



## **MINUTES of REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Caucus Room, Belize City Council

10:00 a.m.

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **Present:**

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. His Worship Bernard Wagner | Mayor                        |
| 2. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.      | Deputy Mayor                 |
| 3. Mr. Albert Vaughan         | Councilor                    |
| 4. Mr. Javier Castellanos     | Councilor                    |
| 5. Mr. Micah Goodin           | Councilor                    |
| 6. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton    | Councilor                    |
| 7. Mr. Edmund Kwan            | Councilor                    |
| 8. Mr. Michael Novelo         | Councilor                    |
| 9. Ms. Natasha Pipersburgh    | Councilor                    |
| 10. Ms. Kaya Cattouse         | Councilor                    |
| 11. Ms. Deannie Requeña       | Councilor                    |
| Mr. Amir Carrillo             | Finance Director             |
| Mr. Eluide Miller             | Manager, Office of the Mayor |

**Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.**

Councilor Vaughan led all in reciting the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

### **1.0 Welcome Remarks**

- 1.1 Mayor Wagner greeted all in attendance and highlighted the importance of conducting the people's work at the monthly meeting of the Council.
- 1.2 Mayor Wagner reiterated his commitment to the Council and asked all members to take a more team oriented approach in working towards the various goals of the Council.



- 1.3 Mayor Wagner stated that the Council has done a good job of making its mark despite the impacts brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mayor Wagner reminded all Council members that 2022 remains a pivotal year for the administration.

## **2.0 Ratification of the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Minutes**

- 2.1 Mayor Wagner asked all Council members to thoroughly review the minutes of the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 caucus meeting.

**Councilor Requeña arrived to the meeting at 10:15 a.m.**

**Councilor Hamilton arrived to the meeting at 10:17 a.m.**

- 2.2 Councilor Goodin moved for the minutes of the meeting held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to be ratified. Seconded by Councilor Hamilton.

## **3.0 Matters arising from Minutes**

- 3.1 Councilor Goodin commended Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr. for keeping his commitment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Works Department. Councilor Goodin noted that he has seen significant work being done across the city over the past weeks.
- 3.2 (11.0) Councilor Castellanos shared that he spoke with Mr. Josue Carballo of the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) in reference to their proposal to erect a structure at the foot of the Belize City Swing Bridge. Councilor Castellanos expressed his willingness to collaborate on the proposed project.



- 3.3 (5.3) Mayor Wagner highlighted issues being faced within the city as it relates to the deinstitutionalization of people suffering from mental illness. Mayor Wagner asked Councilor Novelo to see how he can collaborate with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Human Development to formulate some sort of draft plan to resolve this ongoing issue. Mayor Wagner encouraged Councilor Novelo to also engage with the business community and to channel these discussions through his Public Health Portfolio.
- 3.4 (9.10) Mayor Wagner asked Councilor Hamilton to provide an update on the proposed Food Corridor.
- 3.5 Councilor Hamilton declared that members of the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) did a walkthrough of the Mahogany Street area and managed to engage with ten (10) vendors on the proposed Food Corridor Project. Councilor Hamilton noted that the vendors were very receptive of the idea and stated that she informed them of the public consultation session to be held in the near future. Councilor Hamilton also shared that the group from BTB would be meeting with Mayor Wagner in the upcoming week to discuss next steps.
- 3.6 (9.7) Councilor Novelo asked the Finance Director if the Finance Department has issued the additional fuel to the Cemetery Department as discussed in the previous meeting.
- 3.7 Mr. Carrillo noted that he has not received the request from the Cemetery Department as yet and requested the Manager of the Department send him the request at the earliest.

#### **4.0 Announcements by Mayor**

- 4.1 Mayor Wagner shared that Councilor Albert Vaughan now serves as his alternate on the Ministry of Transport's Public Transportation Reform Steering Committee.
- 4.2 Mayor Wagner shared that the Council held a public consultation session in reference to its Parking Meters Pilot Project on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, which saw the participation of members of the business community along Albert Street and Newtown Barracks.





