



**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING (Emergency)**  
**Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**City Hall Belize City Council**

**Present:**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor                  |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels    | Deputy Mayor           |
| 3. Mr. Michael Theus   | Councilor              |
| 4. Mr. Kevin Singh     | Councilor              |
| 5. Mr. Jason Edwards   | Councilor              |
| 6. Mr. Bernard Pitts   | Councilor              |
| 7. Ms. Alifa Elrington | Councilor              |
|                        |                        |
| 1. Ms. Candice Miller  | City Administrator     |
| 2. Mr. Jermaine Hyde   | Administrative Officer |

**Present by invitation:**

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Floyd Williams    | City Engineer           |
| 2. Ms. Margaret McKenzie | Director Legal Services |
| 3. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez  | Director Finance        |
| 4. Ms. Sharlene Rudon    | Director HR/PR          |

**Absent with explanation:**

- |                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman Cuellar - | Councilor |
| 2. Dr. Alain Gonzalez-              | Councilor |

**Minutes of Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 pm.

Councilor Edwards opened the meeting with a prayer.

Being that the meeting was an emergency meeting the minutes of the previous minutes was not reviewed.

**Mayor Darrell Bradley**

1. The Mayor welcomed everyone present and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the commercial center loan and contract for Mr. Carlton Young.
2. The Mayor requested that the previous and amended bill of quantities be circulated to Councilors.

3. Mayor Bradley stated that Mr. Young would act in an advisory capacity to both the Council and the bank, because he would indicate to the bank when to disburse payments for the project.
4. Councilor Theus highlighted the 10% contingency item (\$254,000.00) and asked if Mr. Young would ensure that the cost doesn't run into that amount.
5. The Mayor responded that Mr. Young's role is to advise the Council before the actual disbursement of any funds. He added that he's almost sure that the contingency would be used because there are certain essential things that are not in the cost like the elevator.
6. Deputy Samuels asked if the amount previously agreed on was exclusive of the \$800,000.00 from the Taiwanese government.
7. Mayor indicated that the \$2.7 million was separate from the \$800,000.00 donation. He added that the Council would now pay for the entire project since we will no longer get the donation. He added that he met with Ms. Kristy Maestre who indicated that they would down scale the project at ground zero, and the difference in the cost would be used in the "commercial Center project".
8. The Mayor stated that in terms of Mr. Young's contract, he would be paid \$5,000.00 for monthly inspections for 9 months, \$1,000.00 defect liability and an upfront payment of \$3,000.00 for review of the documents. This would total to \$53,000.00.
9. Mayor highlighted that the new bill of quantities is at \$3.6 million.

**[Councilor Elrington arrived, quorum met 3:21 pm]**

10. Councilor Theus expressed concern for the accessibility of the building. He pointed out that the elderly and persons with disabilities would encounter difficulty accessing the building since there was no cost added in for an elevator.
11. Mayor indicated that at the time when the bill of quantities was prepared one was not sourced yet hence no cost was placed in the listing, but since then one has been sourced.
12. Councilor Elrington stated that the illustration of the New City Hall that is being circulated is one that she has never seen before. She inquired what caused the change in the building.
13. Mayor stated that it was simply a matter of aesthetics, and the changes were minor ones to the exterior.
14. Councilor Elrington stated that the original building was estimated at \$3.4 million and some of the features were a new roof, elevator, new tiles etc. This couldn't be afforded so it was scaled down significantly and the new cost was \$2.7 million. Now she's seeing a bill of quantities for \$3.6 million. So she's trying to understand what happened.
15. Mayor stated that he can't recall ever being at \$2.7 million, however there were several variations to the building. He added that it has been two years since this project has been on the table and costing has increased thus the longer its on hold the more expensive it gets.
16. Ms. Miller highlighted that there is no cabinets, lockers or furnishings in the office spaces. She stated that this would be needed.

