



**AGENDA CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday December 18, 2017  
City Hall Belize City Council**

**Members to be attending**

- |                                   |           |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley            | Mayor     | 5. Any other business  |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels               | Deputy    | • Staff Insurance – Ms. Rudon  |
| 3. Mrs. Alifa Elrington           | Councilor | • System Administrator Post – Ms. Rudon  |
| 4. Dr. Alain Gonzalez             | Councilor | • Counselor – Ms. Rudon  |
| 5. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman Cuellar | Councilor | 6. Questions from members of the public  |
| 6. Mr. Kevin Singh                | Councilor | 7. Request for leave to move adjournment of Council on matters of urgent public notice |
| 7. Mr. Michael Theus              | Councilor | 8. Motions relating to Council business or sitting                                     |
| 8. Mr. Dion Leslie                | Councilor | 9. Adjournment   |
| 9. Mr. Philip Willoughby          | Councilor | 10. Setting the date for the next Council meeting                                      |
| 10. Mr. Bernard Pitts             | Councilor |  |
| 11. Mr. Jason Edwards             | Councilor |  |
12. Candice Miller, City Administrator  
13. Lesbeth Butler, Administrative Officer

**Persons to be attending by invitation**

1. Ms. Sharlene Rudon, Director of Administration
2. Mrs. Margaret McKenzie, Director Legal
3. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez, Director Finance
4. Mr. Floyd Williams, City Engineer
5. Mrs. Marilyn Garvin, Internal Auditor

**Agenda Items**

1. Prayer
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Matters Arising

Mayor's announcements/matters

- i. Budget Review
  - ii. Salary Increase Managers
4. Notices/reports/ discussion/information
- Update on Flood Mitigation (Willoughby)
  - Board Stipend (Willoughby)
  - Income Tax (Willoughby)
  - Spreader Box for Dump Truck (Willoughby)
  - Waste Control Contract (Willoughby)
  - Street Games (Edwards)
  - Hisam Diab Request (Theus)



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING (Emergency)  
Monday December 18, 2017  
Belize City Hall**

**Present:**

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley            | Mayor                    |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels               | Deputy Mayor (3:15 p.m.) |
| 3. Mr. Jason Edwards              | Councilor                |
| 4. Mr. Michael Theus              | Councilor                |
| 5. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman-Cuellar | Councilor                |
| 6. Mr. Dion Leslie                | Councilor                |
| 7. Ms. Phillip Willoughby         | Councilor                |
| 8. Mr. Kevin Singh                | Councilor                |
| 9. Ms. Alifa Elrington            | Councilor (2:55 p.m.)    |
| 1. Mrs. Lesbeth Butler            | Administrative Officer   |
| 2. Ms. Candice Miller             | City Administrator       |

**Present by invitation:**

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Marilyn Garvin    | Chief Internal Auditor    |
| 2. Mr. Floyd Williams     | City Engineer (2:50 p.m.) |
| 3. Ms. Sharlene Rudon     | Director Administration   |
| 4. Mrs. Margaret McKenzie | Director Legal            |
| 5. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez   | Director Finance          |

**Absent:**

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Alain Gonzalez | Councilor |
| 2. Mr. Bernard Pitts  | Councilor |

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.
2. Councilor Theus opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Adoption of Minutes**

3. Mayor Bradley asked Mrs. Ordonez to do a review of the budget for 2018- 2019 while the minutes of the meeting held December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was shared for reviewed.
4. Mrs. Ordonez went through the main items in the budget. She explained that the revenue projections of the budget came directly from Revenue, Valuation and Traffic Departments budget.
5. In terms of fees and services Mrs. Ordonez said that although the Quinquennial will not happen this year there should be additional revenues from:

