

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2012 AT 5:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Council President Thomas.

Present: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.

Absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Parks & Recreation Director Mark Naylor and followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously passed by the Council to confirm the agenda for this meeting. (Councilman Palmer not at meeting at this time.)

Motion was made by Councilwoman Perry duly seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the minutes dated December 04, 2012. (Councilman Palmer not at meeting at this time.)

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

ORDER #15348 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AWARD LETTER/GRANT
RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FROM STATE HOMELAND SECURITY
GRANT PROGRAM (REIMBURSE EXPENSES – ADVANCED EXECU-
TIVE PROTECTION TRAINING)

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Smith.

Nay: None.

Not Present: Palmer.

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

ORDER #15349 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AWARD LETTER/GRANT
RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FROM STATE HOMELAND SECURITY
GRANT PROGRAM (REIMBURSE EXPENSES – OVERLAND SEARCH
& RESCUE TRAINING)

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Smith.

Nay: None.

Not Present: Palmer.

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

ORDER #15350 ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AWARD LETTER/GRANT
RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FROM STATE HOMELAND SECURITY
GRANT PROGRAM (REIMBURSE EXPENSES – TRAINING
MATERIALS FOR ADVANCED EXECUTIVE PROTECTION TRAINING)

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Smith.

Nay: None.

Not Present: Palmer.

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

ORDER #15351 ORDER DECLARING 1992 TORO LAWN MOWER, SERIAL NO.
30140, CONTROL NO. 135-56 SURPLUS AND NO LONGER NEEDED
BY THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND AUTHORIZING SAID LAWN
MOWER TO BE USED FOR PARTS

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Smith.

Nay: None.

Not Present: Palmer.

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

ORDER #15352 ORDER CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF
CATHERINE JONES TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Smith.

Nay: None.

Not Present: Palmer.

At this time CAO Tim Miller read a letter from Mayor Barry concerning Charter Companies, LTD. (Councilman Palmer arrived at the meeting at this time.) Community Development Director Connie Royal introduced Mr. Clarence Chapman and Mr. David Kelly with Charter Companies, LTD. Mr. Chapman went over his plans for establishing housing in the hospital area and other areas throughout the city. He was present particularly regarding the old Bell South Telephone building located at the corner of 23rd Avenue and 7th Street. His plans are to have 26 quality market-rate apartments in this

building. If everything goes through, he will begin construction of these apartments in the spring of 2013.

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

ORDER #15353 ORDER DESIGNATING THIRTY-FIVE (35) PARKING SPACES IN THE ARTS DISTRICT PARKING GARAGE FOR THE PROPOSED CUMBERLAND PLACE APARTMENTS CONTINGENT UPON COMPLETION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.
Nay: None.

Councilwoman Perry offered and moved the adoption and passage of the following Resolution:

RESO. #5809 RESOLUTION OF INTENT BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI TO GRANT EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES (EXCEPT SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES) FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OR RENOVATIONS OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURE FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD TO CHARTER COMPANIES, LTD AND/OR ITS ASSIGNS UPON COMPLETION OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING LOCATED AT 701 23RD AVENUE

And, Councilwoman Henson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.
Nay: None.

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

ORDER #15354 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONSTRUCTION CHANGE REQUEST NO. 1 BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN AND H. E. MOSLEY, INC. (GALLAGHER CREEK SLOPE REPAIRS – HIGHLAND PARK)

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.
Nay: None.

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

ORDIN. #4415 ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3966 SO AS TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN LANDS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN FROM R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (PROPERTY LOCATED AT HWY 19 NORTH & NORTH HILLS STREET AT

67TH AVENUE LOOP) INCLUDING AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING
MAP OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.

Nay: None.

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

ORDER #15355 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
AND THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (COMMUNITY POLICING SERVICES)

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.

Nay: None.

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

ORDER #15356 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SINGLE PROJECT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THOMPSON ENGINEERING, INC. AND
THE CITY OF MERIDIAN (KATRINA CDBG GRANT)

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

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.

Nay: None.

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

RESO. #5810 RESOLUTION OF INTENT BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI TO IDENTIFY \$100,000.00 IN
FUNDS IN THE FY 2013 CITY OF MERIDIAN BUDGET TO USE FOR
CRIME DETECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

And, Councilwoman Henson seconded the motion, whereupon said Resolution was discussed, passed and adopted by the Council by a vote as follows:

Yea: Thomas, Perry, Henson, Palmer, Smith.

Nay: None.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Henson duly seconded by Councilwoman Perry and unanimously passed by the Council to approve the claims docket dated December 13, 2012 in the amount of \$2,366,506.43.

President Thomas called for the Mayor's report. CAO Tim Miller presented the report as the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting. He said the Mayor held a press conference on crime on Thursday the 13th. She talked about crime prevention and more patrol officers on the streets. On January 15th a Stop the Violence session was held at the Boys & Girls Club. There was also a pastors' meeting regarding crime held on the 17th. On Saturday the 22nd there will be a special visit from Santa from 12:00 to 1:30 in front of city hall. He thanked the City Council for working with the administration in moving forward. He sent thanks to all city employees and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

President Thomas called for citizen comments. John Harris, 3001 Vally, appeared and thanked the Council president for allowing him to speak. He stated he was present on behalf of the NAACP, many other residents and ministers in town regarding the re-districting plan submitted to the Justice Department. The Justice Department sent back a letter requesting more information than was sent over. When they sent that letter back it set things back as far as the election for an additional 30 to 60 days. If that plan is not presented, it will be another 60 days. For the sake of making sure it doesn't make a burden on the citizens of Lauderdale County and the City of Meridian, he stated he would suggest, which is a form of a suggestion, that the city send the plan with no changes according to the census, that we send the entire 2012 or whatever the census was, send over those numbers to the Justice Department for approval and he thinks we can get it through the Justice Department if we do that. The reason he says that is because one in particular, Ward 5, according to the census in the year 2000 the percentage was in voting population 50.7% and in 2010 the percentage in voting population was 59.3%. The proposed Ward change is 51.9%. It was 50.5% back in 2000. So, even though the percentages in the census tells us that you have 62.8% minorities in the area and 59.3% voting in that area, you are trying to knock down Ward 5 as far as demographics are concerned. It is down to 51% which is only a percent more than it was in 2000. As far as he is concerned, he thinks it would be unfair and unjust and he thinks the numbers will show that if you send those numbers in from the census, he thinks the Justice Department would OK that particular plan. If you don't send something in what will happen is we will end up having to go back again and it will be another 60 days. We are going to end up going into the election year and costing the citizens of Meridian a whole lot of extra money if we don't send it in according to what the census tells up. He said he thinks we can get it past the Justice Department. It is unfair to the citizens of Meridian to have that undue burden of re-sending it in and not getting it approved and re-sending it in when the numbers speak for themselves. There is no reason we can increase Ward 5 1% in voting when the voting population is 59%. According to the census you have 62% minorities in that area. That is just totally unfair for that to happen. He said he just asks the Council that they consider re-doing that with Watson and sending the numbers in according to the way the census says the numbers are and he thinks it would be fair for everybody instead of putting hundreds or thousands of dollars on the citizens of Meridian for having to send it in again.

President Thomas called for council comments. Various comments were made.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was

adjourned. Sine die.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam McInnis, Clerk of Council