- 4.3 Mayor Wagner informed the Council that he met with the Area Representative of the Albert Division, Hon. Tracy Panton as well as the Area Representative of Caribbean Shores, Hon. Kareem Musa. Mayor Wagner shared that he discussed the Parking Meter Pilot Project with both representatives who have since expressed their support for the proposed project.
- 4.4 Mayor Wagner shared that the pilot project is set to start March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and stated that the parking spaces to be utilized will be demarcated over the upcoming weekend.
- 4.5 Mayor Wagner informed the Council that he met with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the Ministry of Economic Development, Dr. Osmond Martinez. Mayor Wagner shared that Dr. Martinez and the Ministry are requesting for the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to fund a feasibility study on the Belize City Swing Bridge with a view to eventually replace the deteriorating infrastructure.
- 4.6 Councilor Vaughan encouraged Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. to accompany the representatives from CABEI on the tour of the Belize City Swing Bridge, which is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 4.7 Mayor Wagner noted that this is a good step, as the Swing Bridge remains a major priority for the Council.
- 4.8 Mayor Wagner shared a request from the Office of the Special Envoy to collaborate with the Belize Mayors' Association to host a business pop up fair in each municipality. Mayor Wagner noted that the team for Women's Month 2022 is "#BreaktheBias" and encouraged Councilor Pipersburgh to support the initiative.
- 4.9 Councilor Castellanos highlighted the important of women in our society and declared his support for the proposed initiative.
- 4.10 Mayor Wagner shared that the Belmopan City Council and the Belize Mayors' Association will be hosting a She4She World Summit from the 4-6<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Biltmore Plaza in Belize City. Mayor Wagner shared that the theme for the Summit is "Towards Inclusive Governance in Public and Political Affairs", and encouraged all female Councilors to attend.





- 4.11 Mayor Wagner announced that he has been invited to several international conferences in the upcoming months including:
- 2022 Smart City Summit & Expo in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan where Councilor Hamilton will join him.
  - 2022 International Conference of Local Governments: Smart Cities and Sustainable Development in Puerto Rico where Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr. will be joining him.
- 4.12 Mayor Wagner highlighted the possibility of signing of Sister-City relationship between Belize City and the City of Newark in New Jersey, U.S.A.
- 4.13 Mayor Wagner shared that the Belize City Council presented its proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (2022-2023) to the Ministry of Local Government on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and highlighted that only a few fellow Council members joined. Mayor Wagner noted that the budget was well received by the representatives from the Ministry who were in attendance.
- 4.14 Mayor Wagner shared that a municipal tour was done in conjunction with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (5C's), the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Economic Development and several other agencies on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2022. Mayor Wagner noted that the purpose of this exercise is for the 5C's to put together a comprehensive concept note, which will be submitted to the Global Climate Fund with a view to secure funding to carry out flood mitigation and disaster preparedness initiatives across all municipalities. Mayor Wagner shared that the Council led the delegation across several areas being impacted by climate change including Apollo Street, Reggae Street, the Lake Independence area and the Krooman Lagoon area.
- 4.15 Mayor Wagner announced that the Low Carbon Transport Project was launched on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at the Biltmore Plaza in Belize City and shared that he is looking forward to the arrival of the electric buses which are expected to be in country mid 2022. Mayor Wagner noted that Major Lloyd Jones (retd.) would be carrying out the Belize City Council's E-Mobility Roadmap, which will prove transformative for the Belize City Public Transportation System.



- 4.16 Mayor Wagner highlighted that the Council held the handing over ceremony for Cohort #4 of the Belize City Accelerator Program (BCAP) on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Mayor Wagner noted that the representatives from Axiory who donated to the program were impressed and has since committed that they will be making another contribution to the program in the near future.
- 4.17 Mayor Wagner noted that he met with representatives from the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) who are interested in installing several electric charging stations across Downtown Belize City. Mayor Wagner highlighted that this proposal ties in well with the Council's introduction of its e-mobility pilot project.
- 4.18 Mayor Wagner shared the maps for the Albert Street and Newtown Barracks, which will be utilized under the Council's Parking Meters Pilot Project.
- 5.0 Virtual Presentation: RT Auto & Sales Co. Ltd. – Mr. Javier Tun. Jr.**
- 5.1 Mr. Tun greeted the members of the Council and expressed that he will be sharing a proposal for the Belize City Pound. Mr. Tun noted that this proposal requires collaboration between the Belize City Council and RT Auto & Sales Co. Ltd.
- 5.2 Mr. Tun shared a review of the Belize City Council's Traffic Data from 2017-2019, highlighting the fluctuations in the number of parking tickets issued.
- 5.3 Mr. Tun conveyed that collaboration between a professional trucking company and the Belize City Council would result in increased traffic revenues for the municipality.
- 5.4 Mr. Tun highlighted that the law include provisions for the removal of derelict vehicles. Mr. Tun also highlighted that the law allows for the Council to sell off derelict vehicles impounded after a period of ninety (90) days if their respective owner does not collect them.
- 5.5 Mr. Tun noted that he is proposing for the Council to engage RT Auto & Sales Co. Ltd. to tag and impound derelict vehicles and split the revenues generated 60% (BCC) - 40% (RT Auto & Sales Co. Ltd). Mr. Tun then shared the process, which would be utilized to tag and impound the derelict vehicles identified by the Council's Public Health Unit.



