

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that a Special Meeting of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, was called by a majority of the City Council Members and notices having been placed by the City Clerk at 11:05 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, in the Clerk’s Office, electronic notifications to all Council Members, on the City’s website and on the public bulletin board in City Hall, relative to: (1) Order revising the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget of the Department of Public Works Water/Sewer Utilities Division; (2) Order authorizing payment of the sum of \$389,986.06 to Origin Consulting for services provided under exigent circumstances at the request of the Public Works Director; (3) Order revising the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget of the Department of Public Works Water/Sewer Utilities Division contingent upon achieving certain utility billing collection rates; (4) Order authorizing a professional services agreement with Origin Consulting, LLC for business operations and delivery support of the City’s customer care and billing; (5) Claims. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers located at 219 S. President Street at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019 being the third Thursday of said month, when and where the following things were had and done to wit:

**Present:** Council Members: Melvin Priester, Jr., Council President, Ward 2; Virgi Lindsay, Vice-President, Ward 7; Ashby Foote, Ward 1; De’Keither Stamps, Ward 4; Charles H. Tillman, Ward 5 and Aaron Banks, Ward 6. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor; Michelle Battee-Day, Assistant City Clerk; Angela Harris, Deputy City Clerk; Alice Lattimore, Deputy City Clerk and Timothy Howard, City Attorney.

**Absent:** Kenneth Stokes, Ward 3.

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The meeting was called to order by **President Melvin Priester, Jr.**

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**ORDER REVISING THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER/SEWER UTILITIES DIVISION.**

**WHEREAS**, it appearing that due to emergent and exigent circumstances regarding the City of Jackson’s Utility Billing System, additional funds are needed to pay for professional services to meet these circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year 2018–2019 budget needs to be revised to provide funding for these emergent and exigent circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, there are funds available in the Water/Sewer that may be used to provide these professional services relating to the utility billing software.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that the Fiscal Year 2018–2019 budgets of the Department of Public Works and Department of Finance and Administration be revised in the amount of \$389, 987 as follows:

<u>From/To</u>	<u>Fund/Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
To	31-520.10-6419	\$389, 987
From	31-522.80.6741	(\$137,488)
From	31-520.10-6111	(\$228,072)
From	174-944.00-6491	(\$ 24,427)

**President Priester** moved adoption; **Vice President Lindsay** seconded.

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**President Priester** recognized **Robert Miller**, Director of Public Works, who provided Council with an overview of the circumstances that prompted the need of a budget revision.

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After a thorough discussion, **President Priester** called for a vote on said item:

Yeas- Foote, Lindsay, Priester, Stamps and Tillman.  
Nays- Banks.  
Absent- Stokes.

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**ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE SUM OF \$389,986.06 TO ORIGIN CONSULTING FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR.**

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2018, the Public Works Director forwarded a letter to Origin Consulting Services advising of the *intent* of the City of Jackson to enter into a Statement of Work for services related to business operations and delivery support concerning the City's water billing and collections systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Director's letter indicated that prior to executing the Statement of Work, exigent circumstances existed and necessitated that services commence immediately; and

**WHEREAS**, the exigent circumstances present concerned the recovery of stranded bills and the collection of associated payments, which directly affected the City's ability to service debt concerning the water and sewer systems; and

**WHEREAS**, avoiding defaults, bankruptcy, and or receivership concerning the water-sewer system are exigent circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the services provided by Origin Consulting are professional services, which have no specific statutory methods for procurement other than requiring special authorization from municipal authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi Attorney General opined in an opinion to *Bracey* dated *August 24, 2018* that a competitive process should be utilized even though purchasing laws are not applicable to the professional services to insure that best value is received; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 31-7-13(k) of the Mississippi Code contains a procedure for the procurement of purchases and repair contracts when exigent circumstances exist; and

**WHEREAS**, a municipality is not prohibited by law from utilizing the procedure set forth in Section 31-7-13(k) to procure professional services when *exigent* circumstances are present; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin has invoiced the City of Jackson the sum of \$389,986.06 for services provided at the request of the Public Works Director; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Public Works has provided written documentation concerning the services procured and the price of the services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Public Works recommends that the invoices of Origin totaling \$389,986.06 be paid.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that upon verification and signing of the invoices by the Public Works Director, a sum not to exceed \$389,986.06 may be paid to Origin for services provided under exigent circumstances associated with the recovery and collection of stranded bills, which permitted the City of Jackson to service debt upon the water and sewer system and avoid default.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of the invoices executed by the Public Works Director shall be included with the minutes in addition to this Order.

