

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JUNE 6, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Muhammad at 7:02 p.m. Invocation was given by Superintendent Steven McCoy, Vice-President of the Southwest Michigan Ministerial Alliance, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Henderson, Henry, Isom, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats, Commissioner Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: Commissioner Jones. Also present: City Manager Watson, Deputy Public Safety Director Clark and City Clerk Thompson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Singleton to suspend Items # 1 and 2 on page 7 of the Council Rules/Policies & Procedures to add A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2005 FORD SEDAN LX FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE UPDATED BERRIEN COUNTY FORECLOSURE LIST; remove Consent Calendar Items (ADOPT ORDINANCES APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 BUDGET & AMENDMENT; ADOPT RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE INTENT FOR THE MERCY HOSPITAL SITE AND UTILIZATION OF CIVITAS, LLC FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2016-2020 5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, THE 2016-2017 ANNUAL PLAN AND UPDATE THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN and entertaining them as separate resolutions carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 16, 2016

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Isom to approve the Regular Minutes of May 16, 2016 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Pastor Steven McCoy of 1095 Ogden commended the City Commission for their efforts, especially during the week of the Senior PGA. He expressed concerns with the lack of patrolling in his neighborhood and asked for there to be a boost of patrol in the area.

Roy Payne of 174 Apple expressed concerns with a high water bill at one of his rental properties.

Ralph Crenshaw gave an update on the Benton Harbor Housing Commission and assured all that efforts are being made to address all issues.

David Shaw of 643 E. Main expressed concerns with a building scheduled for foreclosure. He spoke on the importance of small businesses in the community.

Mike Bishop expressed concerns with a family business that is wrongfully scheduled for foreclosure.

Jerry Edwards invited everyone to attend the annual community cookout at Hall Park on June 18th at 1:00 p.m. He extended assistance to help senior and disabled citizens with lawn maintenance.

Emma Kinnard invited everyone to attend the Juneteenth events at the Dwight Pete Mitchell City Center and in Watervliet. She reported on the success of the Fresh Start Garden.

Joetta Davis of 507 Green encouraged the City to boost its events throughout the community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

RESOLUTIONS:

ADOPT AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 MILLAGE RATE

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CEMETERY BOARD (RAHIM ABDULLAH)

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW (DAVID SHAW)

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD (EDWARD ISOM)

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES (RRC) PROGRAM

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Henderson to ADOPT AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 BUDGET. After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Haralson to table this item carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Haralson to ADOPT AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET AMENDMENT. After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Muhammad and supported by Commissioner Henry to table the item and get requested information on it carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Mayor Muhammad to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INTENT FOR THE MERCY HOSPITAL SITE carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Adams to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UTILIZATION OF CIVITAS, LLC FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2016-2020 5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, THE 2016-2017 ANNUAL PLAN AND UPDATE THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN. After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Adams to table this item and send it to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for review carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Haralson to APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE 2005 FORD SEDAN LX FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioners Haralson, Henderson, Isom, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats, Commissioners Adams and Singleton. Nays: Commissioner Henry and Mayor Muhammad. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: Commissioner Jones.

After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Mayor Muhammad to table ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE UPDATED BERRIEN COUNTY FORECLOSURE LIST AND SEND IT TO THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mayor Muhammad and supported by Commissioner Henry to remove (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO CITY SERVICES FOR WATER MAIN REPAIRS) from the table carried unanimously on the roll call vote. After discussion, the motion moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Haralson to approve this item carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Public Safety Director Clark stated that they are working on a grant to purchase some automation in the vehicles as well as in-car cameras. He invited the City Commission to attend a demonstration scheduled tomorrow on the extrication equipment.

City Clerk Thompson announced that the deadline to file for a school board candidate is July 26th.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Haralson thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting to see their government in action. She reported on a successful Senior PGA and said that events should be regularly planned for the City to get everyone involved.

Commissioner Henry thanked citizens for staying for the duration of the meeting. She encouraged everyone to give their input and get as much information as possible.

Commissioner Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Singleton thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and the Public Safety Department for their innovative ways to find resources. He extended encouraging words to staff but stated that the City Commission must have information to make sound decisions. He reported that the Communications/Public Relations Committee meets the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Isom thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. He said that it's good to have a Finance Director to assist the City Manager.

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. She reminded everyone to prioritize things that are being done. She expressed a need to exhaust all media outlets to get the word out on planned events happening throughout the community.

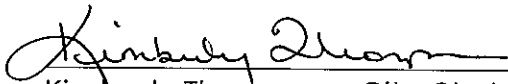
Mayor Pro-Tem Seats thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and Ms. Kinnard for her efforts with the community garden. He said that we must begin to develop our City and residents to have a better community. He commended City Manager Watson and the City Commission on the Senior PGA. He said that hopefully, something could be planned for the youth to enjoy next year. He briefly

spoke on an incident involving Rod Jennings and expressed appreciation that it was resolved.

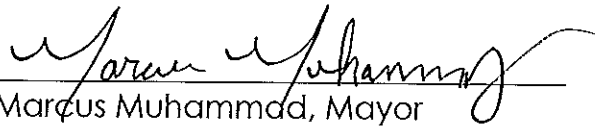
Mayor Muhammad thanked residents for staying the duration of the meeting. He reported on a successful 2016 Senior PGA event and stated that hopefully it will continue to embellish the community. He said that we should have the same kind of attitude and vigor to serve residents that was displayed for the Senior PGA. He briefly spoke on an incident involving Rod Jennings and stated that hopefully, he received an apology from the department. He further stated that hopefully, something like this won't happen again. He encouraged everyone to attend all meetings.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.



Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



Marcus Muhammad, Mayor