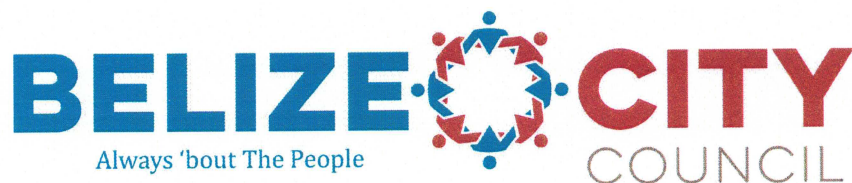


- 5.6 Mr. Tun then shared a picture of the wheel lock system that has been made by RT Auto & Sales Co. Ltd.
- 5.7 Councilor Novelo asked if legislation exist to support wheel locking.
- 5.8 Mr. Tun expressed that amendments would need to be made to existing legislation to allow for the wheel locking. Mr. Tun expressed his support for the Belize City Council's Parking Meter Pilot Project and noted that his proposal will also support traffic enforcement. **Action: The Belize Mayors' Association**
- 5.9 Mayor Wagner thanked Mr. Tun for his presentation and suggested for the presentation to be made face-to-face at a later date.
- 5.10 Mr. Tun shared his willingness to reengage the Council for a face-to-face presentation in the near future.
- 5.11 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. noted that this kind of project would promote traffic enforcement and compliance on the part of residents, which remains a challenge at this present time.
- 5.12 Councilor Vaughan expressed that he met with Mr. Tun previously and encouraged him to make the presentation to the Caucus.
- 5.13 Councilor Goodin noted that the presentation highlighted a critical issue and suggested for a task force to be established in an effort to bring the legislation up to date.
- 5.14 Mayor Wagner seconded the sentiments shared by Councilor Goodin and shared that a revised municipal legislation is being drafted.
- 5.15 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. raised concerns over a junkyard on Faber's Road, which now occupies both sides of the already narrow roadway. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. pleased for the Council to look into the matter to see how it can be addressed at the earliest. **Action: Public Health Unit**



- 5.16 Councilor Castellanos and Councilor Novelo also shared concerns over the matter tabled by Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. and noted that the Council does not have adequate space to put derelict vehicles removed from streets across the city.
- 5.17 Councilor Hamilton noted that she would have the City Planning Department work to address the situation at the earliest.
- 6.0 Presentation: Belize City Council: 2022-20223 Budget** – Mr. Amir Carrillo, Finance Director
- 6.1 Mr. Carrillo greeted all members of the Council and thanked them for allowing him the time to make a presentation. Mr. Carrillo began the budget presentation by highlighting the expected revenues to be generated from the collection of property taxes for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- 6.2 Mr. Carrillo noted that the Council's Revenue Team is expected to see an increase in revenues from fees and services.
- 6.3 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. asked Mr. Carrillo if the Council's Revenue Team is anticipating an increase in monies collected as Head Tax.
- 6.4 Mr. Carrillo responded, stating that it is hard to predict how much monies will be collected as Head Tax in the upcoming fiscal year given the level of uncertainty surrounding the Tourism Sector at this point in time.
- 6.5 Mr. Carrillo highlighted the operating expenditure line items in detail.
- 6.6 Councilor Goodin questioned if Councilors will be receiving the additional \$500.00 monthly allowances as received previously to issue as social assistance to residents.
- 6.7 Mayor Wagner stated that this allowance has always been budgeted for.
- 6.8 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. recommended that the system for tabling social assistance requests be formalized. **Action: Director of Finance**





- 6.9 Councilor Novelo questioned if the Council's contractual agreement with Belize Waste Control is accounted for under "Contracts and Consultancy".
- 6.10 Mr. Carrillo noted that the "Contracts and Consultancy" line item accounts for the Council's contractual obligations with Belize Waste Control as well as street works contracts.
- 6.11 Mr. Carrillo announced that the Council is currently working along with the Ministry of Finance to see how it can monetize some of the receivables of the Council.
- 6.12 Mayor Wagner and Councilors thanked Mr. Carrillo for his presentation.

## 7.0 Notices

- 7.1 Councilor Vaughan announced that existing Special Constable Department and Traffic Enforcement will be amalgamated and will both fall under one unified enforcement umbrella.
- 7.2 Councilor Vaughan noted that enforcement officers within this new arm will undergo extensive training with a view to improve the effectiveness of the Belize City Council's Enforcement Unit. Councilor Vaughan stated that the Christian Worker's Union (CWU) would be consulted on this matter ahead of its implementation. **Action: City Administrator & Director of Administration**
- 7.3 Councilor Vaughan announced that six (6) Enforcement Officers are needed for the Council's Parking Meters Pilot Project.
- 7.4 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. highlighted a situation where a businessman has made significant investment to expand his business into a new area but is receiving pushback from community members.
- 7.5 Councilor Vaughan noted that this is where the City Planning Unit should be engaged.



7.6 Mayor Wagner seconded the sentiments shared by Councilor Vaughan, reiterating the importance of complying with the community's established zoning ordinance. The Planning Unit is to verify the signatories on the petition in order for the businessman to advance his business.

7.7 Councilor Castellanos informed the Council that he met with a businessman who is interested in opening a market near the corner of Faber's Road and Central American Boulevard and requested the Council's support in hosting a Virtual Public Consultation on the matter.

## 8.0 Questions

8.1 No questions were tabled.

## 9.0 Petitions

9.1 No petitions were tabled.

## 10.0 Presentation of Reports from Councilors

10.1 Councilor Novelo highlighted the revenues collected by the Cemetery Department since the standardization of fees. Councilor Novelo also shared that the Council will be reverting to its previous fee structure, but noted that no definitive date has been set for this as yet.

10.2 Councilor Vaughan shared that he is working with the Area Representative of the Freetown Division and the Minister of Natural Resources to have Fiesta Park located in Belama Phase 4 to fall within the purview of the Belize City Council.

10.3 Councilor Vaughan noted that as of Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a portion of Yarborough would be one way as approved by Caucus in late 2021. Councilor Vaughan shared that the public has been engaged and expressed that there has been no resistance to the proposed change. Councilor Vaughan ended by stating that this will increase safety for students of Wesley College who have been agitating for this for years.





- 10.4 Councilor Goodin reported that he had a successful trip to Los Angeles and shared that both Councilor Novelo and Councilor Requeña accompanied him. Councilor Goodin shared that Councilor Novelo was instrumental in securing a commitment of one thousand (1,000) school bags and twenty (20) high school scholarships. Councilor Goodin then announced that the same group will be visiting Atlanta in the near future and extended an invitation to his fellow Council members to join. Councilor Goodin ended by stating that he is hopeful that the Council will support the group's upcoming trip as all city residents will benefit from any commitment secured.
- 10.5 Mayor Wagner expressed that the Council is open to support as long as the purpose of the trip is to conduct Council business. Mayor Wagner noted that he wishes for the Councilors to keep the Council informed as it relates to the partners within these collaborations so it carry out the necessary due diligence and be properly informed.
- 10.6 Councilor Goodin shared that they met with the Deputy Sheriff of a County in Los Angeles and expressed that he is happy to hear that funding is being budgeted for to the Community Engagement Portfolio.
- 10.7 Councilor Vaughan noted that he felt horrible not being informed of the Councilor's travel plans until it came out in the media. Councilor Vaughan encouraged all fellow Councilors to operate as a team.
- 10.8 Councilor Hamilton seconded the sentiments shared by Councilor Vaughan, expressing that she would have been interested in going along if she were aware of the trip beforehand.
- 10.9 Councilor Pipersburgh announced that she met with Mr. Josue Carballo of BTB and noted that they discussed the creation of a small committee to oversee a proposed improvement project for the Memorial Park. Councilor Pipersburgh shared that they also spoke on BTB's desire to adopt the Constitutional Park and thanked Councilor Goodin for connecting her with the Minister of Tourism and for supporting the collaboration between the Belize City Council and BTB.



- 10.10 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. expressed his gratitude for the Office of the Mayor and the Finance Department for their commitment to supporting the Works Department as it relates to the provision of materials needed to carry out infrastructural works. Deputy Mayor Pollard then shared that the Council is making an effort to do manual paving which will also help the Council to save funds since more infrastructural works will be done in-house.
- 10.11 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. noted that this comes as a result of the members of the Works Department understudying the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. announced that Banak Street would be used to run a trial of the manual paving system. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. shared a number of streets, which the Works Department plans on paving using this system if the trial is successful.
- 10.12 Mayor Wagner commended Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. on recent developments within with Works Department.
- 10.13 Councilor Cattouse announced that the Council's Urban Garden Project is well underway and commended Councilor Pipersbrugh for her unwavering commitment to the project. Councilor Cattouse then shared that additional manpower and equipment is being provided to the Sanitation Department in an effort to improve effectiveness.
- 10.14 Councilor Cattouse stated that the weekly community bike ride is still ongoing and highlighted that many youths have since received opportunities as a result of their continued participation. Councilor Cattouse then expressed that she is delighted to announced that the Olympic Baton will in Belize in the coming weeks and stated that this is a big deal as it will bring about much needed recognition to Belize's sporting community.

**Councilor Hamilton left the meeting at 1:01 p.m.**





- 10.15 Councilor Requeña thanked Mayor Wagner for inviting her to take part in the handing over of nine (9) office chairs donated to the Salvation Army Primary School. Councilor Requeña then notified the Council that she has since secure commitment for a printer to be donated to Salvation Army Primary School as well. Councilor Requeña also announced that she is working to declare a space for the Student Hub as she has received commitments for equipment that can be used to retrofit this space.
- 10.16 Councilor Requeña ended by stating that there was no ill-intent surrounding her recent trip to Los Angeles. Councilor Requeña shared that she had planned to visit Los Angeles and Councilor Goodin and Councilor Novelo expressed interest in joining along.
- 10.17 Mayor Wagner expressed that the After School Programs Portfolio is a great opportunity to make an impactful intervention on the part of the Council and shared that a unit is available on the lower flat of City Hall that he believes would serve as a suitable location for a Student Hub.
- 10.18 Councilor Kwan expressed his gratitude to Axiory for their contribution to the Belize City Accelerator Program (BCAP) and shared that it was heartwarming to see the gratitude show by participants for the Council's contribution to their respective micro/small business.

#### 11.0 Motions by Councilors

- 11.1 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year with recurrent revenue of \$26,545,629.00 and recurrent expenditure of \$23,513,784.00. **MOTION PASSED.**

#### 12.0 New Business

- 12.1 Mayor Wagner announced that the scheduled presentation by Ms. Keisha Rodriguez in reference to the Public Space Policy Framework is being postponed until the next meeting of the Council.



- 12.2 Mayor Wagner shared a letter sent by Ms. Candice Miller's attorney, which outlines a proposed settlement in Civil Appeal 18 of 2019, the Mayor of Belize City and the Belize City Council v. Candice Miller.
- 12.3 Mr. Carrillo shared that he consulted with the Council's attorney who provided some guidance in reference to the Council's appeal of the judgment made and noted that the attorney is in support of the proposed settlement.
- 12.4 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. expressed his discontent over the situation and stated that he believes the Council should engage in aggressive negotiation on this matter by submitting a counteroffer.
- 12.5 Councilor Castellanos seconded the sentiments shared by Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr., noting his discontent with the situation given that it is the people's money being targeted.
- 12.6 Councilor Novelo noted that he is in support of the Council coming to a settlement and expressed his support for the Council to submit a counteroffer.
- 12.7 Councilor Kwan stated that he too is in support of exploring a settlement as opposed to leaving the matter for a later date.
- 12.8 Councilor Vaughan noted that he believes in the Finance Department's ability to provide proper guidance on the matter.
- 12.9 Councilor Goodin adamantly expressed that he does not believe a penny should be paid to Ms. Candice Miller, stating that it is blatant molestation of the public purse.
- 12.10 Councilor Cattouse expressed her dismay and disappointment that a contract of this nature could have been signed by the previous administration just ahead of the 2018 municipal elections. Councilor Cattouse echoed the sentiments shared by Councilor Vaughan, noting that she believes in the Finance Department's ability to provide the necessary guidance on the matter.





