

CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APRIL 27, 2016

City of Benton Harbor Receivership Transition Advisory Board held 4/27/16 at Commission Chambers, Benton Harbor City Hall, 200 East Wall Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan at 11:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Ms. Annette R. Blough,

CRC-CRR-RPR-CSR-5191

Certified Court Reporter

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. KATHRYN DEBIEN (Chairwoman)

MS. SHARON HUNT

MR. BRET WITKOWSKI

MR. MARVIN RAGLON

TREASURY STAFF:

MR. ROBERT WIDIGAN

MS. DEANNA HUDSON

BENTON HARBOR STAFF:

MR. DARWIN WATSON (City Manager)

MS. RHONDA HILDEBRAND

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Benton Harbor, Michigan

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Wednesday, April 27, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

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MR. WITKOWSKI: We will get the meeting called to order for the RTAB for April 27, 2016. Look for approval of agenda at this time.

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MS. HUNT: Make a motion to approve the agenda. Second?

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MR. RAGLON: Second.
MR. WITKOWSKI: Anybody wishing not to? Any further conversation? If not, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

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MR. RAGLON: Aye.

MS. HUNT: Aye.

MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

All those who oppose?

Motion carries.

I don't think we have anybody from the public, but I guess if they do walk in we will remind them to sign in for public comment.

Introduction of our new board member, Kathy Debien. Did I get it right?

MS. DEBIEN: Yes.

MR. WITKOWSKI: With the resignation of Larry, we look to select a new chair and nominations for

1 the chair.

2 MR. RAGLON: I will nominate Kathryn Debien
3 for the chair of the RTAB.

4 MR. WITKOWSKI: Is there a second?

5 MS. HUNT: I second.

6 MR. WITKOWSKI: And further discussion?

7 If there is -- all those in favor signify by
8 saying aye.

9 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

10 MS. HUNT: Aye.

11 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

12 Those who oppose?

13 Okay, all yours.

14 MS. DEBIEN: Thank you for the chair.

15 MS. HUDSON: Before we get into your
16 section, could we do the roll call real quick?

17 MR. WITKOWSKI: Forgot about that. You can
18 do that.

19 MS. DEBIEN: Roll call?

20 MS. HUDSON: I call it, okay? We have Kathy
21 Debien?

22 MS. DEBIEN: Here.

23 MS. HUDSON: And then we have Bret
24 Witkowski?

25 MR. WITKOWSKI: Here.

1 MS. HUDSON: Sharon Hunt?

2 MS. HUNT: Here.

3 MS. HUDSON: And Marvin Raglon?

4 MR. RAGLON: Here.

5 MS. HUNT: Thank you.

6 MR. WITKOWSKI: Sorry about that.

7 MS. DEBIEN: Thank you for the privilege as
8 serving as the chair.

9 The next item on the agenda is the approval
10 of the RTAB minutes. I'll entertain a motion to approve
11 the March 8, 2016 minutes as presented.

12 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll make that motion.

13 MS. HUNT: I second.

14 MS. DEBIEN: All in favor?

15 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

16 MS. HUNT: Aye.

17 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

18 MS. DEBIEN: Aye.

19 Opposed?

20 Motion is approved.

21 There is nothing on the agenda for old
22 business, so we will move to new business and the
23 approval of resolutions and for the City Commission
24 Meetings, the February 16th meeting. I'll entertain a
25 motion to approve the resolutions from the February 16,

1 2016 Regular City Commission Meeting.

2 MR. WITKOWSKI: Could we make a motion to
3 approve all at once or do we have to do them separately?

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5 MR. RAGLON: Separate.

6 MS. HUDSON: We were doing it is separately
7 because this is Kathy's first meeting and why we
8 separated them out for simplicity.

9 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll make that motion.

10 MS. HUNT: I second.

11 MS. DEBIEN: All those in favor say aye.

12 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

13 MS. HUNT: Aye.

14 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

15 MS. DEBIEN: Aye.

16 Opposed?

17 I'll maintain a motion to approve
18 resolutions from the February 29, 2016 Special City
19 Commission Meeting.

20 MR. RAGLON: I make a motion that we approve
21 the resolutions from the February 29, 2016 Special City
22 Commission Meeting.

23 MS. HUNT: I second.

24 MS. DEBIEN: All those in favor say aye.

25 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

1 MS. HUNT: Aye.

2 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

3 MS. DEBIEN: Aye.

4 I entertain a motion to approve. Motion is
5 approved.

6 I entertain a motion to approve the
7 resolutions from the March 7th, 2016 Regular City
8 Commission Meeting.

9 MS. HUNT: I'll make a motion to approve the
10 resolution from the March 7, 2016 Regular City
11 Commission Meeting.

12 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll support that.

13 MS. DEBIEN: All those in favor say aye.

14 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

15 MS. HUNT: Aye.

16 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

17 MS. DEBIEN: Aye.

18 The motion is approved.

19 Next I entertain a motion to approve the
20 resolutions from the March 21st, 2016 Regular City
21 Commission Meeting.

22 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll make that motion.

23 MS. HUNT: I second.

24 MS. DEBIEN: All those in favor say aye.

25 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

1 MS. HUNT: Aye.

2 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

3 MS. DEBIEN: Aye.

4 The motion is approved.

5 April 4th, I entertain a motion to approve
6 the resolutions from the April 4th, 2016 Regular City
7 Commission Meeting.

