



## **COUNCIL MEETING**

October 5, 2016

Belize City Hall Council Chambers

### **Members to be attending**

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

### **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

### **Agenda Items**

1. Prayer
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Matters Arising
- Mayor's announcements/matters
  - i. CALGA & CAMCAYCA
  - ii. City Month & City Branding
  - iii. Trade License Reform
  - iv. Taxi Moratorium
  - v. Kings Park Zoning Regulation
  - vi. Contracts
4. Notices/reports/ discussion/information
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**MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Belize City Hall Mayor's Office**

**Present:**

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley             | Mayor                                 |
| 2. Mr. Dean Samuels                | Deputy Mayor                          |
| 3. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman- Cuellar | Councilor (2:25 p.m.)                 |
| 4. Mr. Jason Edwards               | Councilor (absent)                    |
| 5. Ms. Alifa Elrington- Hyde       | Councilor (absent/out of the country) |
| 6. Mr. Kevin Singh                 | Councilor                             |
| 7. Mr. Michael Theus               | Councilor                             |
| 8. Mr. Alain Gonzalez              | Councilor (absent)                    |
| 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                |

**Present by invitation:**

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Floyd Williams    | City Engineer (3:10 p.m.)          |
| 2. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez  | Director of Finance                |
| 3. Mrs. Marilyn Garvin   | Chief Internal Auditor (2:30 p.m.) |
| 4. Ms. Sharlene Rudon    | Director HR/PR (4:10 p.m.)         |
| 5. Ms. Margaret McKenzie | Director Legal Services            |

**Minutes of Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Councilor Dean Samuels opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Mayor welcomed Councilors and Directors to the Council meeting.

**Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the three previous meetings was printed and ready for review, however the adoption was deferred.

## **Mayor Darrell Bradley**

### ***i. CALGA & CAMCAYCA***

1. The Mayor updated that the Mayor's Association as well as the Ministry of Local Government are being asked to host the Caribbean Urban Forum. The forum is tentatively scheduled for May 2017. Since the forum is scheduled to be held in Belize the Belize City Council would be at the forefront of the planning. This forum does require a budget, however, the Mayor believes that the Council would get support from entities such as the UK High Commissioner, the US Ambassador and the Taiwan Ambassador. CALGA would like some indication that the Belize City Council is willing to be the host city.
2. The Mayor express that hosting the forum in Belize would be beneficial as it will involve the Mayor's Association, Ministry of Local Government and the Embassies. The Council will be part of the planning committee therefore representatives from the Council would participate in the planning. In addition, the Council would conduct some of the sessions therefore initiatives such as the Land Use Policy, Training and Capacity Building, Trade License Reform, CARILED Projects etc. as well as some of the other initiatives being done by the Council would be highlighted.
3. The Mayor discussed that the CALGA (*The Caribbean Association of Local Government and Authorities*) and CAMCAYCA (*Confederation of Municipal Associations of Central America and the Caribbean Associations*) bodies represents a coming together of local bodies to discuss their common issues including taxation, economic development, tourism and other social issues. This allows the municipalities to work together to lobby with the national leaders for more autonomy in their respective municipalities.

### ***ii. City Month & City Branding***

1. The Mayor commented that the City Branding soft launch was completed and very well done. He requested suggestions on what other activities can be done to advertise the brand. He asked the Councilors to embrace the branding and promote it. He also requested that the 5 year strategy that has been developed be put into action.
2. Mrs. McKenzie suggested that we explore activities done by other countries.
3. Councilor Pitts suggested that a City Map be developed to highlight the major restaurants and tourist attraction of the city. He informed that Mr. Morgan is already working on getting pictures of these city attractions and a brochure will be made highlighting these attractions.
4. It was also highlighted that no Welcome Sign to the city is in place.
5. The Mayor requested that Councilors Pitts, Theus and Cuellar work on the branding. He also mentioned that October is the month for City and Urban issues, such as: zoning, branding, crime and poverty. He suggested that some Public Relations be done in this month to highlight and publicize what is being done by the city. Some of the suggestions made were: conduct weekly outreach/presentations to schools and

conduct a survey to hear from the young people on how they see their city in the next 20 years.

6. The Mayor asked that the Councilors visit the schools to engage in the above, listen to their concerns and implement where possible. He requested that Councilor Cuellar advise UNICEF of these initiatives.
7. Councilor Theus suggested that the branding be put on license plates. He also suggested the Council work with the airlines to have them promote our brand.