- 12.11 Councilor Pipersburgh expressed that she too finds the signing of a contract just ahead of the municipal elections to be illegal. Councilor Pipersburgh then suggested for the Council to sit with all relevant parties in an effort to come to an amicable solution.
- 12.12 Councilor Requeña also noted that she is in support of having the Council's Finance Department guide the Council on the matter. Councilor Requeña expressed that she cannot comment any further given that she is not exactly aware of the situation between the Council and Ms. Candice Miller.
- 12.13 Mayor Wagner expressed that the Council has been handed down a judgment, which it has been honoring. Mayor Wagner note that he respects the law of the land and the advice being given by the Council's attorney who is recommending for the Council to come to some settlement given the possibility that the Council will not be successful in its appeal. Mayor Wagner then noted his support in having the Council submit a counteroffer.
- 12.14 After extensive deliberations, the Council collectively agreed to submit a counter counteroffer with a non-disclosure clause, which is to be honored by both parties.
- 12.15 The Council then agreed that if the proposed offer were not accepted, it would then submit another offer.
- 13.0 Submissions from City Planning Unit – Ms. Chelsea Perera, Assistant City Planner**
- 13.1 A request by Promod Ltd. to obtain a No Objection Letter from the Belize City Council for the construction of a proposed Fuel Service Station Project which is intended for construction at Parcel number 1183 and 1184, Block number 16, Caribbean Shores Registration Section (near Mile 4 on the Philip Goldson Highway) Belize City, Belize. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.2 A request by Quality Poultry Products to obtain a No Objection Letter for the construction of a boating dock area at the Quality Poultry Products facility located at #3 North Front Street, Belize City, Belize. **MOTION PASSED.**



- 13.3 A request by Midtown Restaurant and Bar and Suma Ltd. for the approval of expansion plans for the restaurant located on Parcel #533 Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.4 A request by Mr. Luis Avilez for permission to vend coconut water and peanuts at 4 ½ Miles along the George Price Highway near the Uno Gas Station. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.5 A request by the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) to occupy the North-Side of the Swing Bridge to construct a Community Shed measuring 30'-0" x 15'-0" for the beautification of the city and for the development of the tourism industry. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.6 A request by the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) to occupy the Belcan Bridge to construct a Community Shed measuring 30'-0" x 15'-0" for the beautification of the city and for the development of the tourism industry. **MOTION PASSED**
- 14.0 Other Business**
- 14.1 Councilor Vaughan noted that he wants to work with the Councilor with responsibility for Parks and Playgrounds as the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) are interested in partnering with the Belize City Council to further beautify the Memorial Park.
- 14.2 Councilor Vaughan reminded the Council that the historic Belize City Swing Bridge will be one hundred (100) years old in the upcoming year and expressed that NICH is also interested in hosting an event to recognize the significance of this milestone.
- 14.3 Councilor Goodin shared that he is hosting a one-day football tournament on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and invited his fellow Councilors to attend in support.
- 14.4 Councilor Pipersburgh highlighted that Women's Month (March) is approaching and asked for the Council to support the various initiatives to be announced. Councilor Pipersburgh notified the Council that she will be taking a much-needed vacation in early March (3<sup>rd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>) and asked for the Council's kind indulgence.

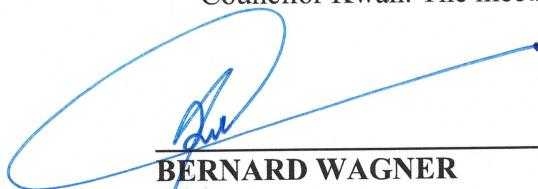




- 14.5 Councilor Castellanos referenced the ongoing feud between Ukraine and Russia, stating that the he remains hopeful that peace will prevail.
- 14.6 Councilor Cattouse highlighted the issue of overgrown/abandoned properties across the city and asked for the Council to come up with some way to assist residents in this regard.
- 14.7 Mayor Wagner asked if the ongoing cleanup initiative organized by the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU) is not working to address the issue of overgrown/abandoned properties across the city.
- 14.8 Councilor Novelo noted that this is an ongoing issue, which has proven extremely difficult to address. Councilor Novelo confirmed that the participants of the LIU project are working to address this issue as best as they can.
- 14.9 Mayor Wagner announced that the next meeting of the Council would be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

#### 15.0 Adjournment

- 15.1 Councilor Castellanos moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by Councilor Kwan. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.



**BERNARD WAGNER**  
**MAYOR**



**MR. AMIR CARRILLO**  
**FINANCE DIRECTOR**

