

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
AUGUST 17, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson at 7:01 p.m. Invocation was given by Bishop James Atterberry, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Henry, Jones and Muhammad. Members Absent: Commissioner Seats and Mayor Hightower. Also present: City Manager Watson, Assistant City Manager / Community and Economic Development Director (Asst. City Manager / C. & E. Dev. Dir.) Farrow and City Clerk Thompson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Muhammad to approve the agenda as presented carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 3, 2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Adams to approve the Regular Minutes of August 3, 2015 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Adams to approve the Special Minutes of August 10, 2015 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

UPDATE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER YARBROUGH

County Commissioner Yarbrough gave information on the upcoming Berrien County Property Tax Sale scheduled for September 15th and regularly scheduled County Commission and Committee meetings. She spoke on a proposed Animal Control Building and encouraged everyone to give their input on it. She also stated that they are also working on standardized senior centers and public defenders.

PRESENTATION – IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER MARY DONALD

Commissioner Muhammad presented the name plate of Commissioner Donald to her daughters.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

James Atterberry of 1135 Hannah Court publicly apologized to the Mayoral Primary Election candidates. He also endorsed Mayor Hightower for the upcoming election; however, stated that he is willing to work with whoever wins the seat.

Emma Kinnard of 270 E. May Street encouraged all to keep the city streets well maintained. She gave an update on the community garden and clarified that chemicals aren't being used in it. She introduced Meteorologist Makira McAfee and Mark McAfee; students participating in the garden.

Jerry Edwards on behalf of the Bracken Edwards Youth Organization Umbrella, encouraged all to support the youth in the community. He commended Ms. Kinnard for her efforts and extended words of encouragement to the Donald family.

Dennie Brown of 1090 Colfax encouraged everyone to affect the lives of those that they come across. He spoke on the reinstatement of the Civil Service Board.

Captain James Turner gave updates on projects and programs that are coming to the City.

Courtney Burton of 347 Linden stated that he has what it takes to help the youth in the community and requested assistance from the City in doing so.

Rodney Jennings expressed appreciation to the Mayoral Primary Election candidates for running classy campaigns. He commended various people in the community for their efforts of changing the world.

CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

Asst. City Manager / C. & E. Dev. Dir. Farrow gave an update on the Square One project and invited all to attend the upcoming meetings for it.

City Manager Watson gave an update on the Cherry and Summit Street project commencing on August 24th as well as Project Resiliency. He reported that the City has purchased the new sewer truck. He extended his assistance, if needed, to the Donald family.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting and commended various people for their efforts in the community. She suggested the

use of the Armory for the youth. She stated that it's been great to work with others on the Square One project and suggested including a fountain with the faces of the youth in the park. She asked if Animal Control is responsible for the removal of dead animals.

Commissioner Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting to see their government in action as well as County Commissioner Yarbrough for her update. He offered his assistance to the Donald family, if needed. He agreed that until there is an investment in the youth, the future isn't secure. He stated that he plans to resurrect the summer youth program to provide education and recreation for young people. He said that a plan is forth coming to address water leaks. He also requested a snow removal plan for 2015 to post for the public's review. He informed all that he'll be meeting with the Department of Treasury to address the request for the State to take responsibility for the pending lawsuits. He thanked Bishop Atterberry for his kind words and stated that he's looking for the greatest endorsement which is by the people.

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting to see their local government in action. She extended prayers to the Donald family and offered her assistance, if needed. She expressed support for various people and thanked them for their efforts. She stated that the City needs to use the street sweeper to maintain the streets.

Commissioner Henry thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and apologized for the lack of seats available in the chambers. She encouraged all to get more involved in their government. She spoke on training and employment opportunities. She directed Mr. Burton to work with Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis on PAL boxing. She said that organic fruits and vegetables are very expensive; however, essential to live a long and prosperous life. She extended words of encouragement to the Donald family and offered her assistance, if needed.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting to give their input. He expressed the need to use the sewer truck. He extended words of encouragement to the Donald family. He said that the children are our future and they should be invested in.

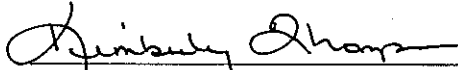
Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and commended Ms. Kinnard for her efforts. She asked Mr. Burton what is needed to get started. She extended words of encouragement to the Donald family. She encouraged everyone to get involved with things happening in the community.

OATH OF OFFICE

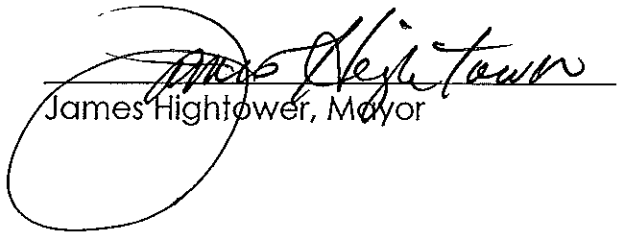
City Clerk Thompson administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner-at-Large, Edward Isom.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



James Hightower, Mayor