### ***iii. Trade License Reform***

8. The Mayor presented a schedule showing the proposed 18 categories of businesses along with the respective calculated trade fee. He discussed the benefits of this proposal and his support for the revision of the current calculation. He reiterated that this calculation strikes a balance between revenue for municipalities. It also provide a tax that is certain and predictable while affording ease to some businesses.
9. The Mayor stressed that Property Tax and Trade License needs to be standardized. The Tax Reform would establish a set tax within a range with sub-categories. As part of this exercise businesses will need to be properly revalued.
10. Ms. Miller voiced that the Council would be losing too much revenue. She gave some examples of different businesses and the drastic reduction in tax they would receive under the new structure.
11. The Mayor stated that with the new structure the Council would lose approximately 20% of revenue which is what the Council agreed that they can afford to lose. Ms. Miller stated that the lost in revenue would be much greater than 20%.
12. Councilor Theus suggested that a tri-partied body be set up to review. He also suggested that a 3 year system be put in place for implementation.
13. The Mayor suggested that a committee be formed to review and provide a report. He also mentioned that consultation with the Belize Chamber of Commerce and the Public will continue.
14. The Mayor requested that Mr. Troy Smith review and provide a report within 2 weeks.
15. Councilor Pitts voiced that he is okay with the schedule however in reference to the loss it should not be more than 19%.
16. The Mayor said that the lost in revenue would be made up from Traffic Tickets and other fees as well as cutting down on expenses.
17. Ms. Miller also suggested the sale of personalize license plates at a fee of \$1000 which would be cap at 500.

### ***iv. Taxi Moratorium***

18. Councilor Pitts presented his proposal for lifting of the Taxi Moratorium. There was a discussion on the criteria of not having vehicles older than 10 years be able to register as taxi. Some Councilors felt that it should be extended to 15 years. At the end of the discussion it was agreed to leave the criteria at 10 years.
19. The Mayor stated that standardization was needed and requested that Mrs. McKenzie develop a contract for the Taxi Unions to sign.

20. The Mayor asked if all the Councillors were in agreement with the guidelines and agreed with lifting the moratorium. This was unanimously agreed **MOTION CARRIED.**
21. Deputy Samuels suggested that a cap be put on new taxi owners to not allow one person to own more than 5 taxis.
22. Councilor Pitts stated that meetings will be had with the various Taxi Associations to discuss the guidelines. (guidelines attached)



Taxi  
Moratorium.html

23. A press conference to inform the public will also be done.

#### ***v. Kings Park Zoning Regulation***

24. The Mayor requested an update from Mrs. McKenzie on the Kings Park Zoning. She indicated that they needed the minutes of the last Public Consultation Meeting from Charlene McDonald. The Mayor committed to follow up with Charlene on getting the minutes.

#### ***vi. Contracts***


25. The Mayor asked that the 2 pending contracts, that for Mrs. McKenzie and Mr. Floyd Williams be discussed after the Press Conference which was scheduled for Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 on the lifting of the Taxi Moratorium. All Councilors present agreed to this.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

26. Councilor Pitts brought up a request from Mr. Kenrick Sanchez to utilize a vacant spot located near his Barbershop on Freetown Road opposite Atlantic Bank. He requested that a vote be taken on the matter to give Mr. Sanchez approval to use the reserve. All Councilors voted in favor of granting permission. **MOTION CARRIED**
27. Councilor Leslie asked about the situation with the Commercial Center. He said that Dinesh discussed a concern with him about the area behind the Commercial Center as people are going into the area and have it in a mess. The Mayor ask that Councilor Leslie get a letter from Dinesh about his concern and his suggestion in how to address the concern.
28. Mrs. Ordonez explained that the bank had a concern with the PACT Fund and once this was clarified the bank will start to disburse the funds.
29. Ms. Garvin mentioned that vandalism is becoming an issue at the Commercial Center.
30. Councilor Singh brought up a concern with Cran Street. He expressed that this street needs to be one way due to accidents. Mrs. McKenzie requested that Councilor Pitts send her the request in writing so that the concern be reviewed.

31. Councilor Singh presented a request from Ms. Tiffany to do a Pop-up Bar once a week in Memorial Park. The Mayor was given a copy of the proposal and committed to review it.
32. Councilor Leslie brought up the concern of people by-passing the Council and putting posters directly on the lampposts. He express that this is revenue loss for the Council.
33. Ms. Miller requested that the Council set up meeting with BEL and BTL to address this issue.
34. Councilor Willoughby stated that a concern reference the UNO Gas Station at 1 Mile on the Western Highway was brought to his attention. The residents are complaining that the gas station sells diesel to the buses and big trucks causing heavy traffic and blocking the street.
35. Mrs. McKenzie stated that this is something that Floyd Williams and the Traffic Department needs to address. Ms. Miller was asked to address this issue.
36. Councilor Willoughby express that there is a concern with housing repair and building of new homes as it creates an issue with garbage on the streets. He said that Col. Defour is seeking assistance from the Council to address this concern.
37. The Mayor suggested that Deputy Mayor Samuels and Ms. Miller meet with Major Defour and discuss this concern.
38. Mrs. McKenzie informed that the Court had identified some dangerous buildings that needs to be demolished. The process for demolition is that the owner be notified and given a time to demolish it. If not done by the owner within the allotted time the Council will demolish the structure and bill the owner for cost.
39. Councilor Willoughby suggested that caution tape be put around the buildings that have been identified for demolition.
40. Mr. Floyd Williams was asked about the construction on the Canal Side. He informed that the work is progressing nicely.
41. The Mayor moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Pitts motioned that the meeting stands adjourned; Councilor Leslie seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**
42. All Councilors present voted in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

