MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING
Monday May 4th, 2015
Belize City Hall Council Chambers

Present:

1. Mr. Darrell Bradley  Mayor
2. Mr. Dion Leslie  Councilor
3. Mr. Michael Theus  Councilor
4. Mr. Jason Edwards  Councilor
5. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman Cuellar  Councilor
6. Ms. Alifa Elrington  Councilor
7. Mr. Alain Gonzalez  Councilor
8. Mr. Dean Samuels  Councilor

1. Ms. Candice Miller  City Administrator
2. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez  Director of Finance
3. Mrs. Margaret McKenzie  Legal Counsel
4. Ms. Sharlene Rudon  Director of Administration
5. Mr. Floyd Williams  City Engineer
6. Yvette McDougall  Note Taker

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Councilor opened with meeting with a prayer.

The Mayor welcomed Councilors and Directors to the third meeting of the 2015-2018.

Adoption of Minutes

The Mayor moved for a motion that the minutes of the Meeting held on 17th, 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record. Councilor Theus motioned for the approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilor Dion Leslie. MOTION CARRIED.

All Councilors present voted in favor, minutes conformed.

Mayor Darrell Bradley

1. Mayor requested that a press release on the death of former Mayor Mr. William David Fonseca be sent out on behalf of the Mayor, Councilors Directors, Managers and Staff. In co-operating with the family on the burial all fees are to be waived.
2. Councilor Elrington suggested that Council should organize a walk to the church and that all Councilors and Managers along with staff who served under Mr. Fonseca to attend the funeral.

3. Mayor stated that that would be too much to organized and indicated instead that All Councilors, Directors and Managers should attend the funeral and that time off will be given to all employees who served under Mr. Fonseca will be given the time off to attend the funeral.

4. Ms. Rudon stated that the family appreciated the fact that the council is taking care of the burial, and informed that the funeral will be held at 2:00pm at the Holy Redeemer Church.

5. Mayor stated that a Bill of Sale Registry will be signed with all banks and pawn shops. This agreement is to be put in place within six weeks.

6. Councilor Elrington stated that she needed to see safeguards in place before agreeing, limiting the liability to the bond and Mayor added that he would meet with Mrs. Ordonez to finalize the agreement.

7. Mayor announced the formation of a Mayor’s and Alcaldes Association which will be on stream in six months. This association will be made up from the Mayors Association, Village Council, Alcalde Association and will then form one National Municipal Organization in Belize.

8. Mayor stated that the Task Force Team suggested that they take Trade License Regime Agreement to Government in order for the municipality to get a share of the sales tax, that way the Council would be able to reduce Trade License to a fee.

9. Mayor announced that the Municipal Authorities Bill was due to come up for passage and ask Ms. Rudon to coordinate a workshop with Mayor’s Association for Senior Management.

   **ii. Commercial Center Project**

10. Mayor announced that a deal was made with IE to start the ground floor, exterior, electrical, plumbing and air-conditioning of the building.

11. A vote was taken among the councilor’s present (Dion Leslie, Alain Gonzales, Alifa Elrington, Hyacinth Latchman, Sean Samuels) and all agreed on the $1,000,000 from RF&G being offered for Security. **MOTION CARRIED**
12. Mayor stated that BML had previously requested $20,000 weekly to service the debt, but
council had agreed to pay $15,000 per week, however for the past few weeks council has
been paying $25,000 weekly.

iii. Other Matters

13. Mayor requested Ms. Rudon to implement a 311 complaint hotline for the council and to
have training for staff to input all complaints into a software which will ensure that a
complaint is dispersed in a timely manner to the relevant departments.

14. Mayor announced that the next town council meeting will be held at Trinity Methodist
School on May 21, 2015 at 6:00pm and asked that advertisement be sent out.

15. Councilor Gonzalez asked what was the amount being paid for the 2 new vehicles
purchased by the council and Mrs. Ordonez confirmed that $175,000 was the cost for
both vehicles. Ms. Burke informed that her old vehicle was handed over to the Special
Constable Unit.

16. Concerns were raised that Special Constable Unit were always given priority over other
departments for receiving vehicles and they are always breaking up vehicles. Mrs.
Ordonez stated that it is unfair to say that since the previous vehicle given to the
department was already damaged when it was purchased.

17. Ms. Burke confirmed that $75,000. Was paid down and $20,000 per month will be paid
for a period of five months until the payment is completed on both vehicles.

18. Council Elrington ask if the council has a vehicle care unit since a draft was done but
nothing has been put in place. Councilor Samuels confirmed that the unit is in place and
is being run by Mr. Lawrence.

19. Council Elrington stated that no proper care is being taken of the councils vehicles on the
weekend since she noticed that Lionel Neal was driving the council vehicle on a weekend
when there were not council activities.

20. Mayor asked what the Council is has a written policy whether it was passed in council
meeting. Ms. Burke informed that the council has a written policy but it was not passed
in council meeting. She agreed to circulate the Motor Vehicle Policy for discussion at the
next council meeting. It was also agreed that one set of key will be left with the
department's manager and one set at the office.

21. Councilor Elrington requested that the council provide a vehicle for the City Engineer
since he is using his personal vehicle to conduct the council's affairs. Mayor indicated
that the situation will be looked at by the City Administrator,

22. Ms. Burke confirmed that Councilors Pitts and Singh along with Mr. Jermaine Hyde were
in South Korea attending the Turtleship Festival on behalf of the council.
23. Councilor Theus stated that the Cohune Walk Festival needs clarity on letter of support to Mr. Sanker and suggested that a meeting be set up to discuss the issue.

24. Councilor Leslie requested diesel fuel for the Sanitation department truck to remove derelict vehicles from the city street.

25. Councilor Leslie also requested the implementation of a hiring policy requiring the circulation of an internal memo, two (2) publications, applicant's application, policy report and result from interview panel before hiring is done.

26. It was agreed that caucus meetings be held every 2 weeks.

27. Councilor Edwards indicated that a chairperson was needed for the LBA meetings and suggested the names of Oscar Turton, Harrison Smith and Ms. Ayuso. Council voted in favor of Mr. Harrison Smith and a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Local Government.

28. Councilor Cuellar informed that in July MCPA Quintennial will be held in Belize which will bring in 400 women and is seeking assistance for protocol from the council with respect to transportation and also requested that Mayor addresses congregation at the opening ceremonies. She also stated that she is working with the bus companies for nice busses and asked that the council provide the fuel for these busses.

29. Councilor Cuellar also informed that the YWCA is asking for assistance from the council in the form of their heavy equipment to complete their swimming pool.

30. Councilor Cuellar asked if the council could send a request to Central Bank for computers to be donated to Gwen Lizarraga high School.

31. Mayor announced that the lease for staff land was in hand and City Council will purchase the land and do a survey. He indicated that Ms. Rudon will meet with the Lands Commissioner and the size of the lots will be 75 feet by 100 feet.

32. Councilor Gonzalez announced that he wants to do another project with the KHMH and was informed by Mayor that he would need to provide a budget.

33. The City Engineer stated that he had no objection fir the street reserve on Vernon Street

34. The City Engineer stated that he had objection to the use of the reserve area on Princess Margaret drive in front of the Fisheries Department since it would be a permanent structure.

35. The City Engineer indicated that he had no objection to lease the commercial area at Mahogany St.
36. The City Engineer stated that he had objection for the use of the reserve area over the canal on Vernon street.

Mrs. McKenzie was excused and left the meeting/

37. Councilors present voted unanimously to approve the developments that would not cause an obstruction.

38. Mayor moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councillor Elrington motioned that the meeting stands adjourned, Councillor Samuels seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

39. All Councilors present voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm

**Confirmation of Minutes**

These minutes, which are the minutes of a Council Meeting of the Belize City Council duly convened and held on 17 March 2015 were reviewed and approved by a Resolution of the Council dated (4) May, 2015

DARRELL BRADLEY, Mayor

CANDICE BURKE, City Administrator
BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2015

A RESOLUTION TO RE-FLOAT A BOND WITH RFG INSURANCE COMPANY

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,

AND WHEREAS, the Belize City Council having been duly elected by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

WHEREAS, the Belize City Council is desirous refinancing the RF&G Bond to renovate the Commercial Center

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

- The refinancing $1,000,000.00 from RF&G Bond.

In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 4th day of May 2015, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:

DARRELL BRADLEY
MAYOR

CANDICE MILLER
CITY ADMINISTRATOR