17. Mayor indicated that for them to do any furnishings or lockers, it would come at a cost to the Council.
18. Councilor Theus noted that there was no costing for plumbing in the building for the ground floor. He added that the tenants would need access to water and drainage, so that means the walls would be broken to accommodate this. He suggested that this be done during the construction phase as opposed to being done after the completion.
19. Mayor stated that this would increase the cost as well
20. Ms. Miller pointed out that a cost was added for the plan, however when IE was engaged they agreed that they would charge for the plan.
21. Mayor stated that several changes were made to the plan over the two years and it would be unreasonable to not pay for the plan at this point.
22. Ms. Miller suggested that Council pay for the plan and get another firm to do a bill of quantities and compare the cost.
23. Mayor Bradley pointed out that it has been two years this project has been on the table and to go to anyone else would extend the time for too long. He said that Council needs to decide whether they would build the building or not.
24. Councilor Pitts suggested that Council approach Ministry of Finance for consideration on the GST.
25. Mayor stated that Mrs. Ordonez could engaged them, but he wouldn't since he feels that it wouldn't be considered.
26. Councilor Pitts highlighted that the report on the building stated that it highly recommended that the roof be worked on. Councilor Theus stated that they included a cost for some roof improvements.
27. Mayor suggested that a sub-committee be formed that would meet regularly with Mr. Young to ensure the concerns are addressed. He asked if any Councilor had any concerns because he would table it for a vote.
28. Councilor Theus stated that his primary concern with working with IE is the many change orders that come about. He requested some assurance that with the presence of Mr. Young, there would be no frequent change orders.
29. Mayor Bradley indicated that any change that would take the cost over the contingency would be brought back to Council.
30. The Mayor tabled the revised bill of quantities at \$3.6 million for approval by the Council. Vote taken:

Yes	No
i.) Theus	i.) Elrington
ii.) Singh	
iii.) Edwards	
iv.) Pitts	
v.) Samuels	
vi.) Bradley	

Bill of Quantities Approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

31. The Mayor tabled the contract for Mr. Carlton Young, to act as a consulting engineer during the renovation/ restoration of the commercial center that will serve as the

New City Hall. This contract once approved by the Council will be affixed with the Council's seal and signed by the Mayor and City Administrator. Vote taken:

Yes

No

- i.) Theus
- ii.) Singh
- iii.) Edwards
- iv.) Pitts
- v.) Samuels
- vi.) Bradley

i.) Elrington

Contract Approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

**The representatives from the Christian Workers Union were called into the meeting at 4:01pm.**

- 32. Mayor stated that the Union and the Council has been in discussion relating to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. One item being the agreed increase in salaries for staff. He added that wages for staff are commensurate with market rate, but in addition to this he wants to ensure it is a living wage. Council proposed a 6% increase in salary, hence the union representatives are here today.
- 33. Mayor added that in times of disaster the staff is expected to come out and assist persons but he has seen where many of our very staff are tremendously affected and are at risk due to substandard living conditions. He stated that the Council's focus should be not only on buildings and infrastructure but on people as well. He said this is not the item but is the one that will have the effect on the lives of staff.
- 34. Mr. Neal stated that he believed that the membership are deserving of the increase that the Mayor has suggested. He added that it would be a measurable gesture that the membership will accept and appreciate.
- 35. He added that the union was looking at 4% but when the Mayor stated he would do 6% he was vey happy. He added that he remains hopeful that the membership will get the increase.
- 36. Mayor Bradley stated that he had spoken to the HR department and it was indicated that most of the staff are from the lower income bracket and that the increase would be in the range of \$20-\$25 for these persons. He added that they can even look at giving the lower level of staff the 6% and management 4%.
- 37. Mr. Neal stated that aside from salary, they also looked at the annual appraisal, allowances for wet and dirty work, organizational charts etc.
- 38. Councilor Theus stated that while he didn't want to seem harsh, he felt that the union's role is to fight for the conditions of the workers especially cemetery workers, as opposed to salary increases. He added that he wants the union to partner with the Council to ensure productivity, making sure that the workers are at the level that they ought to be.
- 39. Mr. Neal made the point that this is the start of the discussion and the dialogue will continue. He added that there are many other items that was discussed in terms of worker's condition.

