

**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 8:30 a.m. on Monday, July 29, 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 authorizing the City of Jackson to immediately appropriate and transfer funds to the Jackson Zoological Park, Inc. for the management of the Jackson Zoo (“Zoo”), located at 2918 West Capital Street, through September 30, 2019. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers located at 219 S. President Street at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 being the fifth Tuesday of said month, when and where the following things were had and done to wit:

**Present:** Council Members: Virgi Lindsay, Vice-President, Ward 7; Melvin Priester, Jr., Ward 2; Ashby Foote, Ward 1; Charles H. Tillman, Ward 5 and Aaron Banks, Ward 6. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor; Kristi Moore, City Clerk; Angela Harris, Deputy City Clerk; Allice Lattimore, Deputy City Clerk and Timothy Howard, City Attorney.

**Absent:** Kenneth Stokes, Ward 3 and De’Keither Stamps, Vice President, Ward 4.

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The meeting was called to order by **President Virgi Lindsay.**

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**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JACKSON TO IMMEDIATELY APPROPRIATE AND TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE JACKSON ZOOLOGICAL PARK, INC. FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE JACKSON ZOO (“ZOO”), LOCATED AT 2918 WEST CAPITAL STREET, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.**

**WHEREAS**, the Management Agreement between the Jackson Zoological Park (“JZP”) and the City of Jackson, Mississippi (“City of Jackson”) for the operation and maintenance of the Jackson Zoo is for a term period set to expire on September 30, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is in on-going negotiations with an entity to manage the zoo at the expiration of said agreement with JZP; and

**WHEREAS**, the JZP is requesting Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to operate and maintain the Jackson Zoo through the end of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds will be used to make payments as follows:

<b>Payroll, Taxes, &amp; Benefits</b>
<b>Outstanding Payables</b>
<b>Outstanding Loan</b>
<b>Animal Food, Utilities, Insurances, &amp; Misc. (Aug.-Sept.)</b>

**WHEREAS**, without the immediate appropriation of said funds, the JZP will be forced to close the Jackson Zoo on or about August 16, 2019.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that the City of Jackson shall immediately appropriate and transfer Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to JZP for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Jackson Zoo; specifically, for the following: payroll, taxes, and benefits; outstanding payables; outstanding loan(s); and animal food, utilities, insurances and miscellaneous for the months of August and September of 2019.

**Council Member Banks** moved adoption; **Council Member Tillman** seconded.

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**President Lindsay** requested that **Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba** provide an overview of said item. **Mayor Lumumba** stated that the zoo has selected a new management group, but the contract is still being negotiated and has not been executed. **Mayor Lumumba** also stated that a firm was retained to perform an audit that is required prior to the new management group coming aboard.

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**President Lindsay** recognized **Council Member Foote** who asked for the amount given to the Zoo year-to-date and the budgeted amount for FY 18-19. **LaaWanda Horton**, Director of Administration, stated that \$990,000.00 was budgeted for FY18-19 and a prior agreement allows an additional \$10,000.00 to be added to the budget for the following year. **Ms. Horton** stated that \$1 million has been budgeted for FY19-20.

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**President Lindsay** recognized **Council Member Priester** who inquired about the monthly expenses for the zoo. **Chris Herring**, Controller for the Jackson Zoo, stated that \$70,000.00 is spent monthly on payroll, and \$25,000.00 is spent to cover utilities and food for the animals.

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**President Lindsay** requested an overview of the financial status of the Zoo. **David Wetzel**, Interim Director of the Zoo, stated that 2019 has been a challenging year. **Mr. Wetzel** stated that inclement weather has resulted in the postponing of the most profitable events, and a loss of sponsorship has also greatly impacted the Zoo.

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

Yeas- Banks, Foote, Lindsay, Priester and Tillman.  
Nays- None.  
Absent- Stamps and 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 to be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 and at 10:06 a.m., the Council stood adjourned.

ATTEST:

Krist Meade  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

Chokwe Antar Lumumba, 8/5/19  
MAYOR meade DATE