



MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday May 30, 2018
Belize City Hall

Present:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Oscar Arnold | Councilor |
| 2. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor |
| 3. Ms. Aisha Gentle | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Micah Goodin | Councilor |
| 5. Ms. Delthruide Hylton | Councilor |
| 6. Mr. Michael Norales | Councilor |
| 7. Mr. Albert Vaughan | Councilor |
| 8. Dr. Candice Pitts | Councilor |
| 9. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr. | Councilor |

Absent:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Bernard Wagner | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Ryan Elijo | Councilor |

Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez – Acting City Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 4:24 pm
Councilor Gentle led the prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

1. Deputy Arnold requested that the minutes for Caucus held May 3, 2018 be reviewed.
2. Councilor Norales moved for a motion that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday May 3, 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record. Councilor Hylton motioned for the approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilor Pollard. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. Deputy Arnold requested that the minutes for Caucus held Wednesday April 25, 2018 be reviewed.
4. Councilor Pollard moved for a motion that the minutes of the Ordinary Closed Council Meeting held on Wednesday April 25, 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record. Councilor Hylton motioned for the approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilor Norales. **MOTION CARRIED.**



Matters Arising

5. Deputy Arnold asked for updates about Mr. Garoy's interest in using a location on North Creek, which is a City Council reserve, to sell food. No updates could be provided on the matter.
6. Councilor Vaughan suggested that Councilor Gentle investigate the ownership of the Lousie Bevans Park.
7. Councilor Gentle mentioned that she had asked the Valuation Manager Mr. Troy Smith to look into the matter.
8. Councilor Vaughan recommended putting a timeline on any investigation that employees are asked to carry out.
9. Deputy Arnold announced that Mayor Wagner was out of the country on personal leave.
10. Councilor Pitts announced that she would be in the Tri-State area from June 7-12, 2018 meeting with Newark's Mayor Ras J. Baraka to strengthen ties between the two cities, i.e., Belize and Newark. Councilor Pitts also stated that she would be meeting with the Belizean Anglican Diocese in New York.
11. Deputy Arnold asked Councilor Pitts to reach out to the Belizean Association in New York.
12. Councilor Vaughan inquired if Councilor Pitts would be out on official Council business.
13. Deputy Arnold said that Councilor Pitts' would partially be out on Council business.
14. Councilor Pitts mentioned that she would be receiving an award from the Anglican Diocese in New York while there.
15. On behalf of the Office of the Mayor and the Councilors, Deputy Arnold extended congratulatory wishes to Councilor Pitts. He expressed that he knows she will represent the Council well.

Notices/Reports/Discussion/Information

16. Councilor Pollard informed the Council that along with the assistance of Councilor Vaughan, they put together a Traffic Advisory Committee to table different policies before such policies are released to the public.
17. The members of the Committee include:
 - Chair Mayor Bernard Wagner
 - Member Councilor Allan Pollard Jr.
 - Member Councilor Albert Vaughan
 - Member Police Representative
 - Member National Transport Representative
 - Member Taxi/Bus Operator – Mr. Phil Jones
 - Member Public Representative - Mr. Ernesto Torres
 - Member Public Representative - Mr. Ashton Longsworth