40. Councilor Theus added that he would've wanted the Mayor to discuss this with the relevant people in the finance department prior to this so they would've planned for it in the budget, because the day the salaries can't be met then staff will be out there picketing. He added that the management team would've needed to put money from the high season for the low season, and restrain Council from spending to afford things like these.
41. Mr. Neal stated that while he agrees, this is out of the purview of the Union.
42. Councilor Elrington stated that it is not the union's role to tell the Council what the employees are lacking. She added that it cannot be that only management can enjoy the increases in salary. She added that as a Council they are lacking in terms of what they have done for employees. Bonuses, hams and turkeys at the end of the year doesn't really do much for employees. She stated that when junior employees are caught hustling we are harsh on the staff but we have not done anything to ameliorate their living conditions. She added that many of the staff have other needs, like remedial classes and training. The Union shouldn't make a step for the Council to make a step.
43. Deputy Mayor stated that he is in agreement for better wages for the employees, and he applauds the Mayor for all that he does for employees. He added that every year since Mayor Bradley has been Mayor, employees are treated with love for Christmas, Labor Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and other occasions. He added that if it will make the Council insolvent he cannot support it. He asked if the salary offered at the Council, in line with what the public service pays.
44. Mrs. Ordonez stated that the Council's salary scheme is below the governments'.
45. Deputy Samuels applaud Mr. Neal for his efforts for the staff and asked if there was a time frame agreed upon in the discussion, for the increases to be effected.
46. Mr. Neal stated that they were looking at the start of the school year when workers have expenses for school, so it would be in September.
47. Mrs. Ordonez stated that they have provided for employees, throughout the last two years. Council has invested in equipment for staff, training and insurance. Mr. Neal stated that he just wanted to make the point that the Union would not agree to an increase if it would make the Council insolvent. He added that he would welcome the idea of partnering with the Council to look at new revenue streams.
48. Mayor proposed that all staff on pay scale 6 who are the rank of Supervisors and Coordinators shall receive a 4% increase and staff below this rank will receive 6% salary increase which would be effective on 1st December 2017.
49. All Councilors voted unanimously to approve the salary increase. **MOTION CARRIED**
50. Mayor stated that the Divine Mercy Church has applied to central government to be given a street that will act as an access way to their building. He added that they have been given permission to survey, which is almost complete, but the Central Government is requiring a no objection letter from the local authority.
51. Mayor stated that Mr. Julian Castillo, a representative of the group met with him and showed him the site plan. Mayor added that he suggested that the church use the portion of land adjacent to the church as an exit so that it remains a thoroughfare. He circulated the map to councilors for them to have a clear idea of the proposed

street and the exit, which he's recommending being used for emergency vehicles and this would be a condition for the Council's no-objection.

52. Mayor moved for a motion to grant the no objection letter to the church. All Councilors voted unanimously to grant the no objection. **MOTION CARRIED**

53. Councilor Theus stated that the Committee for the Fort George Tourism Zone made their concerns known to him about the renaming of North Park Street to Taiwan Drive. He added that their issue was the historical makeup of the entire area, since there is a significance of the names North and South Park. He said that one street is north of the park and the other is south of the park.

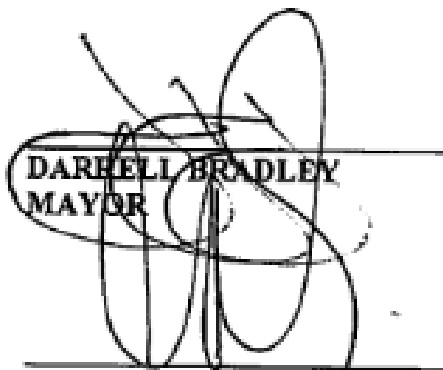
54. Mrs. Ordonez added that it is a vital part in the development of the Fort George area, and to change the names of the streets will change the historical aspect of the area.

55. Councilor Theus suggested that the name be changed to South Park Taiwan Drive. Mayor indicated that there is not much significance to the names other than their location in relation to the park, hence he doesn't see an issue with the name change. Councilor Edwards added that the president of Taiwan is schedule to visit Belize in early 2018, and since the embassy was already informed of the proposed name change, they want to tie it in with her visit. He added that the embassy be given the number 1, hence their address will be 1 Taiwan Drive.

