

MINUTES of REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Caucus Room, Belize City Council

9:00 a.m.

March 30th, 2022

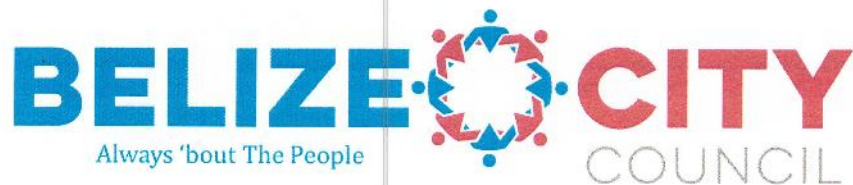
Present:

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| 1. His Worship Bernard Wagner | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Micah Goodin | Deputy Mayor |
| 3. Mr. Albert Vaughan | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor |
| 5. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr. | Councilor |
| 6. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton | Councilor |
| 7. Mr. Edmund Kwan | Councilor |
| 8. Mr. Michael Novelo | Councilor |
| 9. Ms. Natasha Pipersburgh | Councilor |
| 10. Ms. Kaya Cattouse | Councilor |
| 11. Ms. Deannie Requeña | Councilor |
| Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt | City Administrator |
| Mr. Eluide Miller | Manager, Office of the Mayor |

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 09:13 a.m.

Councilor Vaughan asked all present to do a silent prayer for the Council, Country and City.

Councilor Vaughan then led all present in reciting the Belize National Prayer.



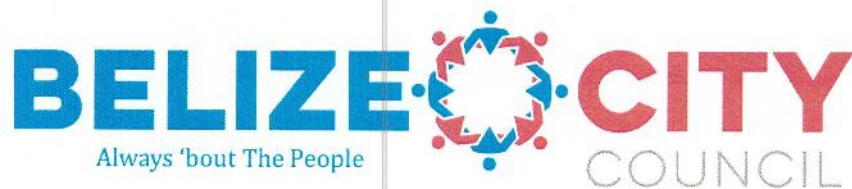
1.0 Welcome Remarks

- 1.1 Mayor Wagner welcomed all Council members to the meeting and highlighted that the City Administrator is now back in office after being out on certified medical leave. Mayor Wagner asked all Council members to join him in welcoming the City Administrator back to office.
- 1.2 Mayor Wagner commended the Council for the wonderful Sheroes Award Ceremony held on March 29th, 2022 and expressed that the initiative highlighted those women who are doing exemplary work across the various constituencies in Belize City.
- 1.3 Mayor Wagner noted that 2022 remains a critical year for the Council and announced that a retreat will be planned for all Council members to gather and outline the roadmap for the remainder of the year.
- 1.4 Mayor Wagner thanked Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr. for the initiative shown to complete roadworks in-house, utilizing the very capable Works Department team.

2.0 Ratification of the February 25th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- 2.1 Mayor Wagner asked all Council members to thoroughly review the minutes of the February 25th, 2022 regular council meeting.
- 2.2 The City Administrator asked for the minutes of the regular council meetings held in the months of January and February of 2022 to be considered informal meeting minutes, given that the Finance Director attended those meetings in place of the Acting City Administrator, Ms. Rose. Perez.
- 2.3 Mayor Wagner expressed that the meeting minutes can be published with an exception clause given that a senior representative of the Council (Finance Director) was present in the meeting.

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- 2.4 The City Administrator shared that she would discuss this matter with the Ministry of Local Government to determine the legitimacy of the minutes of the regular council meetings held in the months of January and February 2022 while she was out of office on certified medical leave.
- 2.5 Councilor Vaughan reiterated that he believes the minutes will be accepted given the mayor's presence in those meetings.
- 2.6 Councilor Hamilton moved for the minutes of the regular caucus meeting held on February 25th, 2022 to be ratified. Seconded by Councilor Novelo.

