

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
AUGUST 3, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Hightower at 7:04 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, Jones, Muhammad, Seats and Mayor Hightower. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Watson, Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis and Deputy City Clerk Osler.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson to remove **ADOPT RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF KLOCK ROAD INTO THE MAJOR STREET SYSTEM, APPOINTMENT TO THE PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE (DON TYNES), APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION (COREY BELL) and REQUEST TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN TREASURY DEPARTMENT from the Consent Calendar and entertaining them as a separate resolutions carried** unanimously on the roll call vote.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JULY 20, 2015**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson and supported by Commissioner Jones to approve the Regular Minutes of July 20, 2015 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Henry, Haralson, Jones, Muhammad and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioners Adams and Seats. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Lendward Taylor of 770 LaSalle reported on the succession of this year's Benton Harbor Homecoming event.

Jerry Edwards, on behalf of the Bracken Edwards Youth Organization Umbrella (B.E.Y.O.U.) expressed appreciation for the use of the City parks. He gave a successful report on the basketball tournaments and encouraged others to participate. He acknowledged those for their involvement thus far.

James Duncan said that the youth needs a sign as requested and also suggested the usage of the Bobo Braziel Center for them.

Kim Tyson of 1189 Superior expressed issues with running water in front of her home.

David Shaw, on behalf of Pastor Floyd Pittman, express issues with the water service being shut off for the Greater Faith Center Church located at 364 Pipestone.

Missionary Mary Bethea of 620 Colfax announced the Health Fair scheduled for August 6, 2015 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Dwight P. Mitchell City Center and urged everyone to attend. She also expressed a concern with a bill received from the City for the cutting of her lawn.

## 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: Commissioner Muhammad, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Jones, Seats, Haralson, Adams and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioner Henry. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

### RESOLUTION:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SAMROSETTE HARDNETT)

## SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson and supported by Mayor Hightower to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF KLOCK ROAD INTO THE MAJOR STREET SYSTEM carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioners Adams, Henry, Muhammad, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioner Haralson and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioners Jones and Seats. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Muhammad to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE (DON TYNES) carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Adams, Seats, Haralson, Muhammad and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioners Henry and Jones. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION (COREY BELL). After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Seats to table this resolution failed on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioner Haralson. Nays:

Commissioner Seats, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Commissioners Jones, Adams, Muhammad, Henry and Mayor Hightower. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None. **The motion to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION (COREY BELL) failed** on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioner Haralson, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioners Henry, Muhammad, Adams, Seats and Jones. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Seats and supported by Commissioner Henry to **ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REQUEST TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN TREASURY DEPARTMENT carried** unanimously on the roll call vote.

#### OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson to remove (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2015 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN) from the table **carried** unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, the item, presented by City Manager Watson, moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson and supported by Commissioner Adams to (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2015 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN) **carried** unanimously on the roll call vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Seats to remove (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE CITY'S ATTORNEY TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXECUTE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WAGE AND HOUR COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ON BEHALF OF POLC MEMBERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,067.57) from the table **carried** unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, the item, presented by City Manager Watson, moved by Commissioner Seats and supported by Commissioner Muhammad to (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE CITY'S ATTORNEY TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXECUTE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WAGE AND HOUR COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ON BEHALF OF POLC MEMBERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,067.57) **carried** on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioners Haralson, Henry, Muhammad, Seats, Adams, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson and Mayor Hightower. Nays: Commissioner Jones. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Clerk Osler announced the polling times and locations for the August 4, 2015 Primary Election as well as the Special City Commission meeting for Monday, August 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Watson announced a Town Hall meeting for August 11, 2015 and a National Night Out on August 4, 2015. He stated that the State Treasury Representatives will be here on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to meet with the Commission. He spoke on a forum tentatively scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> to have dialog with the Public Safety Department and community.

Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis gave information on the National Night Out scheduled for August 4, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Dwight P. Mitchell City Center and encouraged everyone to attend.

### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. She stated that there are things in the Annual Action Plan that upsets her; however, she doesn't want the funding to go back. She encouraged everyone to get involved.

Commissioner Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. He strongly encouraged everyone to get out to vote tomorrow. He said that he's sadden to hear about Pastor Pittman's issue with his water service and expressed various issues with broken water mains throughout the City. He said that regardless of the election, there are no winners until the residents and the services are addressed.

Commissioner Henry thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She encouraged all to get involved in their government and urged them to vote tomorrow for those that will look out for your best interest.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He commented on a conversation that he had with former business owners in the City of Benton Harbor.

Commissioner Seats thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He stated that the Commission sympathizes with residents that are experiencing issues and encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow. He thanked Mayor Hightower for chairing a good meeting. He cautioned all to be mindful of driving down streets with potholes and fallen trees. He questioned if there is an agreement in place with the Parks Conservancy for handling issues at the parks and if they have the capacity to do so.

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She encouraged citizens to get involved and sign up to serve on boards. She

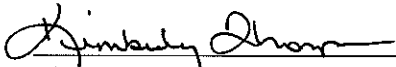
expressed issues with underground pipes and water and said that issues must be addressed in a timely manner.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She apologized to residents for issues that they are currently experiencing. She said that a lot of the issues were inherited and won't be addressed overnight. She encouraged everyone to vote and get involved in things happening in the City.

Mayor Hightower thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting as well as the Commission for its conduct. He explained that decisions determine destiny and said that the City is dealing with bad decisions that were made years ago. He spoke on grant opportunities that will be forthcoming. He suggested having a Forestry Program to take care of the trees. He said that it's on the voters to make proper decisions at the election tomorrow. He commended Missionary Bethea for her efforts on the Health Fair.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.



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Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



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James Hightower, Mayor