



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA (Special)

Wednesday October 26th, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Belize City Hall – Mayor’s Office

Members to be attending

- | | |
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| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Jason Edwards | Councilor |
| 3. Mrs. Alifa Elrington Hyde | Councilor |
| 4. Dr. Alain Gonzalez | Councilor |
| 5. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman Cuellar | Councilor |
| 6. Mr. Kevin Singh | Councilor |
| 7. Mr. Michael Theus | Councilor |
| 8. Mr. Dion Leslie | Councilor |
| 9. Mr. Philip Willoughby | Councilor |
| 10. Mr. Bernard Pitts | Councilor |
| 11. Mr. Dean Samuels | Councilor |
12. Candice Burke, City Administrator
13. Lesbeth Butler – Administrative Officer

Agenda Items

1. Prayer

Mayor’s Discussion points:

- i. Trade Reform
 - ii. Contracts
2. Motions relating to Council business or sitting
3. Adjournment
4. Setting the date for the next Council meeting



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING (Special Meeting)
Wednesday October 26th, 2016
Belize City Hall Mayor's Office**

Present:

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels | Deputy Mayor |
| 3. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman- Cuellar | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Jason Edwards | Councilor |
| 5. Ms. Alifa Elrington- Hyde | Councilor (absent – Court) |
| 6. Mr. Kevin Singh | Councilor (11:05 a.m.) |
| 7. Mr. Michael Theus | Councilor |
| 8. Mr. Alain Gongalez | Councilor (10:48 a.m.) |
| 9. Mr. Dion Leslie | Councilor |
| 10. Mr. Bernard Pitts | Councilor |
| 11. Mr. Philip Willoughby | Councilor |
| 1. Ms. Candice Miller | City Administrator |
| 2. Mrs. Lesbeth Butler | Administrative Officer |

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.

Councilor Michael Theus opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Mayor welcomed Councilors to the Council meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Due to the meeting being a Special Council Meeting the minutes of the four previous meetings were not reviewed.

Mayor Darrell Bradley

i. TRADE LICENSE & PROPERTY TAX

1. The issue of the Trade License reform was discussed. The Mayor updated that another meeting was held with the Chamber where it was decided that a full review of the Trade Reform Proposal was to be done by April 2017. The Chamber requested that the Council commits to not increasing the Trade License. The 10% reduction suggested by the Council was not being requested by the Chamber.
2. Mrs. Miller asked if the Council would be offering discounts for early payment of Property Tax as was done in previous years. She suggested the below discount tier be applied:
 - a. 20% discount for payments made on or before November 15th, 2016
 - b. 15% discount for payments made November 16th to December 31st, 2016
 - c. 10% discounts January 1st, 2017 to March 31st, 2017
3. Councilor Theus said that he had a concern as the discount was already being offered prior to coming to the Council for a decision. Ms. Miller said that was not the case. The Mayor requested that Mrs. Ordonez share the list of the discounts already given.
4. The Mayor took a vote on the offering the discount. All the Councilors voted in favor of offering the discount. **MOTION CARRIED**

ii. CONTRACTS

5. The Mayor asked if there was any objection to the renewal of Mrs. McKenzie's contract and making it 3 years.
6. Councilor Theus had no objection, however he had a concern that Mrs. McKenzie is tied up in too many projects which distracts her from Council business.
7. Ms. Miller stated that Mrs. McKenzie gets approval for any project or committee she sits on.
8. The Mayor suggested that the Council looks into giving its Directors tenure.
9. Councilor Pitts asked if there was any exit clause on the contracts and the Mayor confirmed that there was an exit clause that the contract can be terminated without notice.
10. The Mayor requested that a vote be taken on the renewal of Mrs. McKenzie contract.
11. The Council resolved to extend Mrs. McKenzie contract for another 3 years. A committee comprising of Councilors Theus, Singh, Cuellar and Edwards is to meet within 7 days to discuss expectations with Mrs. McKenzie and document the discussion. All Councilors voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. The Mayor then went on to Mr. Floyd Williams contract. He stated that he can attest to Mr. Williams honesty, however, he does believe that more supervision is needed.
13. Ms. Miller stated that she had no objection with renewing Mr. Williams contract.
14. Several of the Councilors raised their concerns with Mr. Williams. Generally it was believed that he was not responsive and took too long to address concerns. In addition, he hardly answers his phone and never returns calls. It was generally felt that most times he was clueless on issues that needed to be addressed.
15. Councilor Singh stated that since no discussion was had with Mr. Williams about his performance he believed that the contract should be renewed.
16. The Mayor asked that a vote be taken on renewing Mr. Williams contract.
17. A vote was taken that the Council resolved to renew Mr. Williams contact for a period of 1 year. A committee comprising of Deputy Mayor Dean Samuels, Councilors Pitts, Singh, Edwards, Elrington and the City Administrator will meet with Mr. Williams within 7 days to discuss expectations with Mr. Williams and document the discussion. All Councilors voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**


