

**MINUTES of EMERGENCY CAUCUS MEETING**

November 13, 2018

Belize City Hall

**Present:**

- |                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. His Worship Bernard Wagner | Mayor        |
| 2. Mr. Oscar Arnold           | Deputy Mayor |
| 3. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.      | Councilor    |
| 4. Mr. Micah Goodin           | Councilor    |
| 5. Mr. Javier Castellanos     | Councilor    |
| 6. Ms. Delthrude Hylton       | Councilor    |
| 7. Mr. Ryan Elijio            | Councilor    |
| 8. Ms. Aisha Gentle           | Councilor    |
| 9. Mr. Albert Vaughan         | Councilor    |
| 10. Mr. Michael Norales       | Councilor    |
| 11. Dr. Candice Pitts         | Councilor    |

**Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt, City Administrator**

**Mr. Anthony Sylvestre Jr., Legal Advisor**

**Mr. Rafael Sosa, Manager, Office of the Mayor**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Mayor Wagner after which he led his Councilors in reciting the Belize National Prayer.**

**1.0 Ratification of October 18, 2018 Minutes**

- 1.1 The City Administrator requested a change to reflect that her absence from the October 18, 2018 Caucus Meeting was due to her being on “medical certified leave”.
- 1.2 **Presentation by Alpha Capital LLP (Belize City Council Municipal Paper) –** Mayor Wagner requested a correction in paragraph two, i.e. to replace the word “earnings” with the word “funds”.
- 1.3 Councilor Pollard Jr. moved that the minutes be ratified with changes noted. Councilor Goodin seconded the ratification of the minutes.

## 2.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

### 2.1 HOODLINKS Program

- 2.1.1 Councilor Goodin informed that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has not responded to the Belize City Council's request for the Bank to partner with the Council vis-à-vis the afterschool sporting program.
- 2.1.2 Councilor Goodin also shared that there has been no formal indication from the National Sports Council (NSC) as it pertains to the use of its sporting facilities.
- 2.1.3 Councilor Vaughan asked whether or not the IDB wishes to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Belize City Council.
- 2.1.4 The City Administrator informed that the Council's commitment is not only to pay for the coaches but also to provide water/snacks for the children participating in the **HOODLINKS** Program.
- 2.1.5 Councilor Goodin stated that the program needs to be more formalized.
- 2.1.6 Mayor Wagner reminded Councilor Goodin that the **HOODLINKS** Program falls in line with one of the Council's Manifesto commitments under the area of Education, Youth, Sports & Culture.
- 2.2 Councilor Goodin made another appeal for the allocation of parking space for Nery's Restaurant.
- 2.3 Councilor Vaughan shared that notwithstanding the fact that the Manhole Cover Project is being piloted initially, the project is progressing very well and there are photos to prove such.
- 2.4 Councilor Vaughan asked about the status of the contract renewal for the City Engineer. The City Administrator informed that the value of the new contract needs to be confirmed.
- 2.5 Councilor Elijio shared that the matter of increasing the City Engineer's salary should be tabled before the Council.
- 2.6 Mayor Wagner urged the Councilors to address their queries to HR/Administration.

- 2.7 Reference the purchase of the new fleet of pickup trucks (12) and motorcycles (12) for the Council, Councilor Goodin asked if the MIS Department could be allocated one of the pickup trucks.
- 2.8 Mayor Wagner informed the Councilor that nothing is etched in stone as it relates to the allocation of the pickup trucks and motorcycles.
- 2.9 Councilor Elijio asked about the interest rate on the purchase of the pickup trucks and Motorcycles. Mayor Wagner informed the Councilor that Caribbean Motors Limited has reduced the interest rate from 12% to 10%.
- 3.0 **Clarification of Council's Authority/Mandate**
- 3.1 Mayor Wagner requested that this portion of the meeting not be minuted. Mr. Anthony Sylvestre Jr., Legal Advisor, was invited to share his advice in respect of the Council's Authority/Mandate.
- 4.0 **City Administrator's Matters**
- 4.1 **Termination of Ms. Martha Swift, Manager, Cemetery Department**
- 4.1.1 The City Administrator recommended that the Council part ways with Ms. Martha Swift. **ALL** Councilors unanimously voted in favor – **MOTION PASSED.**
- 4.1.2 Councilor Vaughan shared that the Cemetery Department needs to undergo an immediate and comprehensive review.
- 4.2 **Presentation on Projected Revenue & Expenditure 2019 (Acting Finance Director, Valuation Manager, Revenue Manager)**
- 4.2.1 The City Administrator informed that the date for the Council to submit its approved budget to the Ministry of Local Government is **November 16, 2018.**
- 4.2.2 The presenters informed that the Council's Revenue Committee is considering ways in which the Council could generate more revenue.
- 4.2.3 The Council's Tax Collectors have been placed under Compliance and have been instructed to focus their efforts on collecting outstanding tax arrears.