3.0 Matters arising from Minutes

- 3.1 (14.7) The City Administrator shared that three (3) fraudulent cheques which were forged by participants of the LIU Cleanup Campaign have been reported to the Police Department. The City Administrator shared that these cheques were high quality copies which were not identified to be fraudulent until they were taken to the banking institution by a third-party vendor who cashed the cheque for the participant/s. The City Administrator also shared that the Ministry of Local Government has been informed of the situation.
- 3.2 Councilor Novelo responded by noting that he is aware of the situation and shared that Conscious Youth Development Programme (CYDP) is in the process of carrying out an investigation of their own. Councilor Novelo noted that the persons who are suspected to be the culprits are no longer participants of the project as they are currently incarcerated. Councilor Novelo then shared that he does not believe that this small setback should ruin the project but noted that these kinds of activities are expected given the group the project is geared towards.
- 3.3 Mayor Wagner noted that he does not believe the fraudulent cheques were made by participants given the quality of the forged cheques. Mayor Wagner then expressed concern over the possibility that there may very well be additional forged cheques which are yet to come to light.
- 3.4 The City Administrator asked Councilor Novelo if the matter was reported to the Council at the time the matter was first reported to CYDP.



3.5 Councilor Novelo stated that he is uncertain if the matter was reported to the Council.

4.0 **Announcements by Mayor**

4.1 Mayor Wagner shared that his recent travels to Taiwan was very eventful, noting that all delegates were placed in a bubble to reduce the risk of exposure to Covid-19. Mayor Wagner then noted that some delegates tested positive, causing for the entire delegation to be placed in quarantine for most of the trip. As a results, the delegation did not get the opportunity to attend the events scheduled at the 2022 Smart City Summit and Expo as expected.

4.2 Mayor Wanger noted that a proposal for the procurement of heavy-duty equipment was left with representatives of the Taiwanese Government to pass onto Belize City's Sister City, the Kaohsiung City Government. Mayor Wagner also shared that the Key to Belize City which was to be handed over to the Mayor of Kaohsiung City, Mayor Chen Chi-Mai was also left in the care of Her Excellency Ambassador Candice Pitts, who will be handing over the Key to the City on the Council's behalf.

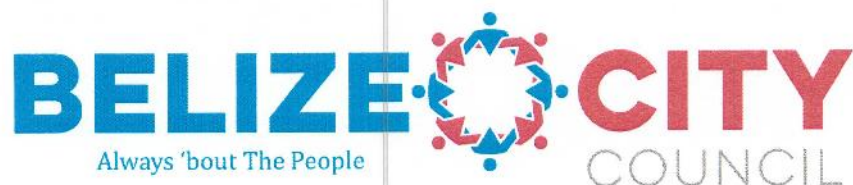
4.3 Mayor Wagner then shared that the delegation also experienced a significant earthquake during their stay in Taiwan, the most significant the region has seen within the past 20 years. Mayor Wagner also stated that the Belizean delegation was well rounded and offered each other much support throughout the time in Taiwan.

4.4 Mayor Wagner declared that the Council is expected to establish a Sister City Relationship with the City of Newark as well as Friendship Relations with the City of New York. Mayor Wagner stated that he believes these partnerships will help the Council to realize its goal to foster a smart, modern and resilient city.

4.5 Mayor Wagner announced that the annual Board of Survey will be conducted by the Ministry of Local Government on April 1st, 2022. Mayor Wagner noted that the Council remains prepared to carry out this process and shared that the Ministry has been impressed with the Council's compliance in previous years.



- 4.6 Mayor Wagner declared that the Council is now in receipt of the proposed agreement for the digital billboards to be installed at the Cindarella Plaza.
- 4.7 Councilor Vaughan reiterated the need for the Taxi Association at the Cindarella Plaza to be consulted on this matter.
- 4.8 Councilor Novelo noted that he believes that Home Protector Insurance Company was consulted previously and shared that he believes the Taxi Association will only benefit from the proposed developments for the area.
- 4.9 Mayor Wagner shared that the proposed agreement is being vetted by the Council's attorney for further guidance.
- 4.10 Mayor Wagner provided an update in reference to Belize Bank's E-Kyash platform, noting that the Belize City Council will be adopting this payment system as a merchant going forward. Mayor Wagner shared his excitement for the launching of this partnership between the Belize City Council and Belize Bank Ltd. Mayor Wagner noted that this is the kind of development the Council desires.
- 4.11 Mayor Wagner noted that he is also interested in engaging other participants in reference to the various digital wallets being launched in Belize.
- 5.0 Submissions from the Building Unit – Ms. Chelsea Perera – Asst. City Planner**
- 5.1 A request from Mr. Jose Cervantes to lease a piece of the reserve in the St. Martin De Porres at the corner of M & S Street and Gloria Edwards Street measuring 40' -0" x 75' -0" for dwelling purposes. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 5.2 A request by Guerra Consulting Architects for preliminary approval to proceed with preparation of working drawings for the construction of a hospital on Parcel 2981 in Palm Grove Estate. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 5.3 A request by Mr. Aaron Castillo of Jun's Meat Shop to finalize the offsetting for current and future rent balance for expansions done to a booth at the Michael Finnegan Market in the sum of \$74,000.00. **MOTION PASSED.**



