

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
JUNE 20, 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 Adams, Haralson, Henderson, Henry, Isom, Jones, Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Seats (arrived at 7:33 p.m.). Also present: City Manager Watson, Deputy Public Safety Director Clark and City Clerk Thompson.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 6, 2016**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Singleton to approve the Regular Minutes of June 6, 2016 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

**UPDATE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER YARBROUGH**

County Commissioner Yarbrough extended condolences to the family of the young man who recently loss his life and pleaded for everyone to refrain from jumping off of the pier. She gave an update of the demolition of the Mercy Center. She also invited everyone to attend the Coming Home, Coming Together celebration on Sunday.

**PRESENTATION – LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE**

Doug Schaffer, representative from Lake Michigan College, reported on the Benton Harbor Promise Zone and the Start to Finish program. He spoke on the consideration of a capital millage proposal to support the infrastructure of the aging facility.

Mary Klemm, Executive Director of the Lake Michigan College Foundation, gave an overview of the improvements that will be made to the facility, through the proposed millage with additional funding.

**PRESENTATION – KITCHENAID/KINEXUS**

Jamel Jenkins, Data Manager and Project Lead for Kitchen Aid, gave a brief overview of work that was done at Union Park.

Mayor Muhammad thanked them for their efforts and announced a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Michael Hoyh announced a lecture series scheduled for July 14, 2016 at the Heritage Center in St. Joseph by the Smithsonian.

Sheriff Paul Bailey reported on the weekend patrols in the City. He spoke on a contract that will come before the City Commission to approve funding to continue the placement of a deputy at the Boys and Girls Clubs. He welcomed those interested to visit the County jail at will.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

## RESOLUTIONS:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HVAC REPAIRS TO THE SQUAD ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CEMETERY BOARD (DORA ROBINSON)

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RICKY HOSKINS)

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Singleton and supported by Commissioner Haralson to remove (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) from the table carried unanimously on the roll call vote. After discussion, the motion moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Henderson to approve this item carried on the following roll call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Haralson, Henderson, Isom, Henry, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats, Commissioners Adams, Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Nays: Commissioner Jones. Members Abstain: None.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Haralson to remove (ADOPT AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 BUDGET) from the table carried unanimously on the roll call vote. After discussion, the motion moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Henderson to approve this item carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Henderson and supported by Commissioner Jones to remove (ADOPT AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET AMENDMENT) from the table carried unanimously on the roll call vote. The motion moved by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Henderson to approve this item carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Public Safety Director Clark stated that the department is working on intensive recruiting. He briefly reported on the Sheriff Department's weekend patrolling hours.

City Clerk Thompson announced that the deadline to file for a school board candidate is July 26<sup>th</sup> before 4:00 p.m. at the County Clerk's Office.

City Manager Watson announced the initiation of the water meter change out program and ribbon cutting ceremony for Union Park. He stated that the upcoming Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearings are for everyone to specify what should be done with the funding. He briefly reported on the lawsuits filed by former Public Safety employees and stated that information will be forthcoming on actions that will need to be made.

## COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting to see their local government in action, as well as County Commissioner Yarbrough for her updates. She encouraged citizens to get involved in their community.

Commissioner Henry thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting and expressed a need to have them involved in their government.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She gave an update on the Empire Corridor project.

Commissioner Singleton thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. He reported that the Communications/Public Relations Committee meets the Fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. He expressed a need to get information to make sound decisions.

Commissioner Isom thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting and everyone for their reports and presentations. He stressed the importance of education as well as keeping the City safe and clean. He commended Mayor Pro-Tem Seats for his efforts of engaging the community.

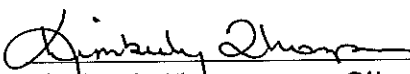
Commissioner Adams thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged them to get involved in their government. She expressed a need to have the Armory functioning as well as a grant writer for My Brother's Keeper initiative. She spoke on partnering with Manchester Bidwell. She expressed concerns with the constant request for taxpayers to pay more for various things in the community.

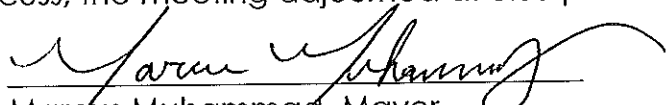
Mayor Pro-Tem Seats thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and those in the attendance for their service to the community. He briefly reported on a successful event of community engagement. He said that hopefully in the future, the administration at Lake Michigan College will have better checks and balances on the funding. He spoke on former Mayor Wilce Cooke's retirement and birthday party. He said that Benton Harbor is moving forward and encouraged everyone to be a part of the progress. He urged all to begin to police their areas and speak up as it relates to crime.

Mayor Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. He reported on a successful meeting with the Interim Deputy Treasurer and stated that hopefully, the Receivership Transition Advisory Board (RTAB) will see fit for the local government to proceed on its own moving forward. He thanked the City Commission for voting on its first budget since 2009 as well as Commissioner Henry for the suggestion to allocate more funds towards home improvements. He expressed appreciation to the manner in which the City Commission addresses matters for the betterment of the City.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

  
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 Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk

  
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 Marcus Muhammad, Mayor