

**BELIZE CITY**  
Always 'bout The People  
**MINUTES of CAUCUS MEETING**  
COUNCIL

July 23, 2019  
Belize City Hall

**Present:**

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mr. Oscar Arnold       | Deputy Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.  | Councilor    |
| 3. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor    |
| 4. Mr. Ryan Elijio        | Councilor    |
| 5. Ms. Aisha Gentle       | Councilor    |
| 6. Mr. Albert Vaughan     | Councilor    |
| 7. Mr. Michael Norales    | Councilor    |
| 8. Dr. Candice Pitts      | Councilor    |

**Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt, City Administrator**

**Mr. Rafael Sosa, Manager, Office of the Mayor**

**Apologies:**

**Mayor Bernard Wagner (vacation leave)**  
**Councilor Micah Goodin (school)**  
**Councilor Delthruide Hylton (summer camp)**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:22 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Arnold after which Councilor Vaughan led his fellow Councilors in reciting the Prayer for Peace of St. Assisi.**

**1.0 Corrections to June 18, 2018 Minutes**

**1.1 Page 5, 6.2, change Heritage Bank Limited to Atlantic Bank Limited.**

**1.2 Page 5, 6.3.1 should read as follows: The City Administrator informed that the Council was able to a 3-D marking ...**



- 1.3 Page 5, 6.3.3 should read as follows: The City Administrator informed that the Ministry of works may have a road marking paint applicator.
- 1.4 Page 6, 6.6.1 should read as follows: The City Administrator informed that the addendum to the contract is being prepared. Add the following: Councilor Vaughan indicated that RJB Construction is requesting a down payment of \$80,000.
- 1.5 Page 8, 8.1, under the heading April/May 2019 Financial Performance – Key Observations, second bullet point should read as follows: The Council continues to reduce wastage in controllable areas, therefore, enabling the Council to pursue an aggressive approach to infrastructure works and social programs. This is in the absence of Municipal Papers.
- 1.6 Page 8, 8.2.2 should read as follows: ... to transfer funds from Heritage Bank Limited to Atlantic Bank Limited to establish a three-month term deposit ...
- N.B.** Councilor Vaughan requested of the City Administrator that she forward her financial reports electronically to the Office of the Mayor Manager for him to print copies and attach to minutes of Caucus Meetings.

## **2.0 Ratification of June 18, 2019 Minutes**

- 2.1 Councilor Gentle moved for the ratification of the June 18, 2019 with corrections. Councilor Eljio seconded.

## **3.0 Matters Arising from Minutes**

- 3.1 **Vendor Leases** – The City Administrator informed that the Director of Legal Affairs did not leave behind electronic copies of vendor leases upon demitting office. Consequently, the Valuation Department is converting files electronically.

- 3.2 **Champion Security System Limited** – The City Administrator reported that the Council has been able to make a down payment of \$24,000 for the security cameras.
- 3.3 **Thermoplastic Paints** – The City Administrator reported that seven (7) or eight (8) buckets of paint have been found at the Customs Department at the Northern Border. The Customs Department has promised to retrieve the remaining buckets of paint. Councilor Vaughan stated that the Council should call out the Ministry of Finance for the missing buckets of paint.
- 3.4 **Urban Gardening Project** – Councilor Pitts shared that she presented Mayor Wagner with a revised budget which totals between \$12,000 and \$14,000. Councilor Pitts informed that Ambassador Shabazz may decide to move ahead with the Urban Gardening Project.
- 3.4.1 Deputy Mayor Arnold reiterated that the Urban Gardening Project is a Manifesto commitment.
- 3.5 **Road Marking Paint Applicator** – Councilor Vaughan informed that the Belmopan City Council does not have a road marking paint applicator. Councilor Vaughan further shared that the Belmopan City Council outsources the marking/painting of streets to Cisco Construction which has a road marking paint applicator.
- 3.5.1 The City Administrator stated that the Works Manager has been tasked with consulting with Cisco Construction as it pertains to the use of its road marking paint applicator.
- 3.6 **Container Drums from SOL Belize Limited** – The City Administrator shared that a total of nineteen (19) drums has been placed at Eternal Garden, one (1) at the Works Department and a total of eighteen (18) drums will be given to the Sanitation Department to address the City's garbage hot spots.
- 3.7 **BCC Flag** – The City Administrator informed that an order has been placed for the newly redesigned Belize City Council Flag. The flag should be ready for the new City Hall.
- 3.8 **MOU (BCC/CBA)** – The City Administrator shared that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Belize City Council (BCC) and the Central Building