- 5.4 A request from Ms. Marcella Meighan for permission to sell food on the George Price Highway near the Puma Gas Station. **MOTION APPROVED** for a period of four (4) months, the City Planning Unit will work to identify a more favorable area for Ms. Meighan in the Food Corridor being established on Mahogany Street.
- 5.5 A request from Ms. Marcella Meighan for permission to sell food in an empty lot located on Coney Drive next to Fultec Systems. **MOTION DENIED.**
- 5.6 A request from Mrs. Josephine Young J.P to close a portion of Malcolm Street in the Port Loyola Area for dwelling purposes. **MOTION DEFERRED.** The motion was approved given that the closure will not impact any other resident in the vicinity as that portion of the street is not utilized.
- 5.7 A request from Mr. Edilberto Novelo for permission to vend peanuts and coconut water at Mile 2 ½ along the George Price Highway. **MOTION DENIED.**
- 5.8 A request from Mr. Subrmanian Velu to use a portion of the reserve in front of Parcel 1144 on Blue Marlin and Cotttonwick Street for six (6) parking spaces for customers. **MOTION DENIED.**
- 5.9 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. reiterated the need for there to be greater compliance with stop orders issued by the Council's Building Unit.
- 5.10 A request from Ms. Alexys Bryant for permission to occupy a portion of the reserve in front of Parcel 245 on Nargusta Street to accommodate parking for a proposed apartment complex. **MOTION DENIED.** The Council is recommending that the developers make amendments to their construction plan to allocate adequate space for parking.
- 5.11 A request from UNO Gas Station for approval to construct a proposed UNO Gas Station on North Front Street. **MOTION DENIED.**
- 5.12 Councilor Vaughan noted the need for motions being brought to the Council to be accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation.



6.0 Notices

6.1 No notices were tabled.

7.0 Questions

7.1 Councilor Requeña asked Councilor Pipersburgh if any plan has been formulated as it relates to Easter and shared that she is willing to collaborate on an idea she has for an event geared towards kids across the city.

7.2 Councilor Pipersburgh expressed her interest in collaborating on projects for the upcoming Easter season.

7.3 The City Administrator noted that the Council's Programs Department is currently working on a proposed project for an Easter Hunt at the San Cas Park.

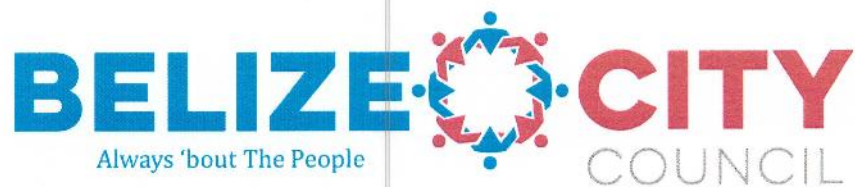
7.4 Councilor Requeña then shared ideas for a family-oriented event which would have been held in the Digi Park. Councilor Requeña also expressed her willingness to seek collaborations with various business entities to progress the proposed initiative.

7.5 Mayor Wagner request for the Programs Department to work along with both Councilor Requeña and Councilor Pipersburgh to see how best the Council can go about hosting an Easter event geared towards families in Belize City.

8.0 Petitions

8.1 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. tabled a matter involving an arrangement between the Council and Mr. Kelly in reference to the paving of Dungeon Drive. The Council granted permission for this matter to be brought up in the **motions from Councilors** segment of the meeting.