1. The reassessment of property taxes
2. Traffic Department will start to charge for bill of quantities
3. Upfront charge on TAXI Fees.
6. Licenses such as trade and peddlers should show an increase due to the vendors moving to Memorial Park and will now pay a fee.
7. Ms. Miller said that doing stop orders also generate quite an amount of revenue.
8. Mrs. Ordonez pointed out that taxi fees falls under trade.
9. Mayor Bradley asked if there was any new revenue projections Mrs. Ordonez said no.
10. Mayor Bradley asked what was the deadline for budget submission. Mrs. Ordonez said it should have already been submitted.
11. Mayor Bradley asked Council if they had any concerns with the budget.
12. There was no concerns.
13. Mayor Bradley asked that the minutes for Caucus held December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 be reviewed after which will continue to discuss the budget.
14. Mayor Bradley clarified that at # 75 no vote was taken on the refloating of the bond. He asked that this be changed to reflect that no vote was taken and also remove #76.
15. Mayor Bradley stated that the Deputy Mayor was to give a list of the proposed streets for street works. This was to include the projections and prospectus.
16. Mayor Bradley said that he spoke to persons from Social Security and they are not willing to refloat their shared of the bond without a projection on what the bond will be used for.
17. Mayor Bradley shared that the Deputy Mayor has communicated with him via text and most of the streets he proposed for works was in Hone Park Area. He said that he also spoke to the Deputy Mayor about the selection of streets and was told that some other streets such as Victoria Street will be included. However, he never got the prospectus or projection in writing.
18. Councilor Elrington asked that a vote be taken on refloating the bond stating that the funds will be used on streets and the details will be worked out after.
19. Mayor Bradley said that the projections and prospectus is important as these facilities (Social Security Board and RF&G) needs this information to know what their money will be spent on. He said that the way the bond is structured the investor needs to be assured that the Council has the ability to pay the bond. He suggested that someone like Mr. Patrick Tillett could be hired to work out the logistics of refloating the bond.
20. Mayor Bradley stated that he will not agree to take someone's money without a plan on how they will be paid back.
21. Both Ms. Miller and Mrs. Ordonez stated that the funds will come from revenue and this has been allocated for in the budget.
22. Mrs. Ordonez pointed out to the section in the budget where the allocation has been made.
23. The Mayor said that this was on the assumptions that the budget performs however this is not a surety that the funds will be available. He said that he agrees with refloating the bond but there needs to be a secure facility. He stressed that he understands why the private entity wants to refloat as the interest rate of 5.5% is a good investment, however they needs to be assured that the Council will be able to repay.

24. The Mayor said that a committee needed to be formed to know where the money will come and a vote cannot be taken without this. The Council will need to have a facility such as the existing sinking fund which is set aside to pay the \$20M.
25. Mrs. Ordonez said that the subvention is going to the sinking fund up to 2024.
26. Councilor Willoughby asked if Council can indicate to RF&G that Council is willing to refloat the bond. However, additional time is needed to work on the detail.
27. The Mayor said that this needs to be worked out by December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as this is when the bond matures.
28. Councilor Leslie shared that next year may be high season all year as the Norwegian Cruise Line will be coming back to Belize and this will result in an increase in head tax. He said that tourists are expressing that they come to Belize to see the reef, caves and other attractions not to just go on a beach.
29. Mrs. Ordonez said that when putting the budget together the repayment of the bond at \$38,000.00 monthly was put under Works Department.
30. Mayor Bradley stated that this cannot only be budgeted for as it needs to be put together to know where the Council will get the money from. He said that all bonds need a secure facility.
31. Councilor Elrington said that indeed a specific revenue stream is needed to show where the cash will come from.
32. Mrs. Ordonez stated that there will be an increase in Property Tax as per Mr. Troy Smith.
33. Mayor Bradley stated that Mr. Smith projection cannot be used as it is not certain.
34. Mayor Bradley said that he personally spoke to Social Security and they want to see the projection and the prospectus before refloating their bond.
35. Councilor Elrington asked that a vote be taken to refloat the bond once there is a prospectus. She volunteered to do the prospectus.
36. Mayor Bradley said that a vote cannot be taken as the prospectus needs to be reviewed by Council prior to it be voted on and although RR&G may be willing to refloat their portion of the bond Social Security is not as willing.
37. Councilor Elrington expressed that she believed that the Mayor was fighting against the refloating of the bond and this is unfair to Council.
38. Mayor Bradley said that he was not fighting against the Council, however the refloating of the bond cannot be voted on unless Council has the prospectus and projections to review.
39. Mrs. Ordonez stated that the only secure funds are the subvention and the head tax which is already committed to the initial bond for the next 5 years. Thereafter, the funds will be freed however she did not believe that Council should commit these funds as it covers 2 future Council terms. She suggested that the Council do a standing order with the bank from revenues.
40. Ms. Miller said that she also believed that the Council should do a standing order with the bank for \$38,000.00 monthly to facilitate the refloating of the bond.
41. Mayor Bradley called Mr. Doug Singh from Social Security and asked what they needed in order to consider to refloat their portion of the bond. He said that Mr. Singh informed him that their position is that they need the bond prospectus and bond projection as these need to be presented to their board for consideration.
42. They wanted to know what the sinking fund has done over the last 5 years.

