

MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday July 31, 2018
Belize City Hall

Present:

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

Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt – City Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 2:16 pm
The Councilors led the prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

1. The minutes from the “Ordinary Closed Council Meeting” were circulated and read thoroughly.
2. Mayor Wagner asked that item number 11 be corrected to read “jobs will be created,” instead of “many jobs will be created.”
3. Mayor Wagner asked that item number 98 be corrected to read “the proposal to engage Alpha Capital for the refloating of the bond,” instead of “the proposal of alpha Capital to refloat the bond.”

Matters Arising

4. Mayor Wagner asked City Administrator Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt for clarity on her vacation grant.
5. City Administrator Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt clarified that she will be given a vacation grant equivalent to one month’s salary.
6. Mayor Wagner asked the City Administrator Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt for clarity of the matter of her gratuity.
7. The City Administrator explained that the matter was addressed and amended.

8. Mayor Wagner answered in response to item number 66 on the previous minutes, whereby Councilor Vaughan asked for a total value associated with the barrels that were donated for the Summer Pantry Program. He stated that the total value of the backpacks issued accumulated to roughly \$50,000.00
9. Mayor Wagner asked Deputy Arnold about a follow up from the sub-committee formed to discuss Mr. Geraldo Flowers' Proposal brought to one of the previous Caucus Meetings.
10. Mayor Wagner asked Councilor Pollard if the change of fees for Taxi Operators has been put in the gazette as yet.
11. Councilor Pollard informed Mayor Wagner that he had asked the Administrator and Traffic Manager to look into the matter.
12. City Administrator Mrs. Lindo-Garbutt indicated that she will follow up on the matter.
13. Mayor Wagner asked the Councilors if they had reviewed the Parking Meter Proposals sent to them earlier in July of this year. He stated that it is a good initiative for the Council to generate income.
14. Mayor Wagner informed the Council that we had a meeting with Alpha Capital LLP in which they explored other avenues to generate revenue as opposed to being locked into long term contracts.
15. Mayor Wagner invited Mr. Marvin Skeen to give a presentation on his Parking Meter Proposal
16. Mr. Marlon Skeen explained to the Council that the new type of parking meters look similar to a credit card machine. It is cashless, which would reduce the chances of it being vandalized. Tickets would be printed from the meter and placed on the driver's windshields. Traffic Managers would ensure safety.
17. Mr. Skeen mentioned that the parking system would be a prepaid system, whereby the money would have already been collected by the time the card is swiped, and the card would be recharged or topped up in several ways.
18. Based on Mr. Skeen's report and analysis, the Council could generate revenue of approximately \$1,000,000.00 monthly.
19. Mr. Skeen asked the Council to look at either purchasing or renting the equipment.
20. Mayor Wagner asked about the price range for the equipment.
21. Mr. Skeen stated that the terminals cost approximately \$20,000.00 each.
22. Mayor Wagner asked if the meters could be programmed to have different price ranges in different areas of the City.
23. Mr. Skeen assured him that it could be.
24. Councilor Vaughan asked about the maintenance of the meters.
25. Mr. Skeen ensured him that the meters require very little maintenance (web based and physical).
26. Deputy Arnold asked if the meters would be credit card or prepaid based.

27. Mayor Wagner asked what the rate of return would be for the Council if they were to go into partnership with him.
28. Councilor Elijio asked what would be required of Mr. Skeen if the Council decides to buy their own machines.
29. Mr. Skeen informed him that he is the distributor for the specific type of meters.
30. Councilor Pitts asked Mr. Skeen if he has approached the Mayor of Belmopan with his proposal.
31. Mr. Skeen indicated that he has approached the Belmopan City Council and that he has also approached the previous Council.
32. Councilor Vaughan asked Mr. Skeen what part of the City would be his main focus.
33. Mr. Skeen indicated that he suggested downtown Belize City, since it's the main hub of the City.
34. Mayor Wagner stated that this is the type of initiative the Council should take into consideration.
35. Councilor Elijio asked if the project can be implemented without the Council's financial support.
36. Mr. Skeen indicated that it would be a risk, but there is tremendous potential in taking that risk.
37. Councilor Pitts commended Mr. Skeen on the ingenuity of the project.
38. Mayor Wagner thanked Mr. Skeen for his presentation.
39. Mayor Wagner acknowledged that three parking proposals were brought to Caucus, and the Council would need to sit down and carefully analyze the benefits and drawbacks of each.
40. Deputy Arnold stated that he believes the initiative is a viable alternative.
41. Councilor Vaughan explained that the projects are viable, but the Council will need to look at it closely to get the better part of the partnership.
42. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion for the Public Relations Consultancy Contract offered to the Council by Mr. Glenn Tillett.
43. Councilor Goodin expressed his support for the Public Relations Consultancy Contract proposed by Mr. Glenn Tillett.
44. Councilor Pitts asked what the Consultancy would include.
45. Mayor Wagner stated that Mr. Tillett would work mainly from home and would provide advice to the Council.
46. Councilor Pitts mentioned that it might create a duplication in the PR Department.
47. Deputy Arnold expressed his support.
48. Councilor Pitts asked If the Councilor has a consultant already or if they would be creating a job for that individual.
49. Councilor Norales stated that Mr. Tillett has a huge network and would be able to "sell" the Council properly.
50. Councilor Castellanos expressed his support for the initiative.