Authority (CBA) is dependent on the next meeting of the Mayors Association of Belize.

- 3.9 **Bella Vista Streets** – Councilor Vaughan shared that the residents of the Bella Vista Area are on board; however, the delay is with the down payment that needs to be made to RJB Construction.
- 3.9.1 The City Administrator shared that the residents have requested a payment plan from the Council and an adjustment of the rates that are applied to their property taxes.
- 3.10 **Cecil Jenkins Matter** – Councilor Elijio reported that the City Planner had prepared and submitted a report on the matter of Mr. Cecil Jenkins. Councilor Elijio stated that Mr. Jenkins does not possess a Trade License; yet, he is subletting to someone who possesses a Trade License, that person being Chef Ainsley Castro.
- 3.10.1 The City Administrator informed that Mr. Cecil Jenkins does possess a valid Trade License for a consultancy business that is registered at his place of residence.
- 4.0 **Proposed Working Committee Ref Naming of Streets** – Councilor Albert Vaughan
- 4.1 Councilor Vaughan rose to propose that a working committee be formed to address the naming of streets in the City. Councilor Vaughan stated that there are many outstanding Belizeans who have made significant contributions to their country and should, thus, be honored and recognized.
- 4.2 Councilor Pollard Jr. spoke about the contributions of Mr. Evan “X” Hyde Sr.
- 4.3 Councilor Elijio lauded the suggestion made by Councilor Vaughan.
- 4.4 Councilor Pollard Jr. stated that a lot of streets on the Southside are unnamed.
- 4.5 Deputy Mayor shared that Mr. Gilroy Usher, PUP Standard Bearer for the Port Loyola Constituency, had come up with a similar initiative for the Constituency. Deputy Mayor Arnold added that Mr. Usher would like to collaborate with the Council on the initiative.

- 4.6 Councilor Castellanos rose in support of Councilor Vaughan's suggestion and stated that the working committee would have to determine a start date and completion date.
- 4.7 Deputy Mayor Arnold moved a motion for the formation of a sub-committee for the naming of streets in the City. All Councilors present voted in favor – **MOTION PASSED**
- 4.8 Councilor Vaughan nominated Councilor Pollard Jr. to chair the working committee. Councilor Pollard Jr. accepted the nomination and stated that he would invite other Councilors to be a part of the working committee.
- 5.0 **BCC 2019 Summer Initiatives/Programs – Deputy Mayor Arnold**
- 5.1 **Summer Basketball League – Deputy Mayor Arnold** shared that the Community Support Officer has organized motivational talks which will be delivered before the start of each game.
- 5.2 **Back-to-School Summer Pantry Program - The City Administrator** shared that the budget, last year, for the Summer Pantry Program was a little over \$26,000.
- 5.2.1 Councilor Gentle asked about residents who are approaching Councilors and asking them about the Summer Pantry Program. Deputy Mayor Arnold informed that tickets (70 per Constituency) will be distributed by Area Reps/Standard Bearers.
- 5.2.2 Councilor Norales brought up the issue of Council employees who tend to feel that the Council's social programs are for them.
- 5.2.3 Deputy Mayor Arnold informed that a schedule for media appearances for the Summer Pantry Program has been developed by the PR Department.
- 5.2.4 Councilor Pitts referred to an e-mail that was sent by the Communications Manager re/schedule for media appearances for the Summer Pantry Program. Councilor Pitts shared that the e-mail was sent to the Mayor, the City Administrator and herself.



