

**SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE BENTON HARBOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JANUARY 24, 2022**

The special meeting of the Benton Harbor City Commission was called to order by the Mayor Muhammad at 7:00 p.m. Invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Seats, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance let by Commissioner Isom. Roll call showed the following members present: Commissioners Adams, Clark-Griffin, Edwards, Henderson, Henry, Isom, Singleton, Mayor Pro-Tem Seats and Mayor Muhammad. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Mitchell, Community and Economic Development Director Little, and Clerk Moore.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Michael Hoyt shared that the Benton Harbor Historical Preservation Society had a huge donation given to them of aerial photos from the 60's, 70's, 80's. They are going to be digitized and given to the Morton House, Heritage Museum, Berrien County Historical Preservation Society and the Bentley Museum.

AUTHORIZATION OF THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY-WIDE WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR HOFFMAN BROS, INC, FIVE STAR ENERGY SERVICE, LLC, SWT EXCAVATING, INC B AND Z COMPANY, INC AND SELGE CONTRUCTION CO, INC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Singleton and supported by Commissioner Henderson to AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY-WIDE WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR HOFFMAN BROS, INC, FIVE STAR ENGERGY SERVICE, LLC, SWT EXCAVATING, INC, B AND Z COMPANY, INC AND SELGE CONTRUCTION CO, INC

Discussion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats asked when the bids were received.

Abonmarche Consultant, Jason Marquardt, responded that the bids were received on 12/17/21, they were checked for accuracy through the holidays and after the first of the year, calls were made to the Contractors. They also worked with the State of Michigan on the timing for funding. It took time to review each zone, contractor and capacity. The summary presented was drafted within the last 10 days.

Seats asked if the contractors were ready to dig now

Marquardt responded that all the contractors are inquiring about what the next step is, they are ready to begin. A ¼ of the services have to be completed by 5/31/22.

Commissioner Adams asked any of the contractors worked in Flint. Answer provided was that its believed that SWT worked in Flint but they are not currently working in Flint.

Commissioner Clark-Griffin asked if the Commission will be able to provide input and if updates will be given throughout the process.

Manager Mitchell responded that the Commission can always provide input and will receive updates.

Commissioner Singleton asked what are the consequences of falling short of their milestones.

Marquardt replied that they will be assessed liquidated damages. They will have to have enough right of entries to complete the work.

Commissioner Henderson asked for an explanation of how the contractors were selected for each zones.

Marquardt stated that the bids were analyzed by 1st, 2nd, 3rd low bids and what capacity the contractors had, as far as how many zones they could complete. A cost analysis was also completed to show which zones provided the highest savings.

Commissioner Edwards asked who pays if there are breaks.

Marquardt responded that there is a 1 year warranty period. The contractor will be required to give a completion form to the resident.

Seats asked how many local residents are being hired out of the 12 zones.

Mayor Muhammad reminded everyone that no bids have been awarded as of yet, so those contractors haven't done any hiring.

Marquardt stated that it is required as part of the award process that it's recommended that they hire local residents that are qualified to do the work.

Director Little stated that the staff has been working with Abonmarche to fill jobs that residents are qualified for. There is a job description that outlines guidelines and a pay scale. Minor criminal backgrounds will be accepted and there will be parameters for drug tests.

Adams asked if it was important where they start.

Marquardt explained that with 200-300 limes per zone, the contractors will begin in all 12 zones at the same time to finish as quickly as possible.

Little stated there will be many coordinated activities with police, dial a ride, etc for streets where work will take place. And it's anticipated that by the end of the week there will be info for the potential jobs for locals.

Commissioner Henry asked what happened with the discussion of training and apprenticeships.

Little state that those union contractors may offer apprenticeships, but for those that are not union this will just be a job.

After discussion, motion **carried** unanimously on the roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Director Little stated that he's been working with Manager Mitchell to carry out the Commissions wishes while working with Abonmarche and is pleased with the progress and cooperation they've given.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Edwards reminded everyone to remember those who cannot help themselves.

Commissioner Singleton applauded the Commission, Staff and Abonmarche for working on this large project, it was well put together.

Mayor Pro-Tem Seats stated appreciation for staff and Abonmarche for a job well done to bring drinking water to the people. Commended the Commission for their hard work. Thanked the Mayor, Director Little, and Manager Mitchell for their leadership. Reminded everyone to let their water drip a bit when it's cold outside to keep pipes from freezing.

Commissioner Henderson thanked everyone who worked on the project.

Mayor Muhammad thanked all the City Council members and Staff for bringing the qualified group that will help change the trajectory, help the health status of the community to ensure future generation won't have any contaminants in their water.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Muhammad at 7:49pm

Tiffany Moore, City Clerk

Marcus Muhammad, Mayor