

CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
COMMISSION AGENDA

LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

Presiding: HONORABLE MAYOR
Marcus Muhammad

MAYOR PRO-TEM
Duane L. Seats II

INVOCATION – INVOCATION/SILENT PRAYER

PLEDGE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL

REGULAR MINUTES OF – JANUARY 22, 2019

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LISTING

PRESENTATION - ABONMARCHE

CITIZENS COMMENTS – THREE (3) MINUTE MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following ordinances/resolutions will be adopted by one motion.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE LIGHTING CONVERSION PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE ENERGY REDUCTION COALITION

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORT OF STAFF OFFICIALS;

COMMISSION COMMENTS - FOUR (4) MINUTE MAXIMUM

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES;

ADJOURN TO: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON IS COMMISSIONER HENDERSON.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON IS COMMISSIONER SINGLETON.

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON IS COMMISSIONER ISOM.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON IS MAYOR PRO-TEM SEATS.

COMMUNICATIONS/ PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON IS COMMISSIONER HENRY.

GOLF COURSE OVERSIGHT PANEL MEETS EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JANUARY 22, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by Mayor Muhammad at 7:04 p.m. Invocation was given by Sharon Henderson, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Haralson, Henderson, Henry, Isom, Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats, Commissioner Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Watson, Finance Director Clark, Attorney Hyrns, Community & Economic Development Director (C. & E. Dev. Dir.) Jennings and City Clerk Thompson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Muhammad and supported by Commissioner Henderson to remove (ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT TO MEURER RESEARCH INC.) from the agenda and (ADOPT RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE COMPANY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI & THE INSTALLATION OF ALUMINUM SULFATE LINE AT BENTON HARBOR WATER FILTRATION PLANT) from the Consent Calendar and entertaining them as separate items carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 7, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Henderson to approve the Regular Minutes of January 7, 2019 with any necessary corrections or deletions. The motion carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Henderson to approve the Accounts Payable Listing carried on the following roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioners Jones, Haralson, Henderson, Isom, Singleton and Mayor Muhammad. Nays: Commissioner Henry, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and Commissioner Adams. Members Abstain: None. Members Absent: None.

AUDIT PRESENTATION - REHMANN ROBSON

Paul Matz, Assurance Principal for Rehmann Robson, reported on a clean, unmodified audit for year ended June 30, 2018 and answered questions relative to it.

Members of the City Commission commended staff and the auditing firm for their efforts.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Rahim Abdullah of 676 Highland expressed great concerns with a pothole near his home. He commended the City Commission for asking financial questions. He said that we are a city of consumers and need to start doing things for ourselves.

Haleema Abdullah of 676 Highland expressed concerns with potholes in the community. She stressed the importance of using funds from the City Income Tax to address the horrible streets.

Emma Kinnard asked when the citizens will see the benefit of monies coming in and out the City. She presented the warneckii plant and stated that they will be studying other plants that helps clean up the soil.

James Duncan expressed concerns with the illegal dumping of diesel in the river and the inability to ask questions of the presenters at meetings. He called for more transparency to things that are happening.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

RESOLUTIONS:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT TO THE BERRIEN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE (NOVEMBER 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION RELATED COSTS)

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUPPORT FOR JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION PARADE

SEPARATED ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE COMPANY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI. After discussion a motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and supported by Commissioner Haralson to table this item, get three (3) bids and bring it back to the next meeting carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Adams and supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats to ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF ALUMINUM SULFATE LINE AT BENTON HARBOR WATER FILTRATION PLANT carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Watson announced a town hall meeting for Thursday to give an update on the water testing. He cautioned everyone on the weather and asked citizens to keep their vehicles off of the road during the plowing season.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Haralson stated that it's good to know about various plants. She expressed concerns with the homeless during the winter season and water bills.