**6.0 Submission to Building Unit – Councilor Ryan Elijio**

**6.1 Request by Ms. Mayra Canek to lease reserve area at the Corner of Holy Emmanuel Street & the Lake Independence Canal for the purpose of Selling fruits & vegetables. All Councilors present voted in favor – MOTION PASSED**

**7.0 City Administrator’s Report**

**7.1 Financial Performance (June 2019)**

**June 2018**

Total Collections: \$1,308,454  
 Total Expenses: \$1,959,133  
 Difference (\$650,679)

**June 2019**

Total Collections: \$1,183,169  
 Total Expenses: \$1,491,709  
 Difference (\$308,540)

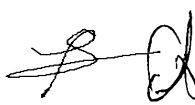
**7.2 The City Administrator reported that salaries, in June, averaged \$390,000 per pay period (\$365,000 in January).**

**7.3 Social Assistance: June 2019 (\$50,000), June 2018 (\$22,000)**

**7.3.1 Councilor Castellanos asked why it is that he is not informed about Social Assistance for small businesses. Councilor Castellanos stated that the LED Unit needs to develop an annual workplan.**

**7.4 Overview of HR**

- 56 new positions created since March 2018
- 91 new hires since March 2018
- 47 transfers up to June 2019
- 29 resignations up to June 2019
- 26 terminations/dismissals up to June 2019
- 20 Disciplinary Committee Hearings
- 44 new CWU members



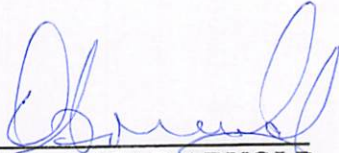
- **Current vacancies: Finance Director, Legal Counsel (in-house), Building Supervisor, Accounts Payable Officer, Grader Operator, Sanitation Manager, Special Constables (4)**

**N.B.** Councilor Castellanos requested an excuse at 6:15 p.m.

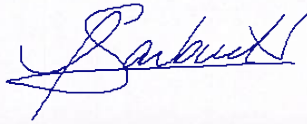
- 7.5 Councilor Vaughan reported that works on Bishop Street, from East Collet Canal to George Street, have been completed.
- 7.6 The City Administrator informed that a total of sixteen (16) streets remain to be repaired/rehabilitated.
- 7.7 The City Administrator shared that the Council's Literacy Program is getting off to a start. The City Administrator added that the LED Unit has partnered with the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (**BELTRAIDE**) to provide Financial Literacy training to residents who want to start small businesses.
- 7.8 Deputy Mayor Arnold suggested that the LED Unit conduct a follow-up as it relates to those Belizeans who were recruited and employed by JBS Foods in Canada.
- 7.9 The City Administrator stated that the Council has been able to produce a lot with little. The City Administrator reported that the Council's sixteen Departments are underperforming at fifty percent.
- 8.0 Other Business**
- 8.1 Deputy Mayor Arnold informed that the "2019 Belize City Council Municipal Paper Bill" has gone through its first reading in the House of Representatives.
- 8.2 Councilor Vaughan informed that the Council will be holding a public auction on August 3, 2019 at the Works Department compound to sell off unserviceable vehicles.

- 8.3 Councilor Vaughan shared that the City Engineer has prepared and submitted a report informing that the City Swing Bridge is in a grave state of disrepair. Councilor Vaughan suggested that the Council close the Swing Bridge or, if not, the Council may face liability for any accidents/injuries suffered by residents.
- 8.4 Councilor Vaughan encouraged better communication among Councilors.
- 9.0 **Adjournment**
- 9.1 Councilor Norales moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Councilor Elijio seconded. The meeting concluded at 6:49 p.m.





**MR. OSCAR ARNOLD**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR**



**MRS. STEPHANIE LINDO-GARBUTT**  
**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**