8 MR. RAGLON: I so motion.

9 MR. WITKOWSKI: I'll support.

10 MS. DEBIEN: All those in favor say aye.

11 MR. RAGLON: Aye.

12 MS. HUNT: Aye.

13 MR. WITKOWSKI: Aye.

14 MS. DEBIEN: Aye.

15 The motion is approved.

16 Being that there is nothing on the agenda
17 for the City Managers items, we will move to the
18 nonaction items.

19 The budget and actual report for March 2016
20 has been received and filed.

21 Next is the City Manager update. Mr.
22 Watson?

23 MR. WATSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 First I'd like to welcome you to the City of
25 Benton Harbor and RTAB and just a couple quick updates.

1 As everyone knows, or may not know, the City will be
2 hosting the PGA Senior, PGA Tournament, which will run
3 May 22nd through the 27th, next month, so just giving
4 you that information in advance for those who don't
5 know.

6 On the Thursday, that Thursday, which I
7 believe is the 26th, the City will be doing a free
8 concert here. The OJs will be here for that concert, so
9 we are looking to have a real good turn out.

10 Just to update you where we are with the
11 budget, I've done a couple of workshops with the
12 Commission just to kind of keep them abreast of what we
13 are doing and kind of walk them along as we get this
14 first budget Post EM-EFM and we had pretty good
15 discussions and we're going to continue to do that.
16 It's anticipated that we will submit the budget, the
17 budget amendments, the millage rate request will all go
18 on the 6th of June and then we will subsequently be
19 presented to the RTAB for their approval at their June
20 22nd meeting.

21 Also, to let you know that the Commission
22 did engage in their first strategic planning and goal
23 setting session, which was held last week, so we are
24 getting our feet up under us, trying to develop the
25 plans and the strategy and the visions for this City and

1 we will be giving that, the complete goals for the year,
2 upcoming year, fiscal 16-17; and it will be presented
3 probably in June, the last meeting in June, which I
4 think is the 20th. And so we will have those presented
5 so everyone will know.

6 And that's pretty much it for me. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. RAGLON: Could you give us dates of the
9 SPGA again?

10 MR. WATSON: It's the week before Memorial
11 Day, and I think Memorial Day is on the 28th of May.
12 Help me out.

13 MR. WITKOWSKI: Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

14 MR. RAGLON: I've got through the 29th.

15 MR. WATSON: Okay.

16 MR. RAGLON: The conclusion is on a Sunday.

17 MR. WATSON: A Sunday.

18 MR. RAGLON: Which is the 29th.

19 MR. WATSON: That is the date.

20 MR. RAGLON: It will run Thursday through
21 Sunday.

22 MR. WATSON: There you go. Thank you. I
23 don't have a calendar in front of me. I apologize. And
24 going off the top, yes, ma'am, the 26th through the
25 29th.

1 MR. RAGLON: Thursday.

2 MR. WATSON: Thank you, sir.

3 MR. RAGLON: No problem.

4 MS. DEBIEN: The next item is public
5 comment, and we have no public here so we will move to
6 board comment.

7 Do any of the board members wish to comment?

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9 MR. WITKOWSKI: Just a couple questions. We
10 talked at the last meeting about meeting quarterly and
11 approving only expenditures over a quarter million. Did
12 the State approve that?

13 MS. HUDSON: Not at this time. We are in
14 the works of finalizing.

15 MR. WITKOWSKI: Okay, I have some questions
16 on the budget that anybody can answer. I see in revenue
17 side a couple things quite a bit higher, was license and
18 permits.

19 MS. HUDSON: That is the Whirlpool World
20 Headquarters, Phase Three.

21 MR. WITKOWSKI: I see the building permit.

22 MS. HUDSON: Yes.

23 MR. WITKOWSKI: Totally makes sense and
24 other revenues, there is quite a bit ahead.

25 MR. WATSON: Other revenue.

1 MR. WITKOWSKI: 185% over budget; and, good,
2 I'm glad, trying to --

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Same with the building,
4 sale of the Federal Building.

5 MR. WITKOWSKI: You got to give the money
6 back.

7 MS. HUDSON: Transfer and went straight to
8 the GSA, so, like she said, it was a clearing house for
9 us.

10 MR. WITKOWSKI: At what point does the City
11 move public improvement, the pension tax fund monies to
12 those accounts?

13 MS. HUDSON: That is going to be done with
14 the budget amendments, that is all going to be done at
15 that time.

16 MR. WITKOWSKI: And your budget year ends
17 June 30?

18 MR. WATSON: Yes, sir.

19 MR. WITKOWSKI: Other than that, everything
20 else looks very good.

21 Those are all the things I had. Thank you.

22 MS. DEBIEN: Anyone else?

23 MR. RAGLON: No.

24 MS. DEBIEN: With no other business, I will
25 entertain a motion to adjourn.

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MS. HUNT: I second, yes.
MR. WITKOWSKI: I got it and she gets it.
MS. HUNT: I motion he said.
MR. WITKOWSKI: That is fine.
MS. DEBIEN: The meeting is adjourned at

11:09.

(Hearing adjourned at 11:09 a.m.)

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) SS

COUNTY OF BERRIEN)

I, Annette R. Blough, CRC/CRR/RPR/CSR-5191 and Notary Public in Barry County and acting in the County of Berrien, State of Michigan hereby certify that I reported the Receivership Transition Advisory Board Hearing and the Hearing was reduced to typewritten form under my supervision, and the foregoing 13 pages constitute a true record of the Hearing.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related to, an employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties; nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel; nor am I financially interested in the transaction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of May, 2016.

Annette R. Blough



Annette R. Blough, CRC/RPR/CRR/CSR-5191 and Notary Public for Barry County acting in Berrien County, Michigan.

My Commission expires 01-17-2020