56. Mayor stated that this could be further discussed at the next Council meeting.

57. Mayor moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Kevin Singh motioned that the meeting stands adjourned; Councilor Jason Edwards seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

58. All Councilors present voted in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm pm.



DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR

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CANDICE MILLER  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR



**Belize City Council  
RESOLUTION NO. 23 of 2017**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BILL OF QUANTITIES FOR THE  
COMMERCIAL CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

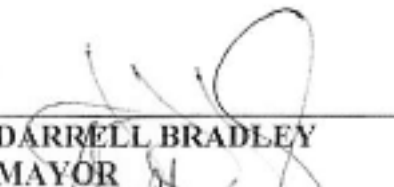
**AND WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council having been duly elected by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

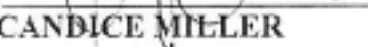
**Whereas**, the Council is desirous of securing a loan for the refurbishment of the Commercial Center and has the authority to negotiate on behalf of the Council.

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that the Council supports, approves, and confirms

- The bill of quantities for \$3.6M for the refurbishment of the Commercial Center.

**In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 6 day of July 2017, the Common Seal was hercunto affixed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CANDICE MILLER  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR**





**Belize City Council  
RESOLUTION NO. 24 of 2017**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF CONTRACTOR CARLTON  
YOUNG**

**WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

**AND WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council having been duly elected by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

**Whereas**, the Council has the authority to hire a contractor to oversee the works for the refurbishment of the Commercial Center.


**Whereas**, the Council has a responsibility to ensure that works are being carried out as documented in the Terms of Reference.

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that the Council supports, approves, and confirms

- The services of Mr. Carlton Young, to act as a consulting engineer during the renovation/ restoration of the commercial center that will serve as the New City

**In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 6 day of July 2017, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARRELL BRADLEY**  
**MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CANDICE MILLER**  
**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**







**Belize City Council  
RESOLUTION NO. 25 of 2017**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SALARY INCREASE**

**WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

**AND WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council having been duly elected by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

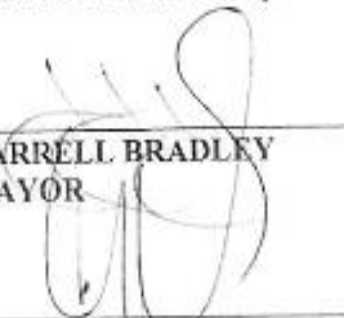
**Whereas**, the Council has the responsibility to ensure that staff are adequately compensated and strive to pay staff reasonable wage.

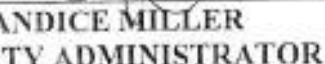
**Whereas**, the Council has the authority to review salary in accordance with the Municipal Services Regulations.

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that the Council supports, approves, and confirms

- That all staff on pay scale 6 who are on the rank of Supervisors and Coordinators shall receive a 4% increase and staff below this rank will receive 6% salary increase which would be effective on 1st December 2017.

**In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 6 day of July 2017, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CANDICE MILLER  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR**





**Belize City Council  
RESOLUTION NO. 26 of 2017**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE USE OF PUBLIC RESERVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

**AND WHEREAS**, the Belize City Council having been duly elected by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

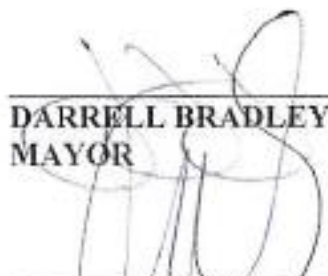
**Whereas**, the Council the Council offers the leasing of public reserves to residents that meet the requirements and subsequent inspections from the Planning Unit,

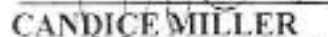
**Whereas**, the Divine Mercy Church has applied a no objection letter from the Council to use a portion of land adjacent to the church as a thoroughfare.

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that the Council supports, approves, and confirms

- That Divine Mercy Church be given a no objection letter

**In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 6 day of July 2017, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CANDICE MILLER  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