8.2 Councilor Castellanos tabled a petition from a resident on Ordonez Street for repairs to be done to her street.



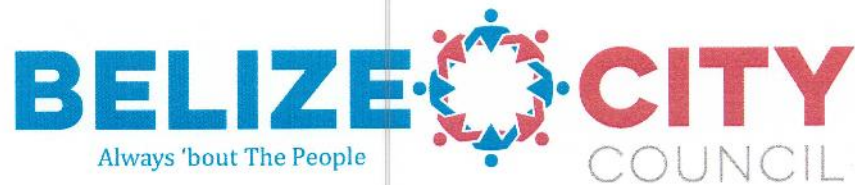
- 8.3 Councilor Castellanos asked the City Administrator for an update on the matter regarding the write-off of outstanding property taxes for a list of senior citizens which was submitted previously.
- 8.4 The City Administrator noted that the list of persons was not shared at the time that the motion was brought to the Council.
- 8.5 Councilor Castellanos noted that he did submit the names after consultations with the Valuation and Revenue Departments.
- 8.6 The City Administrator requested for Councilor Castellanos to forward the list to her and committed to write the Ministry of Local Government in reference to the matter as soon as she is in receipt of that list.

9.0 Presentation of Reports from Councilors

- 9.1 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. presented a report of works that were recently done on Banak St. which served as a pilot project for the in-house rehabilitation of streets carried out by the Council's Works Department. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. expressed that the successful completion of this street has significantly improved the confidence within the Works Department and shared that Morris Bishop St. will be completed next. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. ended his update by stating that efforts are being made to have the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) donate the materials needed with a view to reduce the associated budget.
- 9.2 Councilor Castellanos expressed that he was to prepare a presentation for a proposed market at the corner of Faber's Road and the Central American Boulevard but noted that this will be done at the next regular meeting of the Council.
- 9.3 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. asked for the City Administrator to follow-up with the Building Unit in reference to a proposal concerning the rehabilitation of markets by the UN.



- 9.4 Councilor Pipersburgh shared that she met with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics who wants to team up with the Council and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) for the purpose of establishing a park in the Jane Usher area. Councilor Pipersburgh then noted that the Urban Garden Project being carried out at the Trinity Primary School is almost complete.
- 9.5 Councilor Pipersburgh noted that a cleanup campaign is being organized by the Caribbean Shores Constituency that will require some level of support from the Sanitation Department to clear up the spoils generated. Councilor Pipersburgh went on to encourage all Council members to join in on a sign language training that she is currently undertaking. Councilor Pipersburgh then ended her update by sharing that the CEMO Department has now completed a series of trainings and thanked the Public Relations and Programs Department for the various events organized during the month of March to commemorate Women's Month.
- 9.6 Councilor Hamilton noted that the Building Unit is working closely with the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) to progress the proposed Food Corridor Project in the Mahogany Street area.
- 9.7 Mayor Wagner shared that he had discussed with the City Administrator, who agreed to fast track the concreting of the portion of Mahogany Street which will be utilized in phase one of the proposed Food Corridor Project.
- 9.8 Councilor Kwan noted that he has no new reports for the Council.
- 9.9 Councilor Requeña requested for the space on the first floor of City Hall which will be utilized for After School Programs to be cleared.
- 9.10 The City Administrator requested for Councilor Requeña to share a proposed date for the start of the project.
- 9.11 Councilor Requeña declared that she is aiming to get the project started at the start of the upcoming school year.

