



**Minutes of the Third Caucus Meeting for Newly Elected Council**  
**Thursday May 3, 2018**  
**Conference Room City Hall**

**Present:**

- |                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Bernard Wagner     | Mayor     |
| 2. Mr. Oscar Arnold       | Councilor |
| 3. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Ryan Elijio        | Councilor |
| 5. Ms. Aisha Gentle       | Councilor |
| 6. Mr. Micah Goodin       | Councilor |
| 7. Ms. Delthrude Hylton   | Councilor |
| 8. Mr. Albert Vaughan     | Councilor |

**Absent:**

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Dr. Candice Pitts    | Councilor |
| 2. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr | Councilor |
| 3. Mr. Michael Norales  | Councilor |

**Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez – Acting City Administrator**

**The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm  
Councilor Gentle the prayer.**

**Mayor Matters**

1. Attorney Magalie Perdomo, City Administrator Candice Miller's attorney, requested the meeting be recorded.
2. The Council's attorney Anthony Sylvestre advised that it was okay for the recording to take place.
3. Mayor Wagner acceded to the request; subsequently, the recorder was obtained.
4. Mayor Wagner initiated the decision to suspend and dismiss City Administrator Candice Miller.
5. Mayor Wagner noted that City Administrator Candice Miller's contract allows for dismissal based on "Gross Dereliction of Duties."
6. Mayor Wagner indicated several instances where Ms. Miller was guilty of Dereliction of Duties.
  - 6.1 City Administrator Candice Miller facilitated a loan between the Belize City Council and Enrique Carballo.



6.2 On March 8<sup>th</sup> of 2018, one day after the newly elected City Council won the Municipal Elections, City Administrator Candice Miller approved \$59, 600 to Gilbert Franklin for transporting hardcore materials for streets repair.

6.3 On April 5<sup>th</sup> of 2018, Works Manager Mr. Ramon Menjivar conducted an assessment of the material transported by Gilbert Franklin and found the value of the material to be \$44, 400. 00. The figure denotes a difference of \$15, 200.00.

6.4 Mayor Wagner stated that according to the Council's Director of Legal Services Mrs. McKenzie, the Belize Waste Control (BWC) commenced the action to take the Council to court, and Ms. Miller was aware of such claim.

6.5 On March 5<sup>th</sup> of 2018, Tricia Pitts, the Council's legal attorney at that time acknowledged the claim.

6.6 Mayor Wagner reiterated that City Administrator Candice Miller neglected to bring the claim to the Council's attention, and as a result of her negligence the Council incurred a million-dollar debt.

7. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that after realizing that Enrique Carballo's loan was not paid, she sent a demand, a reminder, and a full demand letter to Mr. Carballo.
8. City Administrator Candice Miller specified that former Mayor Darrel Bradley met with and gave Mr. Carballo an extension to commence his loan payment in March of 2018.
9. City Administrator Candice Miller clarified that although Mr. Carballo received a loan to purchase a vehicle, no vehicle was purchased. Hence, no Bill of Sale was produced, and up until the time the demand letter was sent in January of 2018, the vehicle was still not purchased.
10. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller if it is legal for the Council to lend loans to non-employees.
11. City Administrator Candice Miller responded by stating that the decision to give a loan to Mr. Carballo was made by a Council Resolution.
12. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller if she believed she was acting out of her parameters when the loan was given to Mr. Carballo.
13. Councilor Castellanos enquired if City Administrator Candice Miller gave advice as to how Council Loans are dealt with to her superior.
14. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller whether she felt like it was not a part of her duties to advise the Council.
15. Ms. Miller replied by saying that Mr. Carballo did receive a reminder letter.
16. Deputy Arnold asked City Administrator Candice Miller for clarity as to when the loan was distributed to Mr. Carballo and why Mr. Carballo did not purchase the vehicle at the point of the first demand letter in January of 2018.
17. City Administrator Candice Miller informed the Council that according to Mr. Carballo the reason he did not purchase the vehicle was because of the Houston Flood in July of 2017.





18. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller if it were common practice at the Council to give interest free loans.
19. City Administrator Candice Miller replied by saying she could not recall whether it was said in a meeting.
20. Councilor Castellanos briefed City Administrator Candice Miller that follow up comes with certain procedures and if unsuccessful, then Court Action should be taken.
21. Councilor Castellanos stated that City Administrator Candice Miller's failure to follow up on loan payment constitutes Gross Negligence on her part.
22. City Administrator Candice Miller's attorney Magalie Perdomo got up to speak; however, the Council's attorney Anthony Sylvestre pointed out that the attorneys were only in the meeting to observe and not speak.
23. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller if any follow up was done to obtain payments from Mr. Carballo.
24. City Administrator Candice Miller responded by saying she acted within her duties; she wrote a demand letter to Mr. Carballo. Thereafter, Mr. Carballo met with former Mayor Darrel Bradley.
25. Councilor Vaughan asked City Administrator Candice Miller if she informed Mayor Wagner of the extension given to Mr. Carballo by then Mayor Darrel Bradley.
26. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that all letters were copied to Mayor Wagner.
27. Councilor Castellanos asked City Administrator Candice Miller if she advised Mayor Wagner of the impending court action by BWC.
28. City Administrator Candice Miller answered that the demand letters outlined Court Action.
29. Councilor Goodin asked City Administrator Candice Miller if she, at any point in time, advised Mayor Bradley about the extension for Mr. Carballo to pay his loan.
30. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that the Mayor was informed but made a decision contrary to her advice.
31. Mayor Wagner asked if there were any paper trail in respect to follow up done on the loan.
32. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that the demand letters are proof of follow up.
33. Councilor Goodin asked City Administrator if Mr. Carballo ever purchased the vehicle.
34. City Administrator Candice Miller maintained that she was unaware.
35. Councilor Vaughan questioned City Administrator Candice Miller if the resolution passed to give Mr. Carballo a Council Loan was legal.
36. City Administrator Candice Miller claimed that she is not an attorney.
37. Councilor Castellanos questioned City Administrator Candice Miller if there were any follow up to the purchase of the vehicle.



38. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that there was none up until the time of her first demand letter.
39. Councilor Pollard asked if any background/credit history were conducted on Mr. Carballo before he was granted the Council Loan.
40. City Administrator Candice Miller stated there was none conducted.
41. Councilor Vaughan asked City Administrator Candice Miller, as a professional, if she knew if the resolution passed was a bad resolution.
42. City Administrator Candice Miller maintained she acted on the directives of the Council, and she did not neglect to demand full payment.
43. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller why Mr. Gilbert Franklin was paid the sum of \$59,600 just one day after the Municipal Elections.
44. City Administrator Candice Miller explained that there was no rush on her part to make payment to Mr. Franklin.
45. Mayor Wagner pointed out to City Administrator Candice Miller that according to Works Manager Mr. Ramon Menjivar, the value of the work done by Mr. Franklin did not amount to the amount paid.
46. Mayor Wagner questioned City Administrator Candice Miller if her Ethical Standards didn't tell her to advise the new City Council on important matters such as the case of Mr. Franklin.
47. City Administrator Candice Miller indicated that Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez could attest to payments not being made on the same day a requisition is prepared.
48. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller to clarify if all payments made to Mr. Franklin in the past had been accelerated.
49. City Administrator Candice Miller replied that she was unaware.
50. Councilor Castellanos asked City Administrator Candice Miller why she did not wait until Mayor Wagner was able to see the payment for Mr. Franklin in order for her to proceed with the payment.
51. City Administrator Candice Miller explained that all invoices were sent down with requisitions and there was no rush in making payment to Mr. Franklin.
52. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller why Mr. Franklin's transaction was not held off.
53. City Administrator Candice Miller clarified that the requisition was sent, but the payment was not made. She pointed out that she had stop orders in which she asked Mayor Wagner's opinion on before she proceeded.
54. Councilor Goodin asked if it is protocol to investigate if a requisition is accurate or genuine.
55. City Administrator Candice Miller responded by saying the signatures of the Works Manager and City Engineer serve as verification.
56. Councilor Goodin asked if City Administrator Candice Miller did anything other than check for a signature.

