

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
APRIL 18, 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 Ruthie Haralson, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Haralson, Henry, Isom, Jones, Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: Commissioners Adams (arrived at 7:05 a.m.), Henderson and Mayor Pro-Tem Seats (arrived at 7:10 p.m.). Also present: City Manager Watson, Attorney Hyrns, Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis and City Clerk Thompson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 4, 2016

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

UPDATE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER YARBROUGH

County Commissioner Yarbrough spoke on the Library Board vacancy and announced information on its monthly meetings. She expressed appreciation for the appointment of Commissioner Isom to the board. She gave a brief overview of the 2016 Equalization Report.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jerry Edwards announced a Clean the Park Day on April 22nd and invited all to participate. He commended the Benton Harbor Drum Line for a wonderful presentation at the Heritage Museum and encouraged everyone to support them at future events.

Michael Hoyh of 91 Main, Watervliet, reported that the Benton Harbor Tiger Marching Band made history and should be applauded for its efforts. He announced an event scheduled for tomorrow at the Public Library and encouraged all to attend.

Emma Kinnard reported on the Fresh Start garden and said that there will be one in the 2nd Ward soon. She encouraged everyone to clean up the City and get involved with growing things. She further stated that information on house plants is given out during her radio shows.

CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis gave an overview of things that the department is doing in preparation for the summer. He spoke on the bicycle program and asked if the donors could present the checks for it at a City Commission meeting.

City Manager Watson invited all to attend the Special Personnel & Finance Committee meeting for the second iteration of the budget presentation. He announced the upcoming Receivership Transition Advisory Board (RTAB) meeting for April. He requested for those in need of minor home repairs and yard maintenance to contact him to get assistance through the upcoming "Less We Forget" work day.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting as well as the City Commission for the birthday recognition.

Commissioner Henry thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged them to participate on committees.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Singleton thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He suggested training of the reserve officers to better address issues at the beach. He asked for an update on the potholes throughout the City. He reported that the Communications / Public Relations Committee will meet next Monday at 5:30 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Isom thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. He commended City staff member, Demetrius Meeks for receiving an "Excellence in Volunteer Management and Leadership Award" and Acting Public Safety Director McGinnis for his efforts. He encouraged everyone to get involved with cleaning up the City as well as other projects currently going on. He expressed appreciation for street lights that are working properly throughout the City.

Commissioner Adams thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She spoke on the "Our Benton Harbor Brother's Keeper" and urged all to get involved in mentoring the youth. She said that everyone must remain focus and work together for the common good of residents. She spoke on non-profits and the important roles that they play in the community. She asked about the functionality of the cameras throughout the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats acknowledged Mr. Hadley & Sons and their investment in the community. He expressed concerns with actions being done by the State Representative. He questioned why the City is under emergency management while no one from Benton Harbor has been prosecuted for stealing, unlike other communities. He said that there needs to be an aggressive look at what's happening with Benton Harbor Public Schools and the motives to try to privatize them.

Mayor Muhammad thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He acknowledged former Commissioner Crenshaw and his lengthy service to the community. He informed everyone that he will sign the recall petition of Governor Snyder for the gross negligence and malfeasance of the Flint Water Crisis. He announced the Citizens Business Forum scheduled for April 26th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. He said that it was a complete waste of taxpayers' dollars for the Reverend Pinkney affair and asked for the total cost associated with it. He expressed concerns with the incarceration of Reverend Pinkney and gave an update of his case.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Singleton to go into Closed Session for an update on pending litigation carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

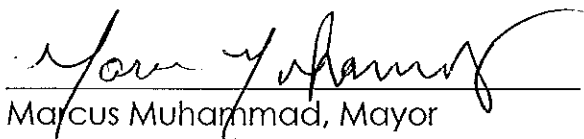
The meeting recessed to go into Closed Session at 7:43 p.m., and reconvened at 8:12 p.m. No official action was taken as a result of the Closed Session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



 Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



 Marcus Muhammad, Mayor