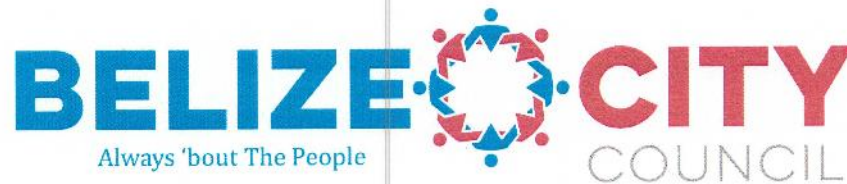


- 9.12 Councilor Novelo expressed that the Cemetery Department is struggling to upkeep the three (3) cemeteries across the city due to lack of manpower. Councilor Novelo reiterated the need for additional manpower to be added to the department's cutting crew in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency in maintaining the various cemetery grounds.
- 9.13 Councilor Novelo shared that he hosted a meeting with various stakeholders to discuss the ongoing issue of mental patients across the city and noted that the group is working to bring all relevant stakeholders together, with a view to develop a comprehensive plan to rectify the current situation.
- 9.14 Councilor Cattouse expressed that the cleanup campaign spearheaded by the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU), which consists of (272) participants have seen its fair share of hiccups since its inception. Despite this, a total of (42) abandoned lots have been cleared, in addition to the clearing of drains across all constituencies. Councilor Cattouse then noted that the Sanitation Department is making a targeted effort to clear as many drains as possible ahead of the start of the rainy season.
- 9.15 Councilor Cattouse announced that the Olympic Baton was in the country over the past week and shared that it will continue to make its rounds around the Caribbean before its return to England ahead of the upcoming Olympic events. Councilor Cattouse thanked Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. for participating in the ceremonies surrounding the arrival of the Baton. Councilor Cattouse also thanked Mayor Wagner and the Council for covering the cost of her attendance at the She4She World Summit held by the Belize City Council and the Belize Mayors' Association earlier in the month. Councilor Cattouse ended her update by sharing that planning for the Belize City Games has commenced.
- 9.16 Councilor Goodin shared that he recently participated in a consultation session in reference to the proposed Food Corridor Project in the Mahogany Street area.
- 9.17 Councilor Vaughan shared that the Council assisted with funeral services for its former vehicle inspector, Mr. Rashaad Gillet. Councilor Vaughan asked all Council members to take a moment of silence.



- 9.18 Councilor Vaughan spoke on the lack of traffic enforcement which exists within the Traffic Department. Councilor Vaughan then shared that the City Administrator along with the Council's technical team met with Pallotti High School, St. John's High School as well as Belize Elementary School to address issues currently being faced as a result of increased traffic flow given that in-class sessions have now resumed. Councilor Vaughan shared that all stakeholders will be brought together to determine the best possible course of action to rectify the situation.
- 9.19 Mayor Wagner announced the return of the Belize City Council's Downtown Super Sale, sharing that the Council is trying to host a special Mother's Day edition given the lifting of regulations surrounding the covid-19 pandemic. Mayor Wagner also noted that it is the Council's intention to carry out this initiative in collaboration with the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH).
- 9.20 Mayor Wagner expressed that he was pleased with how the recent pop-up shop event went. Mayor Wagner shared that this event was held in partnership with the Office of the Special Envoy, the United Women's Group (UWG) and the Belize Mayors' Association.
- 9.21 Mayor Wagner highlighted the acknowledgement of female employees by the Council's Public Relations Department which was done in commemoration of Women's Month.
- 9.22 The City Administrator announced that the Human Resources Department will be carrying out interviews for parking meter attendants in the coming days and shared a list of the existing vacancies within the Sanitation Department that have not been filled due to lack of application received.
- 9.23 The City Administrator noted that she shared a suggestion with the Sanitation Manager to identify and recruit the top participants from the ongoing LIU Cleanup Campaign in an effort secure additional manpower for the Department which is much needed.
- 9.24 Councilor Castellanos requested for a list of vacancies to be reported at each regular meeting of the Council.

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9.25 The City Administrator shared that respective Councilors are usually advised when a vacancy is available.

10.0 Motions by Councilors

10.1 Councilor Hamilton moved a motion for the Belize City Council to join the City of Newark's Sister City Program to allow for meaningful cultural and economic exchanges with a view to create greater understanding between the two municipalities. Seconded by Councilor Requeña. **MOTION PASSED.**

10.2 Councilor Hamilton moved a motion for the Belize City Council to enter into a Friendship Agreement with the City of New York with a view to promote international goodwill, understanding, and expanded relations between the two cities and their respective nationals by the exchange of people, ideas and information in a wide variety of economic, social, cultural, municipal, environmental, professional, youth and other endeavors. Seconded by Councilor Goodin. **MOTION PASSED.**

10.3 Mayor Wagner shared the official Friendship Agreement between Belize City and New York will be signed in New York following the Council's approval.

