

MINUTES of CAUCUS MEETING

Caucus Room
Belize City Hall
March 11, 2021

Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. His Worship Bernard Wagner | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Albert Vaughan | Councilor |
| 3. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Allan Pollard | Councilor |
| 5. Mr. Micah Goodin | Councilor |
| 6. Ms. Kaya Cattouse | Councilor |
| 7. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton | Councilor |
| 8. Mr. Edmund Kwan | Councilor |
| 9. Mr. Michael Novelo | Councilor |
| 10. Ms. Natasha Pipersburgh | Councilor |
| 11. Ms. Deannie Requeña | Councilor |

Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt, City Administrator

Mr. Rafael Sosa, Manager, Office of the Mayor

Mr. Eluide Miller, Manager in Training, Office of the Mayor

The meeting was called to order at 10:27 a.m. by Mayor Wagner after which he informed all present that Councilor Vaughan will be a bit late to the meeting.

- 1.0** Mayor Wagner led all in attendance in reciting the Belize National Prayer.

2.0 Mayor's Opening Remarks

- 2.1 Mayor Wagner welcomed all Councilors to the Caucus. Mayor Wagner stressed the importance of upholding the manifesto as it was signed onto and agreed upon by all Councilors.
- 2.2 Mayor Wagner issued cell phones to all **new** Councilors that were added to the Council's phone plan as a measure to assist them in carrying out their respective duties.
- 2.3 Mayor Wagner stressed the importance of abiding by the Standing Orders and reminded Councilors that this is binded in agreement with the Ministry of Local Government.

Address by Councilors:

Councilor Micah Goodin expressed that he is reenergized and is looking forward to working in cohesion with the fellow Councilors.

Councilor Kaya Cattouse expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a Belize City Councilor and stated that she is excited to work on behalf of Belize City residents. .

Councilor Edmund Kwan expressed that he is honored to be working along with the new administration and looks forward to accomplishing great things as a Belize City Councilor.

Councilor Stephanie Hamilton expressed her support and commitment to working in conjunction with the Mayor and all fellow Councilors.

Councilor Allan Pollard Jr. welcomed the new Councilors and expressed his excitement in working along with the new team. Councilor Pollard then reminded all fellow Councilors of the importance of the works being carried out as representatives of Belize City residents.

Councilor Javier Castellanos welcomed all new Councilors and expressed his excitement in working closely with the new team.

Councilor Vaughan arrived at the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

3.0 Ratification of January 26, 2021 Minutes by Returning Councilors

- 3.1 Mayor Wagner announced that ratification of the January 26, 2021 minutes would be carried out by returning councilors.
- 3.2 Councilor Goodin moved for the ratification of the January 26, 2021 minutes of the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

- 4.1 Councilor Vaughan inquired about the status of the procurement of heavy-duty equipment by the Belize City Council.
 - 4.1.1 City Administrator shared that the Council has received (3) of (5) of the vehicles that were to be procured under the agreement with Mr. Sampson. The City Administrator expressed that (2) of these (3) pieces of equipment were faulty and had to be returned to the supplier for repair.
 - 4.1.2 Mayor Wagner stated that the Council should freeze payments to Mr. Sampson as it is integral that the Council receives value for its money.
 - 4.1.3 Councilor Vaughn suggested that the Council meet with Mr. Sampson in efforts to come to some sort of arrangement as it is of importance that the new Councilors have the equipment needed to carry out works across their respective departments.
 - 4.1.4 Mayor Wagner highlighted that a (1) year warranty was guaranteed as a part of the agreement to procure the pieces of heavy-duty equipment.
 - 4.1.5 Councilor Goodin suggested that the Council only engage in the purchasing of new pieces of equipment going forward as to not do a disservice to the residents of Belize City.
 - 4.1.6 Mayor Wagner suggested that the Council meet with Mr. Sampson urgently in an effort to establish an agreement in relation to the procurement of the aforementioned heavy-duty equipment.

