

MINUTES of CAUCUS MEETING

Belize City Hall
November 24, 2020

Present:

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| 1. His Worship Bernard Wagner | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Michael Norales | Deputy Mayor |
| 3. Mr. Oscar Arnold | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Micah Goodin | Councilor |
| 5. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor |
| 6. Ms. Delthrude Hylton | Councilor |
| 7. Mr. Ryan Elijio | Councilor |
| 8. Ms. Aisha Gentle | Councilor |
| 9. Mr. Albert Vaughan | Councilor |
| 10. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr. | Councilor |
| 11. Dr. Candice Pitts | Councilor |

Mr. Rafael Sosa, Manager, Office of the Mayor

Apologies: Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt, City Administrator (ill)

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Mayor Wagner after which he led his Councilors in reciting the Belize National Prayer.

Mayor Wagner congratulated Councilors Arnold, Pollard Jr. and Pitts for having contested the recent General Elections. Mayor Wagner stated that he would like to see the same energy and enthusiasm that was displayed during the General Elections displayed during the campaign that will lead up to the 2021 Municipal Elections. Mayor further stated that he would support whatever decision his Councilors make going forward.

Councilor Castellanos stated that it was a pleasure to be a part of the team and that everyone has collectively become a family.

Deputy Mayor Norales reminded everyone that he had indicated, at the onset, that he would have served for one term only.

1.0 Ratification of March 11, 2020 Minutes

1.1 Councilor Goodin moved for the Minutes to be accepted as is. Councilor Castellanos seconded.

2.0 Matters arising from Minutes

2.1 Proposed Settlement in Civil Appeal No. 18 of 2019 - The Mayor of Belize City/Belize City Council v Candice Miller

2.2.1 Mayor Wagner informed that the Council received a letter, dated November 10, 2020 from Ms. Candice Miller's attorney which informed that the Claimant has reduced her previous proposed settlement.

2.2 Procurement of Heavy-Duty Equipment - Deputy Mayor Norales informed that a meeting was held which had the participation of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the City Administrator and Mr. Donald Sampson of Seremei LLC. Deputy Mayor Norales shared that the heavy-duty equipment will be ready on November 27, 2020.

2.2.1 Mayor Wagner commended Deputy Mayor Norales for his leadership in procuring the heavy-duty equipment for the Council's Sanitation Department and stated that it represents another clear example of the Council's proactiveness.

2.3 Mayor Wagner stated that one major project that the Council will undertake in the next will be the establishment of a "one-stop" Traffic Department. Mayor Wagner shared that the City Planner and the Building Unit Manager will be tasked with identifying a suitable space at the Works Department compound and creating a building design.

- 2.4 Councilor Arnold emphasized the importance of developing a sound maintenance plan for the recently acquired heavy-duty equipment.
- 2.5 Mayor Wagner stated that the heavy-duty equipment will be instrumental for the Council's annual Christmas cleanup campaign.
- 2.6 Mayor Wagner stated that the Council will focus primarily on drains, streets and abandoned lots over the course of the next three months.
- 2.7 Mayor Wagner tasked Councilor Elijio and the Building Unit with addressing damages to portion of sidewalk that have been caused by Belize Dry Cleaners.
- 2.8 Councilor Pitts recommended a name change for the Michael Finnegan Market. Mayor Wagner stated that the Market would first have to be rebranded.
- 3.0 **Mayor's Motions/Announcements/Matters**
- 3.1 Fuel Purchase Agreement with Oil & Energy Export Limited
- 3.1.1 **Mayor Wagner shared the Council intends to enter into a fuel purchase agreement with Oil & Energy Export Limited. Mayor Wagner stated the Council has established a credit line with the fuel supplier in the amount of \$15,000.**
- 3.1.2 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the approval of a fuel purchase agreement with Oil & Energy Export Limited. **ALL** Councilors voted in favor – **MOTION PASSED.**
- 3.2 Asset & Investment Agreement Bet/BCC and M.Y. Investments Ref: Installation of LED Digital Billboards on Pallotti Overpass
- 3.2.1 Mayor Wagner stated that the Council will formalize an asset & investment agreement with M.Y. Investments for the installation of two LED digital billboards on the Pallotti Overpass.
- 3.2.2 Councilor Elijio stated that the Council should be collecting revenue from Brodies Downtown for the installation of its digital billboard.