OTHER MATTERS

18. The Mayor stated that Joseph Kee, owner of Pier One, discussed the issue of damages to the establishment due to Hurricane Earl. He stated that Mr. Kee is asking for the Council to bear half of the cost for damages and extend his contract to another 10 years. Total cost of damages is \$33,134.74.
19. The Mayor requested that a resolution be passed that the Council will bear half of the cost of \$33,134.74 for repairs of damages caused by Hurricane Earl, which totals to \$16,567.37 payable on or before December 31st, 2016. Mr. Kee, the proprietor, will bear the other half. The Mayor also requested that Mr. Kee's contract be extended for another 10 years. The Pier will continue to belong exclusively to the Council. All Councilors voted in favor of these resolutions. **MOTION CARRIED**
20. Ms. Miller updated that the post for Special Constable Manager still needed to be filled. She said that an internal interview was done and the only candidate was Elvis Lopez. The panelist on the interview voted in favor of granting Mr. Lopez the post.
21. There was a general discussion on giving the post to Mr. Lopez. A view expressed by some Councilors was that the department is a difficult one to manage and needed someone forceful. Some also believed that the department needed "a new face as coordinator".
22. Ms. Miller stated that Mr. Lopez had been holding over the post for last few months and doing a good job. She believes that even if the post was given to someone else it would still be Mr. Lopez doing the work.
23. The Mayor asked that Councilor Pitts and Singh have a discussion with Mr. Lopez within 7 days and give their feedback to the Council.

24. It was also decided that no decision would be made until after the minutes of the interview was reviewed.
25. Councilor Dion Leslie informed that he is scheduled to visit Shanghai for 2 weeks in his capacity as a Councilor. He requested that the Council approved per diem for him. A vote was taken and all Councilors voted in favor of granting him per diem. **MOTION CARRIED.**
26. Councilor Pitts requested that per diem be paid for his visit to New York to attend Council business. A vote was taken and all Councilors voted in favor of granting him per diem. **MOTION CARRIED.**
27. The Mayor brought up the proposal which was sent from Mr. Raul Pelayo for a project at Sand Lighters Promenade. He mentioned that although the Council had approved the project there was several concerns. Some of these concerns are parking, restroom facilities, pollution and traffic. The Mayor said that the Council approval was only for the building of the structure.
28. After discussion the Mayor suggested that the Council request that Mr. Pelayo do a study on the impact of the project at his own expense.
29. This study is needed for the Council to take Mr. Pelayo's proposal into consideration.
30. The study must be done by someone credible.
31. Mayor moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Pitts motioned that the meeting stands adjourned; Councilor Cuellar seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

All Councilors present voted in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.


DARRELL BRADLEY, Mayor


CANDICE MILLER, City Administrator



**Belize City Council
RESOLUTION NO. 30 of 2016**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPERTY TAX DISCOUNT

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,

Whereas, the Belize City Council is a duly elected body by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and is entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

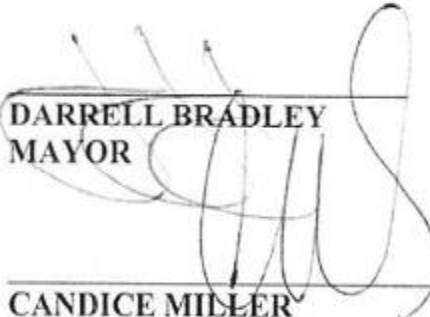
Whereas, the Towns Property Tax Act CAP 65 SEC 18 (1) of the substantive laws of Belize directs that on 1st of April in each year, by Order made on or before 15th April in the preceding year, declare the rates to be levied and collected on all properties situated within the limits of its town and liable to be taxed in accordance with this Act.

Whereas, the Council has reviewed and discussed the rates to be levied on properties within Belize City,

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

- 20% discount for payments made on or before November 15th, 2016
- 15% discount for payments made November 16th to December 31st, 2016
- 10% discounts January 1st, 2017 to March 31st, 2017

In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 26 day of October 2016, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:


DARRELL BRADLEY
MAYOR

CANDICE MILLER
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