5.0 Mayor's Announcements and Matters

Election of Deputy Mayor

- 5.1 Mayor Wagner highlighted that the Belize City Council Act states that at the first Caucus after election, the Caucus must vote on the election of the Deputy Mayor. Mayor Wagner highlighted the importance of the Deputy Mayor's role and stressed the importance of their responsibility to the Mayor and fellow Councilors.
- 5.1.1 Mayor Wagner opened the floor for nominations for Deputy Mayor.
- 5.1.2 Councilor Vaughan shared that the Deputy Mayor must be a unifier who is capable of bridging the gap between the respective offices. Councilor Vaughan nominated Councilor Allan Pollard Jr. since he has gained seniority and experience and believes he will be the right candidate for the post.
- 5.1.3 Councilor Goodin seconded the nomination of Councilor Pollard for the post of Deputy Mayor.
- 5.1.4 Mayor Wagner inquired if there are any other nominations.
- 5.1.5 Councilor Pollard accepted the nomination for the post of Deputy Mayor.
- 5.1.6 Mayor Wagner moved for the appointment of Councilor Allan Pollard Jr. as Deputy Mayor of the Belize City Council for the term 2021/2022. **Vote was unanimous.**
MOTION PASSED
- 5.1.6 Deputy Mayor Pollard thanked Councilor Vaughan for his nomination. Deputy Pollard assured Mayor Wagner and fellow Councilors that he will remain accessible and supportive in this new role.
- 5.1.7 Mayor Wagner thanked Deputy Pollard for his contributions to the Belize City Council over the past term and expressed that the new group of Councilors is now counting on him to continue along the same path.

5.1.8 Mayor Wagner highlighted the addition of four (4) new female Councilors and stressed the importance of women in leadership. Mayor Wagner then wished all female Councilors a “Happy Women’s Month” on behalf of the Belize City Council.

Contract Renewal for City Administrator

5.2 The City Administrator made a presentation outlining her accomplishments and achievements over the period of her last (2) contracts.

5.2.1 Mayor Wagner shared that the City Administrator’s existing contract expires on March 31, 2021. Mayor Wagner then highlighted that the contract requires the City Administrator to write to the Mayor expressing her interest in extending the contract at least (3) months in advance of the expiration date.

5.2.2 Mayor Wagner expressed his appreciation for the work carried out by the City Administrator and commended her for her professionalism and exemplary performance.

5.2.3 Councilor Goodin congratulated the City Administrator for her dedication and stated that her contract should be extended given her performance.

5.2.4 Councilor Castellanos expressed his support for the extension of the City Administrator’s contract.

5.2.5 Councilor Vaughan expressed that he is pleased with the work done by the City Administrator and also gave his support for the extending of the City Administrator's contract.

5.2.6 Councilor Hamilton shared that she is impressed with the work that the City Administrator has done from a fiscal and human resource standpoint. Councilor Hamilton then pledged her support for the extension of the City Administrator’s contract.

5.2.7 Councilor Novelo commended the City Administrator for her work and highlighted that there has never been a financial scandal of any sorts under her leadership.

5.2.8 Councilor Requeña expressed her support for the extension of the City Administrator’s contract.

- 5.2.9 Councilor Cattouse conveyed her support for the extension of the City Administrator's contract.
- 5.2.10 Councilor Kwan expressed his support for the extension of the City Administrator's contract.
- 5.2.11 Councilor Pipersburgh communicated her support for the extension of the City Administrator's contract.
- 5.2.12 Deputy Mayor Pollard that he is glad to see that his fellow Councilors are clear on the direction they want to go. Deputy Mayor Pollard then shared that he is pleased with the work that has been done and expressed his support for the extension of the City Administrator's contract.
- 5.2.13 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the renewal of the City Administrator's contract through April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Kwan. **Vote was unanimous. MOTION PASSED**

6.0 Assignment of Councilor Portfolios - Mayor Bernard Wagner

- 6.1 Mayor Wagner announced that he would retain his portfolios of Finance and Administration, Budgeting, Human Resources, CARILED, Anti-corruption.
- 6.2 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Works, Infrastructure, Urban Development, Labor Relations to Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr.
- 6.3 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Sanitation, Maintenance, Community Engagement to Councilor Micah Goodin.
- 6.4 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Traffic Management and Security to Councilor Albert Vaughan.
- 6.5 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Market Management, Special Constables to Councilor Javier Castellanos.
- 6.6 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of MIS, Staff Development and Training, Youth and Sports, Wellness and E-Governance to Councilor Kaya Cattouse.



- 6.7 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Public Health, Cemetery, Parks and Playgrounds, Beautification to Councilor Michael Novelo.
- 6.8 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Tourism, Diaspora Relations, Zoning and Planning, Building Unit to Councilor Stephanie Hamilton.
- 6.9 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Municipal Court, CEMO, Climate Change, Disaster and Risk Management, Women and Children, NGO's to Councilor Natasha Pipersburgh.
- 6.10 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Local Economic Development, Trade and Investment, Small and New Business to Councilor Edmund Kwan.
- 6.11 Mayor Wagner assigned the portfolios of Foreign Affairs and Sister City Relations, After School Programs, Public Relations and Special Events to Councilor Deannie Requeña.
- 6.12 Mayor Wagner stressed the importance of carrying out the functions of the respective Portfolios and reminded Councilors of their obligation to the Citizens of Belize City.

