

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
AUGUST 10, 2015**

The special meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Hightower at 6:03 p.m. Invocation was given by Sharon Henderson, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Henry, Muhammad and Mayor Hightower. Members Absent: Commissioners Jones and Seats (arrived at 6:14 p.m.). Also present: City Manager Watson, Assistant City Manager/Community & Economic Development Director Farrow and City Clerk Thompson.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – None.

INTERVIEWS

The City Commission interviewed the following candidates interested in filling the Commissioner-At-Large vacancy: Edward Isom and Emma Kinnard. *Please note – Declared candidate Charles Jennings wasn't present during the interview.*

After the interviews, City Clerk Thompson reported on the scores for the candidates and announced that Edward Isom received the highest score.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following Consent Calendar item was presented by City Manager Watson, moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Muhammad carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Adams, Henry, Haralson, Muhammad and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioner Seats. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: Commissioner Jones.

RESOLUTION:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COMMISSION (EDWARD ISOM)

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting to see their local officials in action. She encouraged everyone to get involved in the community and pray over the City. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Kinnard for all

of her efforts. She said that she's grateful and humble to serve and reminded everyone that she will be on the upcoming ballot.

Commissioner Seats congratulated Commissioner Muhammad for being on top in the Mayoral Primary Election as well as 70% of the voters for their expression of a need for a new mayor. He stated that it's disheartening for people to be dishonest and to hear sentiments from residents on comments made by the mayor. He said that the Planning and Economic Development Committee will be petitioning the School Board to find out what happened to the funds that went towards the swimming pool. He commended Ms. Kinnard for her efforts in the community. He congratulated Mr. Isom on his appointment to the City Commission. He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Haralson thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting to see their local government in action. She congratulated Mr. Isom on his appointment to the City Commission and extended words of encouragement to Ms. Kinnard.

Commissioner Muhammad thanked residents, voters and candidates for their willingness to serve as well as conduct during the Primary Election. He said that he looks forward to engaging the residents so that they can have a more enlightened and electrifying electorate to make the City of Benton Harbor the great City that it's destined to be. He requested a plan from the City Manager to address the water mains. He stated that he also wants to see the dumping areas throughout the City addressed immediately.

Commissioner Henry thanked candidates for stepping up to serve. She asked why the City Commission has yet to address business from the Planning Commission and strongly urged for it to be handled immediately.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson thanked both candidates for their willingness to serve.

Mayor Hightower thanked citizens, voters and candidates for their willingness to serve as well as conduct during the Primary Election. He cautioned everyone to be on time for things. He suggested creating an excel dashboard to monitor projects going on throughout the City. He said that the next three years will be very crucial for the City and strongly encouraged all to vote.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



 Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



 James Hightower, Mayor