10.4 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. moved a motion for the Council to approve an agreement between the Belize City Council and Mr. Michael Kelly, to offset property taxes against the costs incurred for repairs done to a portion of Dungeon Drive. This offsetting would be in the sum of \$18,149.63. Seconded by Councilor Novelo. **MOTION PASSED.**

10.5 Councilor Vaughan questioned if the City Engineer has certified the works done by Mr. Kelly.

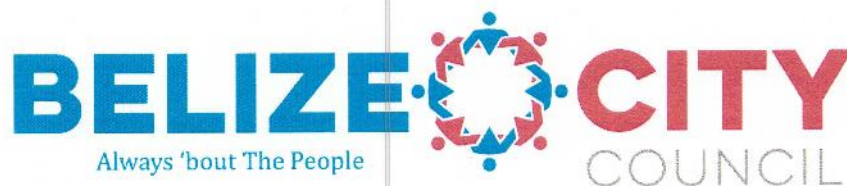
10.6 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. shared that the works have been certified by the City Engineer.

10.7 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to ratify the settlement approved via round robin on 11th March 2022 in reference to Civil Appeal 18 of 2019, the Mayor of Belize City (Belize City Council) vs. Candice Miller. Seconded by Councilor Hamilton. **MOTION PASSED.**

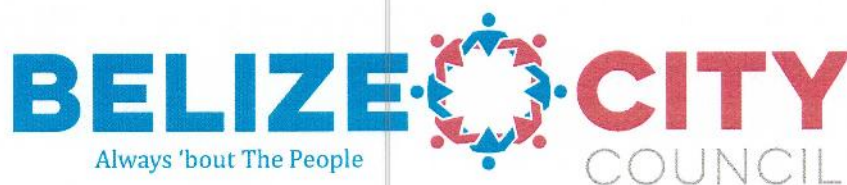


- 10.8 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to approve a contract extension for the Finance Director for an additional two (2) years, which would expire on the 30th of April 2024. Seconded by Councilor Cattouse. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 10.9 Mayor Wagner shared that the City Engineer's contract is set to expire at the end of March 2022.
- 10.10 Councilor Goodin asked the City Administrator to provide an update on the recent performance of the City Engineer.
- 10.11 The City Administrator shared that the City Engineer underwent additional training to increase motivation but noted that there has not been much improvement in his performance since. The City Administrator noted that this comes as a result of his lack of availability and lack of knowledge of current works being carried out by the Council. The City Administrator then shared that she informed Mr. Williams that his contract is coming to an end and expressed that she would not be supporting his contract extension.
- 10.12 Councilor Novelo proposed for the Council to reduce the proposed extension to one (1) year.
- 10.13 Councilor Requeña expressed that she believes the Council should part ways with Mr. Williams given his lack of improvement over the past year.
- 10.14 Mayor Wagner asked Councilor Requeña if she believes a suitable replacement could be found in a timely manner to facilitate an easy transition.
- 10.15 As the Councilor with responsibility for works, Councilor Pollard Jr. shared that Mr. Williams understands clearly what is expected of him at this present time. Councilor Pollard Jr. shared that the City Engineer has an enormous workload, given that he oversees many departments and raised concerns over the Council's ability to find a suitable replacement in a timely manner if the proposed contract extension were to be denied.
- 10.16 Councilor Pollard Jr. gave the Council his confidence that he has outlined exactly what is expected of Mr. Williams going forward and asked the Council to consider filling the Assistant Engineer position soon to offer Mr. Williams some much needed additional support.

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- 10.17 Mayor Wagner shared that he has had no issues with the City Engineer and highlighted that he is very knowledgeable of the city's landscape.
- 10.18 Councilor Kwan shared that he too believes the City Engineer is quite knowledgeable of the city's landscape and proposed for the Council to offer him a six (6) month contract extension.
- 10.19 Councilor Novelo expressed that he believes the City Engineer's contract should be extended given the unavailability of technical personnel and the associated package.
- 10.20 Councilor Vaughan seconded the sentiments shared by Councilor Novelo, stating that he supports the proposed contract extension as he believes it will give the City Engineer added motivation to further the Council's infrastructural agenda.
- 10.21 The City Administrator suggested for the Council to set conditions for the extension of the City Engineer's contract, which the Council agreed to.
- 10.22 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to approve a contract extension for the City Engineer for an additional two (2) years, which would expire on the 31st of March 2024. Seconded by Councilor Novelo. **MOTION PASSED.** Councilor Castellanos abstained from voting due to the City Engineer's most recent performance report.
- 10.23 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to approve an initial deposit of \$10,000.00 for legal drafting services by Courtenay Coye LLP for the drafting of the Municipal Securities Act (Muni Securities Act). Seconded by Councilor Kwan. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 10.24 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to approve a temporary overdraft facility being offered by the Atlantic Bank Ltd. for a term of three (3) months from the limit of \$1,200,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00 or such sum that the Council deems fit bearing interest rate of 8.5 percent per annum or at such other rate which the Bank shall charge from time to time and upon such further terms and conditions in all respects as they see fit. Seconded by Councilor Requeña. **MOTION PASSED.**