Councilor Castellanos left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

7.0 Appointment of Councilors for Renegotiation of Collective Bargaining Agreement

- 7.1 Mayor Wagner highlighted the importance of finalizing a counterproposal for the Collective Bargaining Agreement by March 31, 2021.
- 7.2 Mayor Wagner appointed Deputy Mayor Pollard, Councilor Vaughan and Councilor Hamilton to the Committee that will take charge in preparing renegotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Councilor Castellanos returned to the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

8.0 Appointment of Councilors to the Disciplinary Action Committee

- 8.1 Mayor recommended that Councilor Vaughan be appointed to the Disciplinary Action Committee.

- 8.2 Councilor Novelo expressed his interest in being a part of the Committee.
- 8.3 The City Administrator highlighted that Deputy Mayor Pollard should be appointed to the Committee given his portfolio of Labor Relations.
- 8.4 Mayor Wagner appointed Deputy Mayor Pollard and Councilor Vaughan to the Disciplinary Action Committee as Councilor representatives.

9.0 Ratification of Street Works Contracts

- 9.1 The City Administrator highlighted that the City Engineer provided the summary of street works for revision by Mayor and Councilors.
- 9.2 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Holy Emmanuel Street costing \$158,554.80 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**
- 9.3 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Sybil Reyes Street costing \$93,015.00 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**
- 9.4 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Chapel Lane costing \$39,898.40 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**
- 9.5 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Logwood Street costing \$170,077.00 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**
- 9.6 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Banak Street costing \$198,962.00 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**
- 9.7 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Hicattee Street costing \$134,991.00 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**

9.8 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Sarstoon Street costing \$137,015.60 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**

9.8 Mayor Wagner moved for the ratification of street works completed on Cedar Street costing \$118,062.80 after revision of street works summary submitted by the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. **MOTION PASSED**

10. Submissions to Building Unit – Ms. Carla Patnett, City Planner

- Request from Ms. Silvia Veliz Reyes for permission to attach awning to dwelling extending ten (10) feet into the Mahogany Street Reserve - **MOTION PASSED.**
- Request from Ms. Andrea O'Connor and Mr. Dudley Nunez for permission to erect a small wooden structure in the Mahogany Street Reserve for the purpose of vending food – **MOTION PASSED.**
- Request from Ms. Lourdes Paz to set up a booth measuring 16' X 10' in front of or over the canal at East Collect Canal near the Police Booth – **MOTION DENIED.**
- Request from Ms. Louise Bailey for permission to install temporary roofing over Stall #73 at the Michael Finnegan Market – **MOTION PASSED with no offset.**


11.0 Other Business

No other matters were tabled.


12.0 Adjournment


12.1 Mayor Wagner moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos. Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

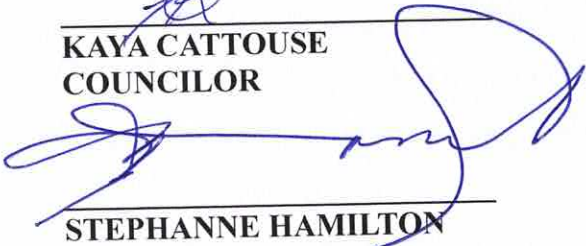

ALBERT VAUGHAN
COUNCILOR



MICHAEL NOVELO
COUNCILOR



JAVIER CASTELLANOS
COUNCILOR



KAYA CATTOUSE
COUNCILOR



MICAH GOODIN
COUNCILOR

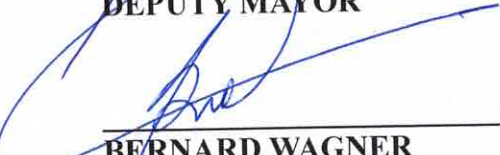

STEPHANNE HAMILTON
COUNCILOR


NATASHA PIPERSBURGH
COUNCILOR


EDMUND KWAN
COUNCILOR


DEANNIE REQUENA
COUNCILOR


ALLAN POLLARD JR.
DEPUTY MAYOR


BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR


STEPHANIE LINDO-GARBUTT
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