**Council Member Tillman** moved adoption; **Vice President Lindsay** seconded.

Yeas- Foote, Lindsay, Priester and Tillman.  
Nays- Banks and Stamps.  
Absent- Stokes.

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**ORDER APPROVING CLAIMES NUMBERED 5105 TO 5105 APPEARING AT PAGES 777 TO 780, INCLUSIVE THEREON, ON MUNICIPAL ‘DOCKET OF CLAIMS,’ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$389,986.06, AND MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF.**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that claims numbered 5105 to 5105 appearing at pages 777 to 780, inclusive thereon, in the Municipal “Docket of Claims”, in the aggregate amount of \$389,986.06 are hereby approved for payment and said amount is expressly appropriated for the immediate payment thereof.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that there is appropriated from the various funds the sums necessary to be transferred to other funds for the purpose of paying the claims as follows:

FROM:	TO ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FUND
WATER/SEWER OP & MAINT FUND	389,986.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$389,986.06</b>

**Council Member Tillman** moved adoption; **President Priester** seconded.

Yeas- Foote, Lindsay, Priester and Tillman.  
Nays- Banks and Stamps.  
Absent- Stokes.

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**ORDER AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ORIGIN CONSULTING, LLC FOR BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND DELIVERY SUPPORT OF THE CITY’S CUSTOMER CARE AND BILLING.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jackson Water/Sewer Business Administration Division, responsible for using the Oracle Customer Care & Billing enterprise software (CC&B) to generate monthly bills for water/sewer/sanitation customers, is in need of support to implement recommendations in the Risk Remediation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin Consulting, LLC (Origin) is highly knowledgeable with the CC&B enterprise software generally and the City’s implementation in particular; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to implement several of the more urgent components for the Risk Remediation Plan and to provide staff augmentation as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to assist with resolution of issues in bill generation and delivery, payment management, asset management, field work management, meter reading management, and credit and collections management; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to analyze and offer guidance for meter-to-cash business processes; and investigate, correct, test, and support the deployment of the meter exchange file used to automate synchronization of data in CC&B and Mi.Host; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin will formulate a plan and assist in the correction of the known data issues relating to meters, services, and other operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to correct additional stranded bills and address issues with CC&B batch processes; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to provide the City with a set of key metrics to monitor and manage performance of CC&B and the staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to perform the necessary work for an amount not to exceed a total amount \$708,877; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in April 2019, the Department of Public Works proposes to pay for the services under the Agreement from any collections that exceed the reported monthly expenses for the Water/Sewer Utility Division paid from Fund 31 for the March 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, work in each following month will be limited to the excess collections for the previous month, but in no event to exceed a total amount of \$708,877; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event that there are no excess collections in the preceding month, work under the Agreement will be immediately suspended.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that an agreement with Origin Consulting, LLC in a total amount not to exceed a total of \$708,877 for Business Operations and Delivery Support is authorized.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that work under the Agreement beginning on or about April 1, 2019 will be contingent on the collections for March 2019 exceeding the reported monthly expenses for the Water/Sewer Utility Division paid from Fund 31 and that the work under the Agreement will be limited to such excess collections for March 2019.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that work under the Agreement for each month following April will be contingent on the collections for the preceding month exceeding the reported monthly expenses for the Water/Sewer Utility Division paid from Fund 31 and that the work under the Agreement will be limited to such excess collections for the preceding amount; provided that in no event shall the total amount paid to Origin under the Agreement exceed 708,877 with authorization by the governing authorities.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in the event that there is no excess collection from the preceding month, work under the Agreement shall be immediately suspended.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Mayor is authorized to execute an agreement with Origin Consulting, LLC for Business Operations and Delivery Support, and all other documents necessary for the purposes of this agreement.

