 606074 FOR \$1,500.00 BRINGING THE TOTAL DOCKET OF CLAIMS AMOUNT TO \$2,172,889.61. VOTING YEAS: MARKHAM, HENSON, HOUSTON, HAMMON. VOTING NAYS: THOMAS.

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

- a) HYDRATED LIME**
- b) HYDROFLUOSILICIC ACID**
- c) LIQUID ALUM (12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY)**

- d) LIQUID CHLORINE (12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY)**
- e) POLYMER (12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY)**
- f) SULFUR DIOXIDE (12-MONTH SOURCE OF SUPPLY)**
- g) LEASE PURCHASE-FLEET VEHICLES FOR FY2017**
- h) REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) –ARCHITECT TO DESIGN FIRE STATION #2**

PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED ON MAYOR BLAND FOR HIS REPORT. MAYOR BLAND HAD LEFT THE MEETING, AND CAO, RICHIE McALISTER REPORTED ON THE TURNOUT THUS FAR ON TODAY'S ELECTION OF A 2% PREPARED FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX TO SUPPORT THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE CENTER IN MERIDIAN. HE SAID THE ATMOSPHERE AMONG THE VOTERS WAS CONGENIAL AND UPBEAT, HE WAS NOT AWARE OF A CROSS WORD SPOKEN, AND BY THE 4:00 P.M. HOUR THE PARTICIPATING VOTER COUNT WAS AROUND 2428 VOTES CAST

PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR CITIZENS COMMENTS. ALLEN SHUTE WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK, BUT DID NOT APPEAR.

PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR COUNCIL COMMENTS. COUNCILMAN HAMMON SAID THIS COUNCIL IS GOING TO QUESTION HOW THE MONEY IS BEING USED AND BE ASSURED THERE IS A PLAN IN PLACE BEFORE JUST HANDING OUT FUNDS WITH NO PLAN FOR THOSE FUNDS IN PLACE. COUNCILMAN HAMMON SAID WE MUST PRACTICE FRUGALITY, AND STOP SPENDING MORE THAN WE HAVE. COUNCILWOMAN HENSON SAID WE AS A CITY NEED TO CHARGE THE FEES FOR THE CITY'S FEE BASED HOLDINGS & ACTIVITIES THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE, AND REFRAIN FROM GIVING AWAY FREEBEES AND FAVORS TO FRIENDS. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM THANKED HUGH SMITH, PUBLIC WORKS DIR. AND POLICE CHIEF BENNY DUBOSE, AND THEIR STAFF FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THEY PUT FORTH. HE SAID HE WANTED TO ECHO COUNCILMAN HAMMON ON HIS STATEMENT ABOUT THIS COUNCIL BEING DILIGENT AND STRIVING TO BE BETTER THAN THE ONES THAT CAME BEFORE. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM SAID WE ALL HAVE GOALS OF BEING BETTER AND DOING BETTER, SEPARATELY AND AS A WHOLE. COUNCILMAN THOMAS COMMENTED THAT WITH ALL THE RAIN WE'RE HAVING NOW, OUR STREETS ARE NOW DITCHES. HE SAID THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT AMY CARTER IS DOING EXTREMELY WELL; SHE IS TALKING TO THE TEACHERS TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE SCHOOLS, WHEREAS THE PREVIOUS SUPERINTENDENT WOULD NOT. COUNCILMAN THOMAS SAID THE RILEY CENTER, MCC'S STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER AND THE TRAINING FACILITY ARE ALL BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THE TRAINING FACILITY HAS STUDENTS TAKING TRAINING CLASSES OUT THERE FROM ALL OVER THE STATE, AND THE FACILITY HAS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RATINGS. COUNCILMAN THOMAS STATED WE HAVE JEWELS HERE, THINGS ARE HAPPENING AND THINGS ARE LOOKING UP IN THIS COMMUNITY. PRESIDENT HOUSTON REMINDED EVERYONE THAT SCHOOL IS IN SESSION, AND THE LEADERS AND HELPERS NEED TO BE VISIBLE. SHE ENCOURAGED ALL TO PURCHASE WILDCAT TAGS. PRESIDENT HOUSTON URGED EVERYONE TO GO OUT AND VOTE, TO HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY.

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