  
**DARRELL BRADLEY, Mayor**

  
**CANDICE MILLER, City Administrator**

## LIFTING TAXI MORATORIUM

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- All taxi owners and or operators must be registered with a recognized union that is active. This union must pay all applicable fees due to the Belize City Council's Traffic Department.
- All taxi owners and or operators must be in possession of a valid drivers' license with taxi class C1 issued by the Belize City Council's Traffic Department.
- No vehicle made prior to 2006 will be allowed to register; cannot be more than ten years old.
- All vehicles will be subjected to an inspection before registration. Vehicles that do not meet the safety requirements will not qualify for registration.
- All vehicles must meet the legal requirement for tinting.
- All vehicles are required to carry a logo on front driver's side and passenger side. Logo must be 14" X 14" with a number to complement it and should be submitted to the Traffic Department for pre-approval.
- Taxi Unions must submit the names of their members, license plate number and a full description of their vehicles.

- Existing Taxi owners and or operators will be given a grace period to become members of a union. (A time frame will be decided on for this to materialize)
- Registration fee will be per vehicle.
- Owners with more than one vehicle must pay additional cost per vehicle. Suggested amount is \$50.00 - \$100.00 per vehicle.
- Inspection forms must bear the signature and stamp of the vehicle inspector and the traffic administrator/ manager. Section 7(1) of the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act makes provision for an inspector to carry out inspection and subsection 3 makes provision for an appeal process to the Department if a person is aggrieved with the inspector's decision to disallow registration based on faulty findings.



## For Consideration

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- Union fee (a meeting will be convened with all existing and prospective taxi unions to decide on this). The proposed amount can be discussed and decided among the participants of the meeting guided by the Traffic Manager, Councillor and Legal Advisor.

(Each member of the registered union will pay to a range of \$20 – \$25 per month. This money will be the responsibility of the union to pay into the traffic department on a fixed date monthly basis.) Failure to pay will result in denial or suspension of services.

- Taxi Operators or owners who are registered with the National Transport Department operating in Belize City limits will be given an opportunity to regularize their status with the Belize City Traffic Department. A period will be given to do so therefore no registration after the date of the moratorium lift will be allowed to operate in Belize City.
- A public awareness campaign will be conducted to sensitize the public on the changes
- Implementation and enforcement will follow shortly thereafter.



**Belize City Council  
RESOLUTION NO. 29 of 2016**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF PUBLIC RESERVE**

**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,

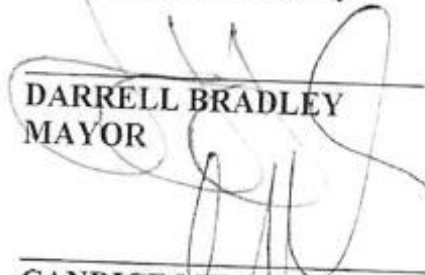
**Whereas**, the Belize City Council is duly authorized to maintain and manage streets and land reserves within the city,

**Whereas**, Mr. Kenrick Sanchez has formally applied to the Council to utilize a vacant spot located near his Barbershop on Freetown Road

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

- Mr. Kenrick Sanchez to utilize a vacant spot located near his Barbershop on Freetown Road opposite Atlantic Bank.

**In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 5 day of October 2016, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR**

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



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Tel (Mayor's Office): 227-0056, City Manager & Offices: 227-3073/7205/2308,  
Fax: 227-7236, Email: [mayor@btl.net](mailto:mayor@btl.net)



**Belize City Council  
RESOLUTION NO. 28 of 2016**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LIFTING OF THE TAXI MORATORIUM**

**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,

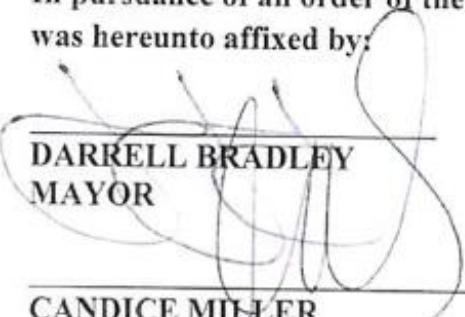
**Whereas**, the Belize City Council through the Traffic Department, is tasked with the responsibility of inspecting and issuing licenses to drivers and motor vehicles within the municipality as guided by the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act of Belize CAP 230

**Whereas**, the Belize City Council the Management of and the Councilor with responsibility for the Traffic Department engaged and met with several taxi associations to discuss the lifting of the taxi moratorium and the criteria of obtaining taxi licenses,

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that the Council currently requires that the manufacturing year of a motor vehicle to be licensed as a taxi shall be no more than ten (10) years from the date of application,

- The lifting of the taxi moratorium in accordance with the guidelines set forth
- That no vehicle older than 10 years be able to register as taxi
- That for standardization Mrs. McKenzie must develop a contract for the Taxi Unions to sign

**In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 5 day of October 2016, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARRELL BRADLEY  
MAYOR**

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