**Council Member Foote** moved adoption; **Vice President Lindsay** seconded.

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**President Priester** recognized **Dr. Robert Blaine**, Chief Administrative Officer, who stated that an amendment would be needed starting in the 10<sup>th</sup> paragraph and throughout the document as follows: ~~reported required and paid from Fund 31~~; in the 14<sup>th</sup> paragraph after expenses include the following: required for operations and maintenance and debt service.

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**President Priester** moved, seconded by **Vice President Lindsay** to amend said order to reflect the changes stated by **Dr. Blaine**.

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**President Priester** and **Vice President Lindsay** withdrew their motion and second to amend due to further amendments needed in the document.

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**President Priester** recognized **Dr. Robert Blaine**, Chief Administrative Officer, who stated that an additional amendment was needed in the 15<sup>th</sup> paragraph after expenses to include the following: required for operations and maintenance and debt service.

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**Council Member Foote** moved, seconded by **Vice President Lindsay** to amend said order to reflect all the amendments stated by **Dr. Robert Blaine**. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas- Foote, Lindsay, Priester and Tillman.

Nays- Banks and Stamps.

Absent- Stokes.

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Thereafter, **President Priester** called for a vote on said item as amended:

**ORDER AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ORIGIN CONSULTING, LLC FOR BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND DELIVERY SUPPORT OF THE CITY'S CUSTOMER CARE AND BILLING.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jackson Water/Sewer Business Administration Division, responsible for using the Oracle Customer Care & Billing enterprise software (CC&B) to generate monthly bills for water/sewer/sanitation customers, is in need of support to implement recommendations in the Risk Remediation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin Consulting, LLC (Origin) is highly knowledgeable with the CC&B enterprise software generally and the City's implementation in particular; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to implement several of the more urgent components for the Risk Remediation Plan and to provide staff augmentation as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to assist with resolution of issues in bill generation and delivery, payment management, asset management, field work management, meter reading management, and credit and collections management; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to analyze and offer guidance for meter-to-cash business processes; and investigate, correct, test, and support the deployment of the meter exchange file used to automate synchronization of data in CC&B and Mi.Host; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin will formulate a plan and assist in the correction of the known data issues relating to meters, services, and other operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to correct additional stranded bills and address issues with CC&B batch processes; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to provide the City with a set of key metrics to monitor and manage performance of CC&B and the staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Origin proposes to perform the necessary work for an amount not to exceed a total amount \$708,877; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in April 2019, the Department of Public Works proposes to pay for the services under the Agreement from any collections that exceed the required monthly expenses for the Water/Sewer Utility Division for the March 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, work in each following month will be limited to the excess collections for the previous month, but in no event to exceed a total amount of \$708,877; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event that there are no excess collections in the preceding month, work under the Agreement will be immediately suspended.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that an agreement with Origin Consulting, LLC in a total amount not to exceed a total of \$708,877 for Business Operations and Delivery Support is authorized.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that work under the Agreement beginning on or about April 1, 2019 will be contingent on the collections for March 2019 exceeding the reported monthly expenses required for operations and maintenance and debt service for the Water/Sewer Utility Division and that the work under the Agreement will be limited to such excess collections for March 2019.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that work under the Agreement for each month following April will be contingent on the collections for the preceding month exceeding the reported monthly expenses required for operations and maintenance and debt service for the Water/Sewer Utility Division and that the work under the Agreement will be limited to such excess collections for the preceding amount; provided that in no event shall the total amount paid to Origin under the Agreement exceed \$708,877 with authorization by the governing authorities.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in the event that there is no excess collection from the preceding month, work under the Agreement shall be immediately suspended.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Mayor is authorized to execute an agreement with Origin Consulting, LLC for Business Operations and Delivery Support, and all other documents necessary for the purposes of this agreement.

Yeas- Foote, Lindsay, Priester and Tillman.  
Nays- Banks and Stamps.  
Absent- Stokes.

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There being no further business to come before the City Council, it was unanimously voted to adjourn until the next Special Council Meeting/Confirmation Hearing to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2019 and at 12:20 p.m., the Council stood adjourned.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

*Krista Moore*  
CITY CLERK

*Chris Foote*, *4/8/2019*  
MAYOR DATE

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