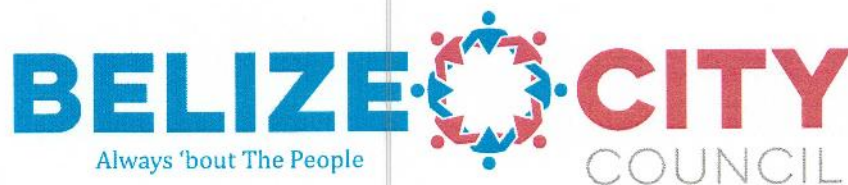


11.0 New Business

Election of the Deputy Mayor

- 11.1 Mayor Wagner noted that the Belize City Council Act requires that the Council to elect a Deputy Mayor at the first meeting following a municipal election and every year thereafter.
- 11.2 Mayor Wagner reminded all Council members that a Deputy Mayor can be removed by 2/3 of the members of the Council by resolution to be submitted to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- 11.3 Councilor Novelo nominated Councilor Goodin for the post of Deputy Mayor. Seconded by Councilor Requeña.
- 11.4 Councilor Goodin accepted the nomination.
- 11.5 Councilor Pipersburgh nominated Councilor Kaya Cattouse for the post of Deputy Mayor. Seconded by Councilor Vaughan.
- 11.6 Councilor Cattouse accepted the nomination.
- 11.7 Mayor Wagner reinforced the responsibility of the Deputy Mayor and shared that he has had experience with three (3) different Deputies during his time as Mayor of Belize City. Mayor Wagner noted that the Deputy Mayor must be able to speak with conviction on behalf of the Council.
- 11.8 Mayor Wagner called for a division on the voting for the election of the Deputy Mayor.
- 11.9 Councilor Requeña noted that she supports Councilor Cattouse and expressed her resounding support for Councilor Goodin. Councilor Requeña declared her support for Councilor Goodin to serve in the capacity of Deputy Mayor as she believes it is the right time to have him serve in this capacity alongside Mayor Wagner despite the challenges faced in the past.

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- 11.10 Councilor Novelo announced his support for Councilor Goodin to be elected as Deputy Mayor. Councilor Novelo noted that he believes Councilor Goodin will be able to bridge the gap which exists between the Central Government and the Council in the capacity of Deputy Mayor.
- 11.11 Councilor Kwan shared that both candidates are very capable but noted his support for Councilor Goodin being the more senior candidate of the two. Councilor Kwan highlighted that he maintains a strong personal relationship with Councilor Goodin and noted his belief that Councilor Goodin would be able to improve the effectiveness of the Council if elected as Deputy Mayor.
- 12.12 Councilor Castellanos shared that he has met with Councilor Cattouse on several occasions and noted that he believes she has a bright future ahead. Nonetheless, Councilor Castellanos declared his support for Councilor Goodin to be elected as Deputy Mayor.
- 11.13 Councilor Pipersburgh noted that she stands in support of Councilor Cattouse and shared that she does not believe there is a “right time to serve in the capacity of Deputy Mayor as mentioned previously by other Council members.
- 11.14 Councilor Vaughan thanked Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr. for the work he accomplished during his tenure as Deputy Mayor and shared that he stands proud to support Councilor Cattouse to be elected as Deputy Mayor, especially given the significant of Women’s Month. Councilor Vaughan then encouraged Councilor Cattouse to continue to do the great work she is doing regardless of the outcome of this election.
- 11.15 Councilor Hamilton expressed that it has been her pleasure to work along with both Councilors and noted that she believes the commitment shown by Councilor Cattouse has been remarkable. Nonetheless, Councilor Hamilton declared that she is support Councilor Goodin for Deputy Mayor for reasons she wishes to hold dear to her heart.



