

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
AUGUST 15, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Muhammad at 7:03 p.m. Invocation was given by Pastor Jeremy Butler, 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 7:08 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 Haralson and supported by Commissioner Adams to remove all items from the Consent Calendar and entertaining them as separate resolutions carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 1, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Haralson to approve the Regular Minutes of August 1, 2016 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

UPDATE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER YARBROUGH

County Commissioner Yarbrough thanked everyone for their support in the past election. She spoke on the unwillingness of communities to join the Berrien County Transportation Authority and thanked the City Commission for voting to this effect. She reported on the St. Joseph River Harbor and the recommendation to disband it. She encouraged citizens to apply to serve on County's committees.

PRESENTATION – CITIZEN ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION (ARDALE CLARK)

Mayor Muhammad presented the Citizen Achievement Recognition certificate to Ardale Clark for his outstanding achievements and efforts in the community.

Ardale Clark thanked the City of Benton Harbor for this recognition and assured everyone that he will return.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Pati Heinz spoke in support of families that are dealing with tragedies.

Michael Hoyh reported on Benton Harbor's 150th celebration and thanked everyone for attending the event. He gave an update on the Benton Harbor Historical Preservation Society. He spoke on various books about ghosts. He inquired on an accident that he witnessed on Main Street last Thursday.

Emma Kinnard reported on the community gardens.

Pastor Jeremy Butler and Robert Jackson expressed concerns with the process to purchase 200 Paw Paw.

Ladona Walker of 847 Mineral expressed concerns surrounding the death of her son and asked for the City Commission's help with it.

Members of the City Commission suggested for Ms. Walker to seek legal counsel and file a complaint with the US Department of Justice. It was also suggested for a meeting to be set up with the Chief Prosecutor, Judge, Sheriff and County Commissioner on things happening.

Rod Jennings extended encouraging words to various people in attendance.

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Henry and supported by Commissioner Haralson to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF ABONMARCHE TO PERFORM STORMWATER GRATE INVENTORY carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioner Singleton, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats, Commissioners Haralson, Isom, Henderson, Jones and Mayor Muhammad. Nays: Commissioners Henry and Adams. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Henderson and supported by Commissioner Haralson to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF EXECUTIME SOFTWARE FOR EMPLOYEE TIMEKEEPING 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 AN EASEMENT FOR MICHIGAN GAS UTILITY FOR INSTALLATION OF A GAS REGULATOR. After discussion, a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Haralson to table the item carried unanimously on the roll call vote. *Please note – Mayor Muhammad directed for this item to be placed on the next Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting agenda for further review.*

COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Public Safety Director Clark reported on the participants of the fire and police academies.

City Clerk Thompson announced a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers. She reported that the voter turnout for the August 2, 2016 Primary Election was 5%.

City Manager Watson informed everyone that the reassessment of properties will begin this Friday. He said that the historical marker setting for Morton Hill Cemetery will take place on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and invited all to attend. He clarified that the infrastructure under the river is the main sewer line that goes from the City of Benton Harbor to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Haralson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting as well as various residents in the audience for their efforts.

Commissioner Henry thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. She spoke on My Brother's Keeper Initiative. She said that hopefully other entities will join with the City to create an apprenticeship for residents. She extended encouraging words to members in the audience.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She said that the City is working to update various things and commended staff for their efforts. She expressed concerns with trash at Union Field and encouraged residents to do better at cleaning the community. She asked City Manager Watson for an update on the Metal Recycling Plant's request to plant trees around its facility.

Commissioner Singleton thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. He expressed a concern with the voter turnout from the last election. He extended encouraging words to Ms. Walker. He reported that the Communications Committee meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Lula Lee Commission Chambers.

Commissioner Isom thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting and various residents for their efforts in the community. He extended encouraging words to Ms. Walker. He said that this is our City and residents should do better to help keep it clean.

Commissioner Adams thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting to see their local officials in action. She commended various residents for their efforts. She

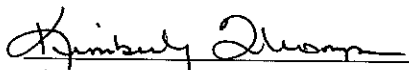
extended encouraging words to Ms. Walker. She urged all to work with the youth. She requested a tour of the Armory and 200 Paw Paw. She invited everyone to attend the Legislative Committee meetings and bring forth items pertaining to the Committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats encouraged everyone to exercise their rights to vote. He said that he's grateful for his tenure on the City Commission. He assured all that he, along with Mayor Muhammad have fought endlessly for residents. He commended the City Commission for the direction that it's going. He clarified that no one has the permission to represent him. He commended Ms. Kinnard for her efforts in the community and reported on a successful garden in the 2nd Ward. He briefly spoke of the agreement with the Parks Conservancy and its responsibility to clean and secure the public parks.

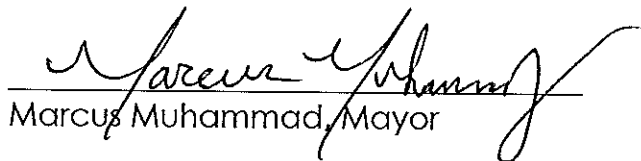
Mayor Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. He congratulated County Commissioner Yarbrough on her victory in the Primary Election. He reported on the successful 150th celebration by the Morton House. He said that the City Commission must work through all to do what is best for the whole. He explained that he's very slow to speak on issues especially when he knows that there are other ramifications and things unseen.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk



Marcus Muhammad, Mayor