51. Councillor Vaughan mentioned that he believes the Council has a lot to gain from the proposed Consultant. However, he asked that it be made clear who the Consultant will be providing his services to i.e., the Mayor or the PR Department.
52. City Administrator Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt recommended that Mr. Tillett prepare a Communications Strategy that the Council would be able to use.
53. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion for the approval of the Public Relations Consultancy Contract.
54. All Councillors who were present voted in favor. Councillor Pollard abstained.
MOTION CARRIED. ✓

Notices/Reports/Discussion/Information

55. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion for the Proposed Police Booth for Central American Boulevard.
56. Councillor Elijo informed the Mayor that the documents are being reviewed by the City Planner Ms. Carla Patnett. **MOTION DEFERRED.**
57. Mayor Wagner informed the Council that he will be out on Council duties from August 1 – 9, 2018. While away with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, he will be meeting with investors about providing low-income houses.
58. Councillor Pollard informed the Council that he along with his Traffic Manager met with the Airport Authority. His team proposed to name the unnamed street near the Marion Jones Sporting Complex to St. Matthew's Crescent.
59. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion to name the unnamed street near the Marion Jones Sporting Complex to St. Matthew's Crescent.
60. All Councillors who were present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** ✓
61. City Administrator Mrs. Lindo-Garbutt informed the Council that Traffic Officer Stafford Young reported to her office that he has been criminally charged. She suggested that he be put on interdiction at half pay.
62. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion for the approval of employee Stafford Young's interdiction at half pay.
63. All Councillors who were present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** ✓
64. Councillor Elijo indicated that this incident puts a black eye on the Council.
65. Councillor Vaughan indicated that he supports the City Administrator's position.
66. Deputy Arnold stated that he shares similar sentiments as Councillor Elijo.
67. Councillor Pitts asked if it is possible that the public be informed of the Council's position on the matter.
68. City Administrator Mrs. Lindo-Garbutt stated that she had requested that the LED Manager prepare a release on the matter.
69. Councillor Goodin indicated that Mr. Young holds an Associate Degree but is only receiving a salary for a High School diploma.
70. Councillor Norales asked if it wasn't agreed on that the GAR would only be used as a code of conduct.

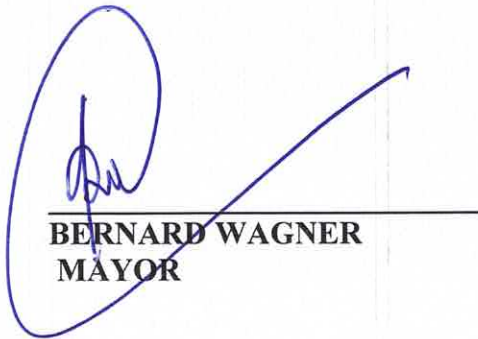
71. City Administrator Mrs. Lindo-Garbutt stated that even if the Labour Laws were consulted instead of the General Administrative Rules (GAR), Mr. Young would need to be convicted before he is dismissed.
72. Councilor Pollard stated that it is best for the technical personnel to address the matter.
73. Councilor Gentle asked if there is a possibility for Mr. Young to be transferred to another department where he will no longer be in the public's eye.
74. Mayor Wagner stated that he trusts the judgement of the City Administrator.
75. City Administrator Mrs. Lindo-Garbutt clarified that Mr. Young is not in uniform at the moment. He is on suspension, which will be followed by interdiction.