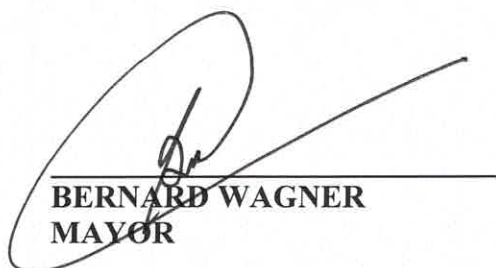




57. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that she did check for a signature and follow procedures. She maintained that both the Works Manager and City engineer signed off on the requisition in question.
58. Councilor Pollard asked City Administrator Candice Miller when she would feel the need to consult with the Mayor about a requisition.
59. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that she would do so at the point of payment.
60. Mayor Wagner pointed out that City Administrator Candice Miller claimed that the requisition came signed by the Works Manager, yet it was the same Works Manager who conducted an assessment and reported that the work done by Mr. Franklin far surpassed the actual value.
61. Mayor Wagner explained that City Administrator Candice Miller failed to bring to the attention of the Mayor claim 107, Belize Waste Control vs. Belize City Council.
62. City Administrator Candice Miller indicated that she did bring the claim to Mayor Wagner's attention on his first day in office. She pointed out that pressing issues the Council was grappling with, one such issue being the lawsuit.
63. Mayor Wagner made clear that he had no recollection of that conversation.
64. Deputy Arnold argued that City Administrator Candice Miller did not specify that there was a pending lawsuit, only that pressing issues needed to be discussed.
65. City Administrator Candice Miller claimed that subsequent to the meeting mentioned above, she requested a meeting with the Mayor and Directors and Ms. McKenzie brought up the lawsuit.
66. Mayor Wagner enquired whether a MEMO was presented on the issue, because he was certain other Directors brought MEMOS to the meeting, but City Administrator Candice Miller did not.
67. City Administrator Candice Miller said that Mayor Wagner directed her to take the necessary documents from attorney Tricia Pitts. She later gave the documents to her secretary Mrs. Butler to pass on to the Mayor's secretary Sandra. Sandra would then pass on the lawsuit to attorney Ashanti Arthurs.
68. Councilor Castellanos asked City Administrator Candice Miller if there were any documents in writing about the issues she brought to the Mayor.
69. City Administrator Candice Miller stated that it was Ms. McKenzie who brought up the issue of the lawsuit in the meeting. Mayor Wagner then gave directives for that document to be passed on to attorney Ashanti Arthurs.
70. Councilor Goodin asked City Administrator Candice Miller if the documents were indeed passed on to attorney Ashanti Arthurs.
71. City Administrator Candice Miller reiterated that she passed the documents on to her secretary Mrs. Butler who later passed them on to the Mayor's Secretary Sandra.
72. Councilor Elijo asked City Administrator Candice Miller to clarify if the Acknowledgment of Service were filed on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the Defense on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 why was the document taken from the then attorney Tricia Pitts.



- Ms. Pitts was still the Council's attorney considering the Council held their first meeting after March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Council was yet to choose a new attorney and make it official.
73. Councilor Vaughan asked City Administrator Candice Miller why she claimed to be blocked from Council business when she was present at work every day and had sufficient time to see the Mayor and inform him of the lawsuit.
  74. City Administrator Candice Miller maintained that she was blocked from emails and the entire system.
  75. Councilor Vaughan asked City Administrator Candice Miller why she did not write a letter to the Mayor informing him of the lawsuit, since her computer system was blocked.
  76. City Administrator Candice Miller vowed that she did what she was instructed to do.
  77. Councilor Castellanos pointed out that City Administrator Candice Miller was being paid but said she was blocked. It was her duty to inform and remind the Mayor of the lawsuit.
  78. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Candice Miller why she failed to put the issue of the lawsuit on the MEMO she claimed to have given to him.
  79. City Administrator Candice Miller reiterated that Mrs. Butler passed the documents on to Sandra.
  80. Councilor Goodin stated that in each issue raised, City Administrator Candice Miller failed to perform her duties.
  81. Councilor Vaughan stated that City Administrator Candice Miller's defense did not add up. He suggested that legal recourse be taken to collect the money from Mr. Carballo.
  82. Mayor Wagner stated that it was clearly proven, without a doubt, that City Administrator Candice Miller did not take her role seriously as the Gatekeeper of the City. She hid behind political directorate and displayed Gross Dereliction of duties. Ms. Miller had direct access to the Mayor yet failed to bring vital information to his attention.
  83. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion to dismiss City Administrator Candice Miller.
  84. All Councilors who were presented agreed. **MOTION CARRIED.**
  85. **The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.**

  
BERNARD WAGNER  
MAYOR







  
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**OSCAR ARNOLD**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR**