

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Muhammad at 7:01 p.m. Invocation was given by Reverend Wright, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Henderson, Henry, Joseph (left at 7:57 p.m.) and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: Commissioner Jones and Mayor Pro-Tem Seats (arrived at 7:04 p.m.). Also present: City Manager Watson, Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis and Deputy City Clerk Osler.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2016**

A motion was made by Commissioner Henderson and supported by Commissioner Adams to approve the Regular Minutes of January 19, 2016 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2016**

A motion was made by Commissioner Henderson and supported by Commissioner Adams to approve the Special Minutes of January 25, 2016 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

**PRESENTATION - JUDGE BRIAN BERGER**

Newly appointed Berrien County Judge Brian Berger gave an introduction to the City Commission.

Mayor Muhammad welcomed him to the City.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Captain James F.A. Turner of 217 E. Main introduced representatives from the Benton Harbor Area Schools district and spoke on a millage proposal that will be on the March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary ballot.

Michael Hoyh of 379 N. Main Street, Watervliet, MI, requested to have pictures of City officials placed downstairs in City Hall.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

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

### RESOLUTIONS:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR MY BROTHER'S KEEPER INITIATIVE;

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SPIRIT OF MICHIGAN'S RECYCLING INITIATIVE;

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTRACT TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE ("FOP")

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RONALD SINGLETON AS COMMISSIONER-AT-LARGE

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD ALEXANDER TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ZAUNDRAS LEWIS TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD HENSEL TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JENNY MINER TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID SHAW TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY ANDREWS TO THE DIAL-A-RIDE BOARD

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD ALEXANDER TO THE DIAL-A-RIDE BOARD

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF EMMA KINNARD TO THE DIAL-A-RIDE BOARD

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF DENNIE BROWN TO THE PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF EMMA HULL TO THE BENTON HARBOR HOUSING COMMISSION

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID SHAW TO THE BENTON HARBOR HOUSING COMMISSION

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JERRY EDWARDS TO THE BENTON HARBOR PARKS AND RECREATION CONSERVANCY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICKY HOSKINS TO THE CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD ISOM TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Watson informed everyone that starting on February 5, 2016, residents will be able to pay all City fees online, with an additional \$2.00 convenience fee. He announced a Budget Workshop for next Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy City Clerk Osler announced that the last day to register for the March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary Election is February 8, 2016.

### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She expressed appreciation for the support given to the community of Flint and encouraged all to continue in this effort.

Commissioner Henry thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. She expressed appreciation to the efforts being made to fill the board vacancies. She said that 2016 will be a great year for the City of Benton Harbor because elected officials are looking out for their residents.

Commissioner Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and congratulated the newly appointed board members. She invited all to attend a meeting at the Street Ministry next Monday at 6:00 p.m. for work that will happen around the Empire and Colfax corridor.

Commissioner Joseph had no comment.

Commissioner Adams thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She expressed appreciation for those interested in serving on boards and encouraged others to get involved as well. She offered for the Benton Harbor Area School District to partner with the City on the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats expressed appreciation for the conduct of the meeting. He solicited for someone to apply to serve on the Planning Commission. He expressed concerns with the water crisis in Flint and said that elected officials must be held responsible for it. He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged all to help move the City forward.

Mayor Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. He reported on a successful meeting with Congressman Upton this past week. He said that there will be a comprehensive plan to address potholes throughout the community. He acknowledged the new President of Cornerstone Alliance. He vowed to do what's best and right for the citizens of Benton Harbor beyond personal idiocies.

#### **CLOSED SESSION – CITY MANAGER'S EVALUATION**

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Adams to go into Closed Session to conduct the City Manager's evaluation carried unanimously on the roll call vote.**

The regular meeting recessed to go into Closed Session at 7:43 p.m., and reconvened at 9:15 p.m. The following action was taken as a result of the Closed Session.

#### **APPROVAL OF CITY MANAGER CONTRACT**


**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Henry to approve the following resolution carried unanimously on the roll call vote.**

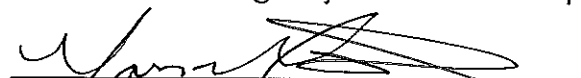
Whereas, Mayor Muhammad and the City Commission approve the extension and employment agreement as presented with the modification of Section 6.4 and the agreement to reflect that this is a two (2) year term with an evaluation every six (6) months.

Therefore, the Mayor, City Commission and City Manager agree to these terms.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

  
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 Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk

  
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 Marcus Muhammad, Mayor