Other Matters

76. Councilor Vaughan brought to the attention of the Council that on December 5, 2017, the PM had given the Council over a million dollars in equipment. He stated that three of the equipment donated is in the possession of Minister Anthony Boots Martinez. He indicated that the Council should move to get back the equipment, and as the Council responsible for Works, he should get back the equipment.
77. Mayor Wagner asked that a letter be prepared and sent to the Minister and Financial Secretary requesting the equipment.
78. Councilor Pitts brought to the Council's attention that she was approached by Ms. Dorla Gillett informing her that she has applied for a job and has received no response as yet.
79. Councilor Pitts also informed the Mayor that the Female basketball team, the Trendsetters, sent a donation letter to the Council. She asked if he was aware of it.
80. Mayor Wagner indicated that he has signed off on the Dorla Gillett application and passed it on to the City Administrator.
81. Councilor Vaughan notified the Council of changes in the Works Department. The compound has been cleared. The Mechanic Shop is now called a Service Center. He stated that there are also plans to have all Council vehicles come in for servicing. Councilor Vaughan commended Mr. Hemmans from his department for exceptional work. He also congratulated the Mayor on the S&B Ministries initiative.
82. Councilor Pitts stated that she is fully aware of the Council's position on the matter of budget. However, the agreement has been made about the Grief Therapy Program, and she is hoping it can be taken into account.
83. Deputy Arnold translated a letter from the Consulate in Quintana Roo. It was an invitation extended to Mayor Wagner and Councilor Pitts for the Municipal Fair in Bacalar. There was also a request for the Ugundani dance group to be at the fair.
84. Councilor Norales indicated that the Ugundani dance group has been trying to set up an appointment to participate in the Municipal Fair in Bacalar.
85. Councilor Elijio informed the Council that four (4) vendors have proposed to lease the government reserve on Coney Drive. Two (2) of which are existing businesses.
86. Councilor Pollard asked for clarity on the procedure to lease a Government Reserve

87. Councilor Elijio informed Councilor Pollard of the procedure.
88. Councilor Goodin congratulated Elijio on his work
89. Mayor Wagner initiated the motion for the approval to lease Government Reserves on Coney Drive.
90. All Councilors who were present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** ✓
91. Mayor Wagner commended Councilor Goodin on his work for the Summer Basketball Program.
92. Councilor Goodin commended the Mayor on his hard work and commitment thus far.
93. Mayor Wagner informed the Council that he wants the Council to start the Last Friday Initiative on Albert Street by September of this year.
94. Councilor Pitts informed the Council that she has already requested a follow up letter to be sent to the business owners, and she will have a meeting while the Mayor is away.
95. Deputy Arnold informed the Council that Golden Bay Store and Simon Quan Ltd. have expressed interest in participating in the Last Friday Initiative.
96. Ms. Ordonez and Mr. Smith were invited to the meeting to give a briefing on the Fort George Tourism Zone Project (FGTZ) project.
97. Mayor Wagner asked Mr. Troy Smith and Mrs. Ordonez to give an overview of the FGTZ
98. Mrs. Ordonez stated that in 2013, the City Council became involved with the management of the Fort George Tourism Zone (FGTZ) a committee comprising of various managers who would be responsible to manage the zone was formed.
99. The Belize Tourism Board's destination and planning director and one other person responsible for the tourism aspect of the project also made up the committee.
100. The objective of the initiative was to provide a better tourist experience for tourists and to manage the vendors outside the Tourist Village.
101. The FGTZ had proposed for the vendors to move into the kiosks at the Memorial Park.
102. Mayor Wagner asked for the parameters of the zone.
103. Mrs. Ordonez gave clarity on the parameters of the zone.
104. Councilor Goodin left. (3:49 pm)
105. Mayor Wagner stated that the FGTZ speaks a lot of the tourists. He asked where the Council come into account.
106. Councilor Elijio pointed out that there is no representation from the Fort Street Tourism Village or the vendors.
107. Councilor Elijio stated that he has been informed that vendors at BTL Park pay \$350.00 per month for the booths, whereas the vendors at the FGTZ will be required to pay approximately \$600.00 per month.
108. Elijio stated that he has been made to understand that Chukka is not currently paying for parking.
109. Councilor Elijio stated that he needs the corrected document to the FGTZ.
110. Mayor Wagner indicated that the Council will look at the document thoroughly before making a final decision.
111. Councilor Hylton left the meeting. (5:05 pm)

112. Councilor Hylton gave a report on a meeting she held with the elders. She indicated that their primary concern was violence. She mentioned that they asked about benefits and when they will receive ramps on the buildings. They also inquired about senior citizen discounts, and the manholes on Princess Margaret Dr.
113. It was announced that the former City Administrator Ms. Candice Miller has submitted a claim against the Belize City Council for her full contract value.
114. **The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.**



BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR



MRS. STEPHANIE LINDO - GARBUTT
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