Commissioner Henry thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. She expressed concerns with staff's unwillingness to execute actions approved by the City Commission resulting from the Communications Committee.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He reported on potholes in the community that need to be addressed. He spoke on electing strong leaders to represent the City and stated that the power is within citizens. He apologized to Ms. Kinnard for the minor outburst. He clarified that the City Commission didn't inherit problems; it took on problems that were put back on the people. He reported on a trip to New Orleans and its efforts to beautify and purify the community.

Commissioner Henderson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She congratulated staff for a clean audit. She opposed using the funds from the City Income Tax on things other than its purpose to address roads and sidewalks. She commended Utility Services Superintendent O'Malley for his efforts and encouraged all to take a tour of city facilities to get a better understanding of them. She stated that you should be cautious of things happening but open to work with people.

Commissioner Singleton thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. He expressed a great need to improve the lines of communications to residents. He urged all to attend committee meetings to get information. He stated that the streets are looking better and encouraged residents to keep vehicles off of them during the plowing season.

Commissioner Isom thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting to give their input on matters. He briefly spoke on pretty green plants. He commended staff on the clean audit and plowing being done. He stated that we have a good team to get things done. He urged everyone to drive safely.

Commissioner Adams thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting. She said that communications and transparency are everything to her. She suggested creating a program to honor staff for jobs well done. She expressed concerns with the condition of the streets. She said that there is money to address a lot of things in the community; however, qualified participants are needed at the table to get things done.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and giving their input on matters. He encouraged people to keep their word and get things done. He expressed concerns with current issues that should have been corrected years ago. He applauded government workers during this shut-down. He urged all to start voting for things that are right.

Mayor Muhammad thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting. He asked everyone to keep the Hassel family lifted in prayer during this time. He commended staff for a great job on the clean unmodified audit. He said that this team has shown great capacity to make sure the tax-payers dollars are being appropriated as they should be. He expressed his excitement and readiness for 2019. He cautioned everyone to be careful of what they ask for.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion made by Commissioner Singleton and supported by Commissioner Adams to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously on the roll call vote.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Kimberly Thompson, City Clerk

Marcus Muhammad, Mayor

TO: Mayor Muhammad and the Benton Harbor City Commission
FROM: Darwin Watson, City Manager
DATE: January 4, 2019
RE: Execution of the Lighting Conversion Program Agreement with the Energy Reduction Coalition

ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

Approval to execute the Lighting Conversion Program Agreement with the Energy Reduction Coalition for the purpose of assessing the City of Benton Harbor's lighting stock

DISCUSSION:

With the ever present uncertainty of operating costs, the City of Benton Harbor ("the City") is constantly researching methods to reduce its expenses and minimize the impact to the budget. One of the major expenses to the City, that is ambiguous, is the cost of energy.

The City was contacted by Energy Reduction Coalition ("ERC") in regards to participating in its LED Lighting Conversion Program. Through the program, the City would potentially be able to upgrade its lighting to LED and reduce the cost of maintenance and replacement. In order to determine the potential amount of savings, ERC would need to conduct an assessment (at no cost) of the City's current lighting. Following the assessment, the City would decide if it would participate in the program to replace and maintain the City's lighting stock.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Mayor Muhammad and the Benton Harbor City Commission authorize city staff to execute the Lighting Conversion Program Agreement with the Energy Reduction Coalition for the purpose of assessing the City's lighting stock.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Energy Reduction Coalition contacted the City of Benton Harbor to potentially participate in its Lighting Conversion Program; and

WHEREAS, in order to begin the process, it is necessary for the City to sign the Lighting Conversion Program Agreement, which allows the Energy Reduction Coalition to assess the City of Benton Harbor's indoor and outdoor lighting; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benton Harbor is under no obligation to participate in the program as a result of the assessment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Muhammad and the Benton Harbor City Commission authorize city staff to execute the Lighting Conversion Program Agreement with the Energy Reduction Coalition for the purpose of assessing the City's lighting stock.