

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 Minister Sonia Frye, 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 (R-30 Resolution executing written notification to the Dept. of Revenue effective date of 2% food/beverage tax.).**

**Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated September 06, 2016.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Thomas duly seconded by Councilman Markham and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the following proclamation to be issued by the Mayor:**

**September 17-23, 2016 – "Constitution Week"**

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

**ORDER #16170      ORDER AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS AT  
30<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE WEST TO 36<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE & 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET SOUTH  
TO INTERCHANGE ROAD**

**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 #16171      ORDER AUTHORIZING CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$25,000.00 TO THE BAIRD CHARITABLE TRUST**

**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, Hammon.  
Nay: Thomas.**

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

**ORDER #16172      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT  
BY THE MAYOR OF RONALD D. HOPSON TO THE MERIDIAN  
TREE COMMISSION**

**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 #16173      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF TIM MARTIN TO THE  
ELECTRICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

**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 #16174      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ROBERT R. (BUSTER)  
GRISSETT TO THE ELECTRICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

**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 #16175      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT  
BY THE MAYOR OF JAMES R. CALDWELL TO THE HOUSING  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

**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 #16176      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT  
BY THE MAYOR OF JOE B. PARKER TO THE HOUSING BOARD  
OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

**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 #16177      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF RICKY SPELLS TO THE  
HOUSING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

**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 #16178      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT  
BY THE MAYOR OF LEE LITRELL TO THE BUILDING CODE**

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS**

**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 #16179      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF HARRY F. (TREY) COOPER  
TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS**

**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#16180      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JIM MCRAE TO THE  
BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS**

**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 #16181      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARKEY JOINER TO THE  
BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS**

**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 #16182      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DARRELL WAYNE  
RALEY TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS  
& APPEALS**

**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 #16183      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MARY RUTH SHARP  
TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS  
& APPEALS**

**AND, COUNCILMAN 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 #16184      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT  
BY THE MAYOR OF DAVID WILLIAMS TO THE MECHANICAL  
EXAMINING BOARD**

**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 #16185      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GREG HEBLON TO  
THE MECHANICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

**And, Councilman 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 #16186      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ED MOSLEY TO  
THE MECHANICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

**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 #16187      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ZANE CHAPMAN  
TO THE MECHANICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

**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 #16188      IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RE-  
APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MICHAEL D. TEW  
TO THE MECHANICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

**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 #16189      ORDER ACCEPTING HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FROM  
KILEY DEARMAN FOR TREE REMOVAL FROM NATURAL  
DRAINAGE CHANNEL LOCATED ON PROPERTY AT 3900  
36<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI**

**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 #16190      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF LOCATION USE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND VANILLA  
PALM FILMS FOR FILMING AT UNION STATION**

**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 ORDER:**

**ORDER #16191      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM  
OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN  
AND MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO PROVIDE  
TESTING FOR 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 MARKHAM OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

**ORDER #16192      IN THE MATTER OF: ACCEPTING THE BID OF CONSTRUCTION PLUS, LLC, MERIDIAN, MS, FOR DEMOLITION & ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF THIRTY (30) STRUCTURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,300.00**

**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 MARKHAM OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**RESO. #6077      AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF BLIGHTED REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO *MISS. CODE ANN. § 21-17-1*; APPROVING AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING; AND, AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE AMENDED MEMORANDUM OR 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 #16193      ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN WASTE PRO OF MISSISSIPPI, INC., AND 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 RESOLUTION:**

**RESO. #6078            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.**

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

**RESO. #6079            RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, 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.**

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

**ORDI. #4476            ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A REVENUE AND LEVY A TAX FOR THE MERIDIAN SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**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 THOMAS OFFERED AND MOVED THE ADOPTION AND PASSAGE OF THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE:**

**ORDI. #4477            ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**AND, COUNCILMAN MARKHAM 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 MARKHAM AND PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,151,496.10. VOTING YEA: MARKHAM, HENSON, HOUSTON. VOTING NAY: THOMAS, HAMMON.**

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

**RESO. #6080            RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR CITY CLERK OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE THE FORM OF THE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE REGARDING THE DATE UPON WHICH THE CITY'S TWO PERCENT (2%) FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS AUTHORIZED BY CITY REFERENDUM AND HOUSE BILL 1770 OF THE 2005 REGULAR SESSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE**

**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.**

**PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED ON MAYOR BLAND FOR HIS REPORT. MAYOR BLAND EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OFFICER KEN WINBORN. OFFICER WINBORN PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS FUNERAL ARE UNKNOWN AT THE MOMENT. MAYOR BLAND ALSO CAUTIONED THE KIDS AND PARENTS ABOUT SOME ACTIVITIES DURING HOMECOMING. HE WARNED THAT SOME VANDALISM**