43. There was a discussion between Mayor Bradley and Councilor Elrington on whether or not a vote could be taken at this meeting on the refloating of the bond. The Mayor maintained that since it was not an agenda item it could not be voted on. While Councilor Elrington expressed that she believed it could be voted on based on certain conditions. She brought up the contract with NAMIS which was signed prior to it being voted on in Caucus. Mayor said this was a standard contract among all municipalities and is different.
44. Councilor Elrington maintained that it was 8 councilors against the Mayor and she thought it unfair that the Mayor is oppose to them taking a vote.
45. Mayor Bradley requested a copy of the City Council Act and the Standing Order so that he could review as he maintained that for a matter to be voted on it must be an agenda item.
46. Councilor Elrington said that they could vote on the premise of it being an item from the matters arising from the previous meeting.
47. Mrs. Ordonez said that base on the budget projections for revenues she believed that Council will be able to service the refloat. She went through some of the budget items to show where projections for increase in revenue is expected.
48. Councilor Elrington told the Mayor that she felt as if he was blocking the proposal to refloat the bond. She stated that she did not understand why the Mayor was so against the refloat of the bond when he will not be around come March 2018 so it will be the new Mayor responsibility to ensure that the bond is repaid.
49. Mayor Bradley stated that he did not want to appear as if he was blocking or shutting down the request to refloat the bond however he had some serious genuine concerns. He said that he believed that he has an obligation to ensure that the Council will be able to repay. He said that he will not take somebody's money without a plan on how it will be paid back which is what will be done without the prospectus.
50. Mayor Bradley said he would have felt more comfortable to refloat the bond if some of the litigations such as Benson Ramclam and BML was paid off. He said that as the borrower he needs to know that the money can be repaid.
51. Mayor Bradley said that with the first bond the legislation was already passed, the sinking fund was in place and the prospectus and the directors of the bond was already in place prior to the bond being offered.
52. Deputy Mayor asked why a vote cannot be taken based on the premise that it was not an agenda item.
53. Mayor Bradley said that as per the standing order for a matter to be voted on it must be an agenda item. In addition, the projection, prospectus and 3 quotes is needed to show transparency without those he is not able to take a vote.

**Councilors Cuellar, Singh and Theus left the meeting 3:50 p.m.**

**Quorum lost**

54. Mayor Bradley read some excerpts from the standing order to show where the Mayor has the decision to decide on the voting. He said that for a vote to be taken it needs to be an agenda item.
55. Councilor Willoughby pointed out that at this point it did not matter as quorum was lost therefore no vote could be taken.

56. Mayor Bradley said that he was in favor of getting street works done however he was not confident that the Council is position to service the refloat.

**Councilors Leslie and Edwards left the Meeting 4:00 p.m.**

**Other Matters**

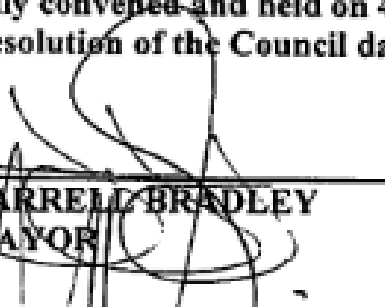
- 57. Mayor Bradley asked what will Council do about the budget.
- 58. Councilor Willoughby stated that the budget needs to be submitted as it was overdue.
- 59. The Mayor asked about the insurance for staff.
- 60. Ms. Rudon updated that at the previous Council Meeting Council had agreed on a Small Life Insurance Group Plan for the non-management employee at an affordable price. However, what was not agreed upon was whether or not the amount per person would be paid in full by Council or if it will be a co-payment.
- 61. The most reasonable proposal is from Sagicor for Basic Life, and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit for 279 non-management employees at \$25,000.00. The amount quoted by Sagicor is \$2,929.50 monthly which is \$10.50 monthly per employee.
- 62. It was pointed out that no vote could be taken as there wasn't quorum.
- 63. The Mayor said since the insurance has been effected by Council the decision is that it should be fully paid for by Council and no vote was necessary.
- 64. Mayor Bradley asked for an update on the staff land program.
- 65. Ms. Rudon informed that the committee have been trying to work with Mr. McKay however he has not been forth coming. She asked if Council could take legal action against Mr. McKay as per his contract.
- 66. Mayor Bradley asked Ms. Rudon to seek legal action against Mr. McKay through Ms. Tricia Pitts, the Council legal representative, in consultation with Mrs. McKenzie.


**Councilors Singh and Edwards returned 4:10 p.m.**

- 67. Mayor Bradley moved that the meeting stands adjourned Councilor Singh moved that the meeting be adjourned Councilor Edwards second the motion.
- 68. The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

These minutes, which are the minutes of a Council Meeting of the Belize City Council duly convened and held on 4 of December 2017 was reviewed and approved by a Resolution of the Council dated ( 18 ) December, 2017

  
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DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR

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