

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020 10:00 A.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Special Meeting of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, was convened at City Hall at 10:00 a.m. on July 24, 2020, being the fourth Friday of said month, when and where the following things were had and done to wit:

Present: Council Members: Aaron Banks, Council President, Ward 6; Charles Tillman, Vice-President, Ward 5; Ashby Foote, Ward 1; Kenneth Stokes, Ward 3 (via telephone); De'Keither Stamps (via teleconference), Ward 4. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor; Shanekia Mosley, Clerk of the Council; John W. Carroll, Sr., Chief Deputy Clerk of Council and Chandra Gayten, Deputy City Attorney.

Absent: Melvin Priester, Ward 2 and Virgi Lindsay, Ward 7

The meeting was called to order by **President Aaron Banks**.

The invocation was offered by **President Banks**.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE (MOMENT OF SILENCE). **President Banks** held a moment of silence for ninety-one seconds in honor of the late Mr. James Charles Evers.

SPECIAL COMMENTS. **President Banks** recognized **City Council Members** and **Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba** who provided comments regarding the late Mr. James Charles Evers.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION: **President Banks** recognized **Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba** and **Council Members**, who jointly presented a **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAYOR CHOKWE A. LUMUMBA, HONORING AND COMMENDING MR. JAMES CHARLES EVERS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVIL RIGHTS, RADIO, AND POLITICS IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.** Accepting the Resolution with appropriate remarks were the following: **Wanda Evers; Charlene Evers-Kreel; Carolyn Evers-Cockwell; Dr. Tonya Moore; and Rina Evers-Everett.**

NOTE: **Council Member Stokes** arrived to the meeting (via telephone).

There came on for Discussion Agenda Item No. 5:

DISCUSSION: STREET RENAMING PECAN CIRCLE TO CHARLES EVERS CIRCLE. **Council Member Tillman** requested that the Council suspend the rules to expedite the street renaming process.

Council Member Tillman moved; seconded by **Council Member Foote**, to suspend the rules to make said item effective immediately. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.

Nays – None.

Absent – Lindsay and Priester.

President Banks recognized **Council Member Tillman** who moved, seconded by **Council Member Foote**, to add an Ordinance to the agenda on an emergency basis to rename Pecan Park Circle to James Charles Evers Circle. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.

Nays – None.

Absent – Lindsay and Priester.

There came on as the Emergency Agenda Item: ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING PECAN PARK CIRCLE TO JAMES CHARLES EVERS CIRCLE. Hearing no objections, the Clerk read the following:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING PECAN PARK CIRCLE TO JAMES CHARLES EVERS CIRCLE.

WHEREAS, Mr. James Charles Evers was a citizen of the City of Jackson and contributed the legacy of the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Evers was asked to host his own radio show after advertising the family funeral home on WHOC, a local radio station, by its owner, Mr. Howard Cole; and

WHEREAS, as a radio host for WHOC, Charles Evers encouraged black people to vote, while his brother Medgar Wiley Evers went on to work for the NAACP in Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Charles Evers became the field secretary for the NAACP and organized protests, boycotts, and campaigns in pursuit of civil rights for African Americans. On June 3, 1969 in Fayette, Mississippi, Evers was elected as the first African American mayor in Mississippi in the Post-Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, Charles Evers returned to radio after ending his formal political career. To honor his late brother Medgar Evers, he founded the annual Medgar Evers Homecoming, which was supported by B.B. King and had participation from celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Kris Kristofferson, Dick Gregory, and Shirley MacLaine. In radio, WMPR, a community radio station where Evers was station manager, became a large platform and primary outlet where Evers addressed politics on his long running show called “Let’s Talk.” It was also a platform that played blues. Charles Evers was honored with a marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail in Fayette in 2012 and in 2017 he was inducted into the National Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame for his contributions to the music industry; and

WHEREAS, the designation will enhance the historic nature of the surrounding area and the City of Jackson.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi renames Pecan Park Circle to James Charles Evers Circle.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that the City Engineer is hereby authorized to make appropriate revision to the official map of the City of Jackson, Mississippi to reflect the renaming of said Public Street and to take appropriate action as required to affect said street name change.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi is authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this ordinance to the Director of the Mississippi Highway Department and to notify the Department of Transportation, Public Safety Communication Division; Hinds County Tax Assessor, the United States Postal Service, appropriate City Departments, and all other necessary parties of the renaming street of said street.

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

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.
Nays – None.
Absent – Lindsay and Priester.

President Banks recognized **Council Member Foote**, who moved to amend “Honorary Renaming” to “Rename” in the header of said item, seconded by **Council Member Tillman**. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.
Nays – None.
Absent – Lindsay and Priester.

Thereafter, **President Banks** called for a vote on said item:

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WHEREAS, Mr. Evers was asked to host his own radio show after advertising the family funeral home on WHOC, a local radio station, by its owner, Mr. Howard Cole; and

WHEREAS, as a radio host for WHOC, Charles Evers encouraged black people to vote, while his brother Medgar Wiley Evers went on to work for the NAACP in Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Charles Evers became the field secretary for the NAACP and organized protests, boycotts, and campaigns in pursuit of civil rights for African Americans. On June 3, 1969 in Fayette, Mississippi, Evers was elected as the first African American mayor in Mississippi in the Post-Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, Charles Evers returned to radio after ending his formal political career. To honor his late brother Medgar Evers, he founded the annual Medgar Evers Homecoming, which was supported by B.B. King and had participation from celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Kris Kristofferson, Dick Gregory, and Shirley MacLaine. In radio, WMPR, a community radio station where Evers was station manager, became a large platform and primary outlet where Evers addressed politics on his long running show called “Let’s Talk.” It was also a platform that played blues. Charles Evers was honored with a marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail in Fayette in 2012 and in 2017 he was inducted into the National Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame for his contributions to the music industry; and

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353

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.
Nays – None.
Absent – Lindsay and Priester.

NOTE: Council Member Stokes left the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, it was unanimously voted to adjourn until the next Regular Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 4, 2020. At 11:02 a.m., the Council stood adjourned.

PREPARED BY:

Shanekia Mosby
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED:

Charles L. Holt, 8/31/2020
MAYOR DATE

ATTEST:

Angela Hanes
CITY CLERK
