BE IT REMEMBERED that the Agenda Review meeting of the Hattiesburg City Council was held at 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 3, 2017, in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Those present included Mayor Johnny L. DuPree and members of the City Council Kim Bradley, Ward 1; Deborah Delgado, Ward 2; Carter Carroll, Ward 3; and Mary Dryden, Ward 4. Others in attendance included Director of Administration/City Clerk, Kermas Eaton; City Engineer, Lamar Rutland; Police Chief, Anthony Parker; Director of Public Works, Larry Barnes; Director of Federal and State Programs, La'Keylah White; Director of the Water Department, Chadwick Frierson; Director of Parks and Recreation, Clemon Terrell; Director of Urban Development, Pattie Brantley; Planning Administrator, Ginger Maddox; Land Code Administrator, Steve Mitchell; Code Enforcement Manager, Mark Jordan; City Attorney, Annie Amos; Clerk of Council, Debbie Bernardo; Deputy Clerk of Council, Lisa Luu; media; and the public.

The MEETING was called to order by Council President Carroll.

Council President Carroll proceeded with the Agenda Review.

The Clerk of Council read aloud amendments to the agenda as follows:

Remove Policy Item VI.1 at the request of the Administration.

And, Add Policy Agenda Item VI.15 at the request of the Administration as follows:

1. **2017-347** VI.15. Authorize submission of Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant application.

Attachments: MEMA- Property Worksheet
MEMA- Pre-App
MEMA- Maintenance Agreement
MEME-Grant Application Certification

Also, Routine Agenda Item VII.5, the Claims Docket, includes a revised payment to Crowder Gulf.

Following discussion of agenda items, Council President Carroll closed the Agenda Review. Council member Bradley asked why Policy Agenda Item VI.-1 is being removed. Mayor DuPree stated that there was a triennial review the previous week. He said the buses are not in and that there are not drivers; he said that once the buses and drivers are in place, there will be a reason for an increase, in addition to being told by the FTA,

In response to a question from Council Vice President Dryden, Mayor DuPree said mass transit offers a fixed route (for fee) and a demand route that is free. He said that people who could use the fixed route are using the demand route, and that has suggested increasing the fee to $1 for the fixed route and charging $2 for the demand route, which picks riders up at their homes, delivers them and then picks them back up and takes them home.

Council member Bradley asked the Mayor about a recent Facebook video parked at Kamper Park. Mayor DuPree said that Mr. Nelms had explained that this involves demand response. The Mayor compared mass transit drivers to those of AAA drivers, and said that between calls, they do not go back to the shop, but wait in a public area to be dispatched to the next call. Council member Bradley asked who is picked up; Mayor DuPree responded that demand response calls are primarily handicapped and elderly.

In response to a question from Council member Bradley, the mayor said complaints that no longer picks up handicapped citizens are not true. The mayor said normally are dispatched by tablet, but that the tablets were damaged in the tornado; he said they have been sent off for repair.

Council Vice President Dryden asked a series of questions related to the rate increase; she said she understands the rationale, but is concerned that people that the increase will hurt people who truly need demand response. Mayor DuPree said that the FTA has suggested strongly that the city move people to fixed routes; he noted that there is value in the demand response delivery [that justifies the $2 fee]. He said the increase will help the mass transit system sustain its operation, and that the fee for demand response will free that system to be used by people who truly need it.

Ms. White stated that FTA recommended the rate increase and that the demand response rate be double that of the fixed route rate. She said no other city in Mississippi offers free paratransit and that Hattiesburg's rates are extremely low. She said mass transit has to generate revenue in order to match grant funds.

Subsequent discussion related to delivery of new buses that have been ordered to replace those damaged in the January tornado, and hiring of drivers for those buses. The Mayor said the city has been asked to market the new routes, new rates and new buses at one time; he said the ordinance with new rates will be brought back in about 30 days.

Council President Carroll asked if mass transit is picking up handicapped individuals; Ms. White responded that handicapped people are being picked up partially. She said mass transit is not running its regular route because it does not have all of its handicapped-equipped vans and is using borrowed vans that are not ADA-accessible; Council President asked again if is picking up handicapped people, and Ms. White responded in the affirmative.