- 4.2.4 Councilor Vaughan asked about taxes that are owing to the Council by owners of abandoned properties. In responding to the Councilor's question, the Valuation Manager shared that there exists a vast number of abandoned properties in the City whose property owners are delinquent.
- 4.2.5 It was decided that the Council will convene to vote on the proposal submitted by the Revenue Committee for the generation of additional revenue. Councilors would be provided with a copy of the presentation made by the Revenue Managers.
- 4.2.6 The City Administrator expressed her wish for the Revenue Managers to return the following day to present the budget to the Council. It was agreed that the Council would reconvene on **Wednesday, November 14, 2018** to review and approve said budget.
- 4.2.7 Councilor Pollard Jr. requested that the Council consider a more efficient system than that of the current requisition system.
- 5.0 **Trade Boards/Trade Appeal Boards/Liquor Licensing Board/Audit Committee**
- 5.1 The City Administrator informed that the Council has until **November 15, 2018** to decide on the composition of the relevant Boards.
- 5.1.1 The City Administrator informed that the composition of the Liquor Licensing Board requires the approval of the Ministry of Local Government.
- 5.1.2 The City Administrator recommended that the current composition of the Trade Boards remain as is.
- 5.1.3 The City Administrator informed that the Council may appoint members to the Audit Committee. Councilor Vaughan asked if the Audit Committee is functional.
- 5.1.4 The City Administrator recommended that the Mayor & Councilors voted on the composition of the relevant Boards via their private WhatsApp chat group.
- 6.0 **Other Matters**
- 6.1 Councilor Eljio raised the matter of the recent public squabble on social media among Special Constables.

- 6.1.1 The City Administrator informed that a meeting will be convened with the entire Special Constable Department. At that meeting, the parties involved will be given the opportunity to air their grievances. Those who are found to be culpable would be made to face the Disciplinary Committee (DC).
- 6.1.2 Councilor Hylton strongly recommended that there be police presence at the meeting with the Special Constable Department.
- 6.2 Councilor Pitts asked about a photo that was circulating on social media in which two current employees of the Belize City Council were seen in the company of the former City Administrator.
  - 6.2.1 The current City Administrator informed that one of the said employees, under suspicion of leaking information, was immediately transferred to another Department. The other employee will be given a stern warning.
  - 6.2.2 Councilor Vaughan shared that employees need to exercise better judgment and discretion.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 after which it was agreed that the Council would reconvene the following day to complete the meeting agenda.

**MINUTES of EMERGENCY CAUCUS MEETING (CONT'D.)**

November 14, 2019  
Belize City Hall

**Present:**

<b>Mr. Oscar Arnold</b>	<b>Deputy Mayor</b>
<b>Ms. Aisha Gentle</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Ms. Delthruide Hylton</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Mr. Javier Castellanos</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Mr. Micah Goodin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.</b>	<b>Councilor</b>

**Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt, City Administrator**

**Mr. Rafael Sosa, Manager, Office of the Mayor**

**Apologies:** Mayor Bernard Wagner (preparation of presentation for press briefing)

**Absent:**

<b>Dr. Candice Pitts</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Mr. Ryan Elijio</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Mr. Albert Vaughan</b>	<b>Councilor</b>
<b>Mr. Michael Norales</b>	<b>Councilor</b>

The meeting reconvened at 3:31 p.m. after quorum was reached. Deputy Mayor Arnold chaired day two of the meeting in the Mayor's absence.

**7.0 BTL Agreement to Rename/Rebrand BTL Park**

7.1 The City Administrator informed that the clause in the Agreement, which stated that BTL would maintain the name "DIGI Park" after the period of the Agreement expires, has been removed.

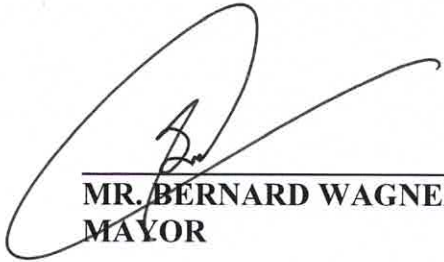
7.1.1 A motion was made for the Mayor and the City Administrator to proceed with the contractual agreement for BTL to rename/rebrand the BTL Park. **ALL** six Councilors present unanimously voted in favor – **MOTION PASSED.**

**8.0 Relocation of House on Ring Road Park**

8.1 It was discussed that a house currently occupies the northeast section of Ring Road Park. It was further shared that the homeowner has agreed to relocate to an area that is located outside of the reserve area.

8.1.1 A motion was moved for the Council to approve the relocation of said house. **ALL** six Councilors present unanimously voted in favor – **MOTION PASSED.**

Councilor Hylton moved for day two of the meeting to be adjourned. Councilors Gentle and Pollard Jr. seconded the adjournment.



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**MR. BERNARD WAGNER**  
**MAYOR**



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**MRS. STEPHANIE LINDO-GARBUTT**  
**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**