



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA (Special)

Tuesday August 15th 2017

2:00 p.m.

City Hall Belize City Council

Members to be attending

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels | Deputy |
| 3. Mrs. Alifa Elrington | 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. Jason Edwards | Councilor |

12. Candice Miller, City Administrator
13. Lesbeth Butler, Administrative Officer

10. Setting the date for the next Council meeting

Persons to be attending by invitation

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

Agenda Items

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

Mayor's announcements/matters

- i. Trade License Reform
4. Notices/reports/ discussion/information
 5. Any other business
 6. Questions from members of the public
 7. Request for leave to move adjournment of Council on matters of urgent public notice
 8. Motions relating to Council business or sitting
 9. Adjournment



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING (Special)
Tuesday August 15th, 2017
Belize City Hall**

Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels | Deputy Mayor |
| 3. Dr. Alain Gonzalez | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Kevin Singh | Councilor |
| 5. Mr. Bernard Pitts | Councilor |
| 6. Mr. Jason Edwards | Councilor |
| 7. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman-Cuellar | Councilor |
| 8. Mr. Philip Willoughby | Councilor |
| | |
| 1. Ms. Candice Miller | City Administrator |
| 2. Mrs. Lesbeth Butler | Manager Office of the Mayor |

Present by invitation:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Kerry Belisle | CEO Ministry of Finance |
| 2. Mr. Clifford King | Acting Director- Local Government |
| 3. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez | Director Finance |
| 4. Mrs. Marilyn Garvin | Internal Auditor |
| 5. Mr. Floyd Williams | City Engineer |
| 6. Mr. Troy Smith | Valuation Manager (4:10 p.m.) |

Absent:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Dion Leslie | Councilor |
| 2. Mr. Michael Theus | Councilor (out of the country Council business) |
| 3. Ms. Alifa Elrington | Councilor |

1. Being a special meeting the minutes of the last meetings wasn't reviewed.
2. The Mayor asked CEO Belisle and Mr. King to proceed with their presentation.
3. Mr. King stated that the Trade License Reform exercise was being done to have a regime that will truly reflect what will be the annual rental value for trade license. He said that several hours have been spent to find a balanced and various options has been explored to determine the impact. A challenge is to determine the actual rental value and how to apply

- a fee to it. Their review showed that most times the 25% mandated by law was not being adhered to.
4. Mr. King than passed over to CEO Belisle.
 5. CEO Belisle stated that there was several pressing issues and wanted the Council to appreciate why it is a difficult exercise. He said that when the revenue lost is huge and the disparity between actual and proposed, the exercise was to try to find a middle ground. Their mandate was to get revenue reduces to within 5% and working with that percentage for Belize City was not possible. The revenue lost for Belize City is significant hence the reason he is suggesting that it does not go to the House on Friday August 18th, 2017. He said that they needed to get the rental value right and put the mechanism in place to ensure that equitability is in place. They need to collect data to compute proper rental value and have a uniform methodology in place. He said that they needed a few months to work with the municipalities to put this in place and not have any municipality adversely affected as this would create issues.
 6. Councilor Theus asked what is the time frame to put this in place
 7. CEO Belisle said that they would need to go into the next fiscal year with the same trade roll as it will be some months.
 8. Mr. King said that several things needed to be completed:
 - The rent book needs to be completed
 - The term of reference needs to be determined
 - Funding for communication to stakeholders is needed
 - Method to determine the average rental value need to be developed
 9. Councilor Theus suggested that the Chamber of Commerce assist with the payment for this exercise.
 10. CEO Belisle stated that he believed the cost would be bear between GOB and Central Bank as it would be difficult to get Chamber to pay for it.
 11. Mr. Troy Smith stated that one of the difficulty will be to tell people what their rental value is as people believe that the same space and same business equal same rent but this is not the case.
 12. CEO Belisle stated that some of the decisions could have legal challenge and they were trying to avoid this. He said that mechanisms need to be put to place to enforce.
 13. Ms. Miller said that the primary objective is to get rid of subjectivity and be able to support the value being applied.
 14. Mrs. Ordonez stated that the lost is too great and standardization is important.
 15. CEO Belisle stated that structure of the categories is needed and the fee should prevail.
 16. Mr. King stated that once this is completed it will be put in place/fixed for 4 years so by the third year they will need to review for modification.
 17. Councilor Theus suggested that once the trade reform is put in place they could look at removing the trade license and just have a fee.
 18. CEO Belisle stated that the nature of how charges is levied speaks to a fee and in submission of the Solicitor General it is a fee and not a tax.
 19. Councilor Theus said that he foresees this as a fee.
 20. CEO Belisle said that presently the ARV is used however a uniform assessment of ARV is needed.
 21. There was a general discussion the pros and cons on trade being a license or a tax.
 22. CEO Belisle closed by thanking Council for the opportunity to present to them.

23. Petitions from the Public


24. No petitions from the public was done.

25. The Mayor moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

26. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



DARRELL BRADLEY, Mayor



CANDICE MILLER, City Administrator