**HAS BEEN DONE TO PROPERTY, EGGING VEHICLES, ETC. THIS IS NOT TEENAGE PRANKS, BUT SERIOUS OFFENCES OF BREAKING THE LAW. So, PARENTS TALK TO YOUR KIDS TO STRESS THAT SOME ACTIVITIES ARE NOT ALLOWED AND HAVE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES. MAYOR BLAND STRESSED THE ISSUE OF A JOB PROGRAM TO TEACH THE KIDS HOW TO WORK AND ACQUIRE THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH HANDLING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A JOB. HE SAID THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, HUGH SMITH WILL BE DOING A PROGRAM TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO USE EQUIPMENT. THAT THEY WILL GO OUT NEXT MONTH TO RECRUIT PEOPLE. THE COUNCIL ASKED ABOUT THE STREET SCAPE PROJECT AND WAS TOLD THE PROJECT WAS ON SCHEDULE IF NOT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. AND HOPEFULLY THE DOWNTOWN PROJECT WILL SOON BE DONE AND INSPECTED.**

**PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR CITIZENS COMMENTS. THE CITIZENS LISTED BELOW SPOKE.**

**a) LORETTA BENNETT**

**b) ALLEN SHUTE**

**PRESIDENT HOUSTON CALLED FOR COUNCIL COMMENTS. COUNCILMAN HAMMON SAID THAT HE HAS HEARD SOME UGLY THINGS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. COUNCILMAN HAMMON SAID I DIDN'T ASK WHAT THE JOB PAID WHEN I TOOK THIS JOB AS COUNCILMAN. I AM JUST THANKFUL I WORK WITH FOUR LEVEL-HEADED PEOPLE. I AM AMAZED THAT WE ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT MORE PROGRAMS WHEN WE HAVE AN 8-9 MILLION DOLLAR POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT WE HAVE A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WITH A BUDGET OF AROUND 2 MILLION DOLLARS THAT IS DOING A TREMENDOUS JOB FOR THIS COMMUNITY. COUNCILWOMAN HENSON SAID SHE WOULD TRULY LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ALL OF THE CALLS, LETTERS, AND PRAYERS RECEIVED, WITH EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR HER SON DURING HIS ILLNESS. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE ALL THE POLICE COME OUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO HEAR FOR THEMSELVES HOW THE SALARY INCREASE AND BREAKDOWN FOR THE OFFICERS WAS PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE COUNCIL. HE COMMENDED MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR FOUR STRAIGHT WINS. HE HAS NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THE GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR 11-3 SEASON, WHILE MAINTAINING A 3.3 CUMULATIVE GPA. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM CONGRATULATED THE COUNCIL ON THE HANDLING OF THE BUDGET, BY BEING THOUGHTFUL AND FARSIGHTED WITH THE FINANCES OF MERIDIAN. HE CONGRATULATED KIM HOUSTON FOR HER LEADERSHIP AS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT. COUNCILMAN MARKHAM THANKED EVERYONE FOR COMING OUT AND TAKING PART. COUNCILMAN THOMAS SAID IT TAKES ALL THE COUNCILMEMBERS MAKING DECISIONS, TRYING TO TAKE THE POSITIVE APPROACH, AND BEING DILIGENT TO MAKE THE PROCESS WORK. IT IS NOT DONE OUT OF FEAR, BUT OUT OF HARD WORK, THAT DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY. COUNCILMAN THOMAS SAID MERIDIAN IS PRODUCING GOOD PEOPLE. TWO KIDS HE IS THINKING OF RIGHT NOW, GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN MERIDIAN, ONE WENT TO NEW MEXICO AND ONE WENT TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, BOTH ARE DOING JUST FINE. THIS IS BECAUSE OF GOOD TEACHERS, GOOD ADMINISTRATORS AND GOOD PARENTS. COUNCILMAN THOMAS SAID IF ANYONE HAS TRIED TO CALL HIM AND THE PHONE JUST RINGS AND RINGS, IT'S BECAUSE THE PHONE IS NOT WORKING. HE HAS TRIED TO GET COMCAST TO FIX THE PROBLEM FOR MORE THAN FIVE DAYS NOW. AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL HAVE IT REPAIRED SOON. PRESIDENT HOUSTON ANNOUNCED THAT THURSDAY, 6:00 P.M. AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB THERE WILL BE A COMMUNITY GATHERING; IT WILL BE AN 'OPEN MIC' MEETING, SO CITIZENS CAN SPEAK. PRESIDENT HOUSTON ENCOURAGED ALL TO COME OUT. COUNCILWOMAN HOUSTON THANKED EVERYONE FOR COMING TO THE 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**