- 3.2.3 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the approval of an asset & investment agreement between the Belize City Council and M. Y. Investments for the installation of two digital boards on the Pallotti Overpass. **ALL** Councilors voted in favor - **MOTION PASSED**
- 3.3 **Counter-Offer from Candice Pitts**
- 3.3.1 Mayor Wagner informed that Ms. Candice Miller has reduced her proposed settlement.
- 3.3.2 Deputy Mayor Norales, Councilors Vaughan, Elijio and Pollard Jr. stated their objections to the Claimant's counter-proposal after which it was unanimously agreed that the Council will discontinue negotiations and move ahead with its appeal of the judgement.
- 4.0 Mayor Wagner stated that the confirmation of the composition of the Council's Boards are due to the Ministry of Local Government.
- 4.1 Councilor Vaughan recommended that Mr. Kevin Lee be appointed to the Belize District Liquor Licensing Board. Councilor Goodin recommended himself to be appointed to the Board.
- 5.0 **City Administrator's Quarterly Report** (see attached)

6.0 Submissions to Building Unit

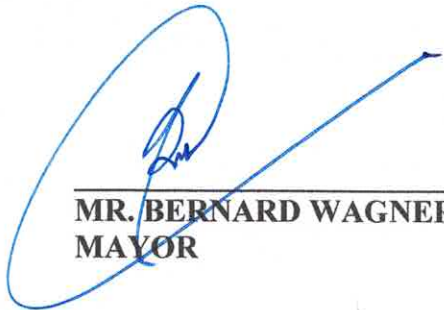
- Request from Mr. Oztekin Kelat to erect structure over canal to vend frozen drinks – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Mr. Oztekin Kelat to erect structure on portion of reserve to vend frozen drinks – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Mr. Raul Pelayo, Crème De La Crème II for offsetting of trade license – **DEFERRED**
- Request from Mr. Johnny Richards to sell tacos at “Ground Zero” site – **DENIED**
- Request from Michelle Gotoy to Occupy Piece of Reserve Located at Mahogany Street & Western Avenue – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Mr. Froylan Alvarado, Chalwa Building to construct driveway over reserve – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Ms. Rosalva Richards to occupy portion of reserve located under Pallotti Overpass – **DENIED**
- Request from Mr. Francisco Obando to Occupy Coney Drive Reserve – **DENIED**
- Request from Mr. Lauro Nunez for the granting of street access to property – **DEFERRED**
- Request from Ms. Marcella Meighan to construct booth for the purpose of selling bread & bun – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Mr. Hilaire Bennett to Occupy Freetown Road Reserve – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Ms. Romeli Castillo to Occupy Piece of Reserve Located at Mahogany Street and Western Avenue – **MOTION PASSED**
- Request from Ms. Ana Lorenzo to construct roof overhang for booth #6 at Michael Finnegan Market (**NO OFFSET**) – **MOTION PASSED**

7.0 Other Business

- 7.1 Councilor Gentle requested an update on the Ring Road Park project. Mayor Wagner stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic has delayed the project.
- 7.2 Councilor Vaughan shared that the “Voices of the City” talk show will restart soon and that it will be broadcasted virtually.
- 7.3 Councilor Gentle asked about the status of the post of Manager for Parks & Playgrounds.
- 7.4 Councilor Elijio shared about ongoing construction project that is being carried out by Mr. Roque Escalante on Sixth Street in the King’s Park Area.
- 7.5 Councilor Hylton informed that the area, designated at the Cemetery for COVID-19 Burials, has reached its capacity.

8.0 Adjournment

- 8.1 Councilor Castellanos moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Councilor Pitts seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.



MR. BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR



MRS. STEPHANIE LINDO-GARBUTT
CITY ADMINISTRATOR