

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 19, 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 Ruthie Haralson, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Henry, Isom, Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: Commissioners Henderson, Jones and Mayor Pro-Tem Seats (arrived at 7:06 p.m.). Also present: City Manager Watson, Deputy Public Safety Director Clark (arrived at 8:47 p.m.) and City Clerk Thompson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Haralson and supported by Commissioner Adams to remove Consent Calendar Items (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELIABILITY STUDY AND GENERAL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BENTON HARBOR AND THE RESURFACING OF BOULEVARD AT JEAN KLOCK PARK) from the Consent Calendar and entertaining them as separate resolutions carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

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

PRESENTATION – MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Professor Marilyn Tripplett along with scholars Carolyn Creamer, Tracy-Ann Jennings and Siobhan Williams gave a thorough presentation on the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. Professor Tripplett announced a summit on it scheduled for Saturday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Western Michigan University Southwest.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor Historical Preservation Society, read a special tribute from the State commending the participants for their efforts with the 150th celebration of Benton Harbor. He announced a free presentation on the Underground Railroad scheduled for tomorrow in Coloma.

Anthony McCoy expressed concerns with the dropout rate at Benton Harbor High School and suggested for the implementation of a GED program into the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Emma Kinnard reported on the successful Fresh Start garden. She expressed concerns with the discoloration of the water and suggested for it to be tested.

Steven McCoy expressed concerns with loud music in his neighborhood and suggested ticketing those in violation. He also said that the youth have no respect for the City of Benton Harbor police officers and this should be addressed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following Consent Calendar item was presented by City Manager Watson, moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Isom failed unanimously on the roll call vote.

RESOLUTION:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT'S JOINT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (SUPERINTENDENT O'MALLEY)

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Singleton to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELIABILITY STUDY AND GENERAL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BENTON HARBOR WATER SUPPLY carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, a motion made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Haralson to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RESURFACING OF BOULEVARD AT JEAN KLOCK PARK carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Thompson announced the polling locations for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election.

City Manager Watson gave an update on work being done at City Hall. He reported on the celebration for Reverend Varrie. He informed everyone of the increasing of rates for trash and sewer.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Singleton thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting to see their government in action. He announced that the Communications / Public Relations Committee will meet next Monday and spoke on the importance of finding

ways to inform the residents. He said that the young scholars from Western Michigan University offered to assist the City and he looks forward to working with them.

Commissioner Isom thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting as well as Ms. Kinnard and City Manager Watson for their insight on the water supply. He agreed that the youth have a disregard for the law and suggested enforcing the ordinances to get things in order. He said that residents should be aware of the meetings so that they're able to get involved. He recommended for Mr. Jerry Edwards to find a school to house programs for the youth during the winter season. He said that staff along with the City Commission are working to move the City forward; however, citizens are needed in the process.

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. She spoke on the importance of communication and enforcement to help address issues in the community. She said that My Brother's Keeper is policy and data driven that will help the community move forward by working together. She thanked the scholars working with My Brother's Keeper and encouraged others to come on board.

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting as well as the participants for the My Brother's Keeper initiative. She reported on a great event honoring Reverend Varrie. She agreed that the water should be tested. She also stated that loud music needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Henry thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She said that the Communications/Public Relations Committee is very important and encouraged all to attend the meetings. She spoke on transparency and stated that the City Commission needs to be more open about finances for the City. She stated that any information that she requests from staff needs to be disseminated to the entire City Commission. She expressed concerns with the Golf Course Oversight Panel's inability to hold meetings due to the lack of quorums.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats read a quote on politics and expressed the importance of voting in the upcoming election. He thanked Professor Tripplett on the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. He said that it's good to know that as a body, they are moving forward strategically. He expressed a need for staff to be present at the City Commission meetings to address complaints. He expressed opposition to the City operating under the same mentality of that during the existence of emergency management. He said that it's appalling to have unknown police officers working in this community. He urged everyone to pay attention to what's going on.

Mayor Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. He agreed with the importance of communications and stated that the City should have a YouTube and facebook page. He reported on a meeting with Governor

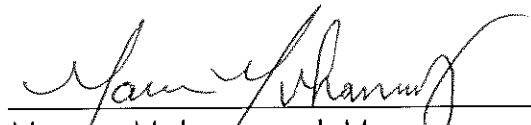
Snyder and an emergency manager forum. He commended Professor Tripplett and scholars for their efforts with the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. He thanked Ms. Kinnard for another successful season with the Fresh Start Garden. He said that the City of Benton Harbor is front and center and the world is watching what is going on. He encouraged everyone to continue working together to move forward.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



Marcus Muhammad, Mayor