Council President Carroll asked if mass transit has software used to keep track of; Ms. White responded in the affirmative. He asked for a report of the passengers that mass transit has picked up since that tornado to be provided. Ms. White said the software is not operational and that there is no electronic data; Council Vice President Dryden asked if there is not a handwritten log of calls. Reginald Smith of mass transit came forward and said there is evidence of some calls for both routes; he agreed to provide the information Council President Carroll requested.

Regarding Policy Agenda Item VI.-3, Council Vice-President Dryden said that she went to Mr. McDowell's office to talk with him; she said that he felt that he was caught in a political situation and that she finds it sad that people who needed this housing will miss out on it.

Council member Delgado said she sent Mr. McDowell a letter explaining her questions and making it clear that they had nothing to do with his application; she said she did not receive a response.

Council members asked several questions related to Policy Agenda Item VI.-14, a lease of the old Martin Motors building for temporary office space for mass transit. Discussion also included questions about plans for the new structure to replace the mass transit building.

Mayor DuPree explained Policy Agenda Item VI.-15, a proposed project funded by a MEMA grant to alleviate flooding issues at a property in Ward 4. Discussion related to the city's potential financial obligations and to other areas in the city that experience similar problems and that may need this type of assistance also.

Council member Delgado stated that in Ward 2, the Twin Forks Rising redevelopment plan includes flood mitigation features, including the building of water structures and of homes around those structures; she said she wanted to make it clear that there are options to stay.

Council President Carroll said that he is comfortable moving forward as long as the Council can learn more without being obligated financially.

On the claims docket, Mr. Eaton explained that a sum of approximately $54,000 has been removed from the Crowder Gulf payment until FEMA and MEMA approve certain loads for payments.

Council member Bradley commented that late fees continue for the Regions credit card; he said the paperwork is not getting processed and that it must be done correctly.

Following discussion of the remainder of agenda items, Council President Carroll closed the Agenda Review.

Council Vice President Dryden proceeded with the Citizens' Forum. She stated the procedures and invited members of the public to speak.

Linda Walters, president of the Council of Neighborhoods, invited the Council and the public to attend a political forum for candidates in the primary election Thursday, April 13, at the Jackie Dole Community Center. She said the forum will begin at 6 p.m. and asked if the candidates could be there at 5:30 p.m.

There were no other citizens present who wished to address the Council.

Council Vice President Dryden closed the Citizens' Forum.

1. **2017-400** 4-3-17 Citizens' Forum Sign-In Sheet.

Attachments: Citizens' Forum Sign-In Sheet, 4-3-17

Council President Carroll proceeded with the Work Session.

Council member Delgado discussed the importance of the public safety complex and asked architect Larry Albert for an update on costs.

Council Vice President Dryden's discussed mosquito control. Mr. Barnes introduced Jeremy Hirsch, a local resident who makes the Spartan Mosquito Eradicator; Mr. Hirsch explained how his product works and proposed testing it in city parks, with the hope that the city will consider a contract if the testing is successful.

Council President Carroll closed the Work Session.

A MOTION was made by Council member Bradley and seconded by Council Vice President Dryden to consider the need to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (a) and (b).

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 4 - Bradley, Delgado, Carroll and Dryden

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Naylor

A MOTION was made by Council member Carroll and seconded by Council member Dryden to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (a) and (b).

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 4 - Bradley, Delgado, Carroll and Dryden

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Naylor

Those present for the Executive Session were Mayor DuPree; Council members Bradley, Delgado, Carroll and Dryden; Forrest County attorney David Miller; Todd Jackson and Markus Simmons of the Area Development Partnership; Mr. Eaton; Attorney Amos; Ms. Waits; Mr. Frierson; and Ms. Bernardo.

Mr. Rutland entered the room at 4:40 p.m.

Mr. Miller left the room at 5:22 p.m. and did not return.

Council Vice President Dryden, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Simmons left the room at 5:25 p.m. and did not return.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

A MOTION was made by Council member Bradley and seconded by Council member Delgado to come out of Executive Session and re-open the meeting to the public at 5:31 p.m.

There being no discussion, the Motion received the affirmative vote of the Council as follows:

Yeas: 3 - Bradley, Delgado and Carroll

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Dryden and Naylor

By unanimous consent, Council President Carroll closed the meeting at 5:31 p.m., this the 3rd day of April, A.D., 2017.