

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JANUARY 19, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats at 7:07 p.m. Invocation was given by Emma Kinnard, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Henry, Jones, Joseph and Mayor Pro-Tem Seats. Members Absent: Commissioner Henderson and Mayor Muhammad. Also present: City Manager Watson and City Clerk Thompson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Haralson to remove Consent Calendar Items (ADOPT RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY 11-51-0805-0035-01-7; PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND PURCHASE OF A WATER METER FOR INTERCONNECT LOCATED AT WOODWARD AND EMPIRE) from the Consent Calendar and entertaining them as separate resolutions carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 4, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Joseph to approve the Regular Minutes of January 4, 2016 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

UPDATE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER YARBROUGH

County Commissioner Yarbrough stated that Berrien County is requesting a letter of support and/or resolution from the City accepting the \$50,000.00 annual contribution given for summer patrols from the Sheriff's Department. She spoke on delinquent taxes and informed all of the opportunity to make payment arrangements for it. She solicited for the City Commission's assistance with filling the vacancy on the Library Board and briefly reported on the recent audit done on the entity.

PRESENTATION - BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (BEST) EARLY

Princella Tobias, Program Coordinator for BEST Early, gave history on the partnership with the Benton Harbor Area Schools to research the history of Benton Harbor. She continued that as a result, a 2016 Community Calendar was created and said that this will continue for years to come. She encouraged all to get involved and help with this endeavor.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

James Duncan thanked Ms. Tobias for her efforts and encouraged everyone to provide information and pictures of Benton Harbor's history.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following Consent Calendar items were presented by City Manager Watson, moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Haralson carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION (COMMISSIONER JOSEPH)

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 110TH BLOSSOMTIME PARADE

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Joseph to **ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY 11-51-0805-0035-01-7** carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Jones to **ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Joseph and Mayor Pro-Tem Seats. Nays: Commissioners Jones and Henry. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: Commissioner Henderson and Mayor Muhammad.

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Joseph to **ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A WATER METER FOR INTERCONNECT LOCATED AT WOODWARD AND EMPIRE** carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Thompson announced a Special City Commission meeting for January 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. for the interviewing of Commissioner-at-Large applicants.

City Manager Watson thanked the City Commission for its vote tonight. He gave an update on the Summit and Cherry Street project that will be completed this

spring and information on a Productive Lands, Cleaner Water seminar. He requested a Budget Workshop for February 8th at 6:00 p.m. He briefly reported on the high number of foreclosures and stated a need to help residents save their homes.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting to see their government in action.

Commissioner Henry thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. She expressed a great need for conducting the City Manager's evaluation.

City Clerk Thompson informed everyone that a Special Personnel & Finance Committee meeting has been set for January 27th to address the City Manager evaluation.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He said that the City purchases are for the betterment of the citizens and City services. He stated that Flint's situation was a wake-up call and expressed appreciation for the approval of the interconnect water meter. He encouraged everyone to bring others to the meetings and continue to give their insight on matters. He challenged the City Commission to be unbiased and look at how the Commissioner-at-Large applicants could better effect the community.

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. She said that the City isn't on a shopping spree; it's working to get the proper equipment to combat the winter season. She expressed great concerns with the water situation in Flint and encouraged everyone to make donations to help out. She suggested for the City to apply for a Promise Zone grant before the deadline.

Commissioner Joseph thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting and the City Commission for his appointment. He highly recommended for the City Commission to reach out to staff for questions pertinent to the resolutions in an effort to get them addressed prior to the meeting. He said that his heart goes out to Commissioner Adams and stated that he has family in Flint as well. He encouraged everyone to be safe.

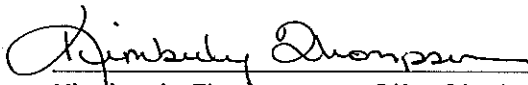
County Commissioner Yarbrough gave information on Benton Harbor's Promise Zone.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged citizens to get more involved. He explained that he supported the purchase of the trucks because of safety; however, the drivers must be held accountable. He said that the interconnect was very necessary for the City. He

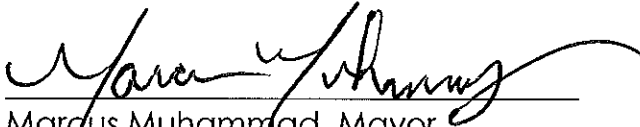
expressed great concerns with the way Flint residents are being treated and informed all that efforts are being made to get water to them. He said that hopefully, the most effective applicant will be chosen for the Commissioner-at-Large seat, the evaluation for the City Manager will be conducted and City positions are filled.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



Marcus Muhammad, Mayor