- 11.16 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. noted that he came with all intentions to abstain from voting as he believes that the post of Deputy Mayor is a position which should be enjoyed by both the Mayor in the form of support as well as the person who is serving in that capacity. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. shared that it was a pleasure to serve alongside Mayor Wagner as his Deputy Mayor and congratulated Councilor Goodin on being elected the new Deputy Mayor. He then offered Councilor Cattouse some words of encouragement, urging her to continue the great work she has been doing over the past year.
- 11.17 Mayor Wagner congratulated Councilor Goodin for being elected as the new Deputy Mayor of Belize City and noted that the Councilors who supported him will be expected to hold him accountable. Mayor Wagner declared that he remains available to maintain an open line of communication in order to have proper collaboration in working towards the achievement of the Council's goals.
- 11.18 Councilor Goodin noted that it is surreal realizing the honor of being elected as the new Deputy Mayor of Belize City and shared that he intends on being a team player during his tenure as Deputy Mayor. Newly elected Deputy Mayor Goodin offered some words of encouragement to Councilor Cattouse, highlighting that he too lost a Deputy Mayor election race in 2020.
- 11.19 Councilor Goodin shared that it is his intention to emulate the outgoing Deputy Mayor and reassured Mayor Wagner that he has his full support and confidence. Councilor Goodin ended by thanking his colleagues for electing him and expressed that they can expect for him to be the best version of himself over the next twelve (12) months.
- 11.20 Councilor Cattouse declared that she is in no way broken or down about losing the election, noting that she has learned to be quite the sportswoman over her many years as an athlete. Councilor Cattouse assured the Council that she will continue the work of the people with the same level of dedication and persistence she has always shown. Councilor Cattouse ended by thanking all fellow members who gave her their support and words of encouragement.

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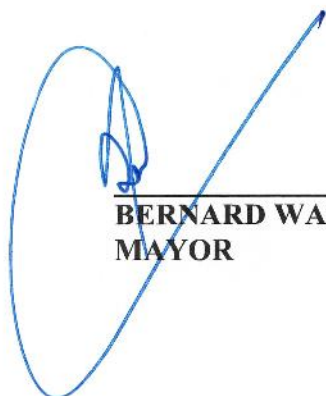
12.0 Other Business

- 12.1 Councilor Vaughan made mention of the Amnesty Program currently being carried out which will see those foreigners who have been residing in Belize get residency. Councilor Vaughan announced that a mobile clinic will be held on the 8th and 9th of July 2022 at the Belize Civic Center and encouraged all Councilors to spread the word and to have any interested parties attend.
- 12.2 Councilor Vaughan reminded all Council members that the Council's Parking Meters Pilot Project is set to launch on the 4th of April 2022 and shared a physical prototype of the two types of meters being used in the pilot project. Councilor Vaughan then shared that all transactions will be cashless, with parking attendants on site who will have the relevant parking meter cards available for purchase.
- 12.3 Councilor Novelo asked for the Council to support the addition of six (6) additional personnel to better maintain the three (3) cemetery grounds in the city.
- 12.4 The City Administrator expressed that the emoluments schedule for employees for the upcoming fiscal year has already been approved by the Ministry of Finance.
- 12.5 Mayor Wagner asked for the City Administrator and Councilor Novelo to discuss the matter further following the conclusion of the meeting.
- 12.6 Councilor Castellanos noted that he has seen a program which utilized plastic to slow down the growth of vegetation in cemeteries and encouraged Councilor Novelo to consider this approach.
- 12.7 Councilor Castellanos asked if the Council has received approval from Cabinet to proceed with the Parking Meters Pilot Project.
- 12.8 Mayor Wagner confirmed that the Council has received the provisional approval letter from the Ministry of Transport after some delays which caused for the Council to push back its launch date to the 4th of April 2022.
- 12.9 Deputy Mayor Goodin asked that a strategic session between all Council members be held at the earliest in order to properly plan for the remainder of the year.

12.10 Mayor Wagner asked the City Administrator to make the necessary arrangements for a strategic session with the participation of all Council members to be held.

13.0 Adjournment

13.1 Councilor Castellanos moved for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:31 p.m.
Seconded by Councilor Kwan.



BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR



MRS. STEPHANIE LINDO-GARBUTT
CITY ADMINSTRATOR