- Ex- Officio Member Traffic manager – Mr. Kevan Jenkins
 - Recording Secretary Traffic Admin. Officer – Ms. Bevans
18. Councilor Pollard initiated the motion to reactivate the Traffic Advisory Committee.
 19. Councilor Goodin motioned for the Traffic Advisory Board to be reactivated, seconded by Councilor Hylton.
 20. All Councilors who were present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 21. Councilor Vaughan stated he believes the committee will help a lot with the collection of revenue. He also stated that he will ensure that the committee will not appear to be political.
 22. Councilor Castellanos suggested alternating members on the board.
 23. Councilor Norales indicated that the LED Manager must also become aware of the Committee.
 24. Deputy Arnold invited Mr. Geraldo Flowers and Mr. Rishi Mungal to give a presentation on the Southside Vocational School of Seamstress Project.
 25. Mr. Flowers indicated that the original plan was for their group to approach CARSI.
 26. Mr. Flowers mentioned that the aim of the Project is geared towards targeting single mothers from the Southside of Belize City.
 27. Mr. Flowers informed the Council that the idea is to develop an average of about 50 young people over a specific period, to teach them to sew uniforms. In turn, these young people would then teach the skills to other young people.
 28. Mr. Flowers stated that the proposed building that would be used to host the vocational school might be able to turn into a factory.
 29. Mr. Flowers proposed having the young people from the program sew uniforms for the Belize City Council.
 30. Mr. Flowers stated that he had an excellent trainer with international experience in mind to teach the cohort to develop uniforms of a specific standard.
 31. Mr. Mungal made mention that they were working with time constraints in regards to renting the proposed building for the program.
 32. Mr. Mungal informed the Council that there is another offer for the building. Consequently, he asked that the Council provide an initial deposit to secure the premises.
 33. Mr. Mungal informed the Council that the cost to rent the particular building they have in mind for the program would amount to \$4000.00 monthly.
 34. Mr. Mungal asked the Council to provide a three month deposit for the rent.
 35. Mr. Mungal stated that the project is set to start sometime between September & October 2018.

36. Deputy Arnold asked what the inherent risk would be since the Council is still in the proposal stage.
37. Mr. Flowers admitted that there will be risks involved. He further stated that he would look at areas to scale down and look for other investors until CARSI would be able to kick in.
38. Councilor Castellanos asked for a specific start time for the project.
39. Mr. Flowers informed him that the first sum of money is to be released in September 2018 for start of operation in October 2018.
40. Councilor Castellanos asked if trainees would be paid.
41. Mr. Flowers indicated that transportation as well as babysitting services/fare would be provided for trainees.
42. Councilor Castellanos asked Mr. Flowers if he would give the Council the opportunity to provide the people for the program.
43. Councilor Pitts asked how long the Council would be bounded to the contract after the first deposit.
44. Mr. Flowers informed the Council that the project has a 16 month period in which the Council would be bounded.
45. Councilor Vaughan indicated that he wants to ensure that the populace of the country is employed. He pointed out that he saw a Honduran National in the proposal as the premier trainer for the program.
46. Mr. Flowers stated that the particular person was looked at because of her level of expertise.
47. Mr. Mungal concurred that she was chosen because of her expertise, and her role would be to train the trainer.
48. Mr. Flowers stated that they were looking for someone who could produce uniforms for the market - someone who has done that before. He further stated that if a person with her level of competence could be found, he/she would be taken into consideration.
49. Deputy Arnold asked for clarity in regards to the total cost of the project (\$32,000 USD), the initial sum being asked for (\$12,000 USD), and the amount CARSI would be funding.
50. Mr. Flowers confirmed that those sums of money were correct. He mentioned that CARSI would assist with the final cost of the project.
51. Deputy Arnold asked if any work was done to find an alternate location to host the program, so that the initial payment being asked for would not need to be made so quickly.
52. Mr. Flowers said that the location of the building is particularly important because of its location and its ability to reach the target market.
53. Councilor Pitts asked what would happen to the down payment from the Council if the project does not materialize.



54. Mr. Flowers indicated that they would have to scale back on the project. He also mentioned that they would continue with the project even without the assistance from CARSI.
55. Councilor Pitts asked if those facts would be reflected in the Terms of Agreement.
56. Mr. Flowers confirmed that they would.
57. Councilor Vaughan asked that the Council be given more time to look at the proposal. He also suggested that a committee to review the project be formed and spearheaded by Councilor Pitts.
58. Deputy Arnold stated that he welcomes the idea of any development of the City, but would prefer not to set North and South Side boundaries. Singles mothers from the entire Belize City area could be reached.
59. Deputy Arnold asked how the ownership of the structure as well as equipment would be defined.
60. Mr. Flowers stated that the aim is for the initiative to be a cooperative; the trainees would be partners.
61. Councilor Hylton asked if the trainees would collect a stipend.
62. Mr. Flowers indicated that lunch would be provided to trainees as well as a portion of money towards babysitters. He stated that after the training, the money would be provided.
63. Councilor Pitts asked how long the training period would be and what the areas for the stipend would be.
64. Mr. Flowers said that the training period would be eight months. A bus fare, lunch, and money to help with babysitting were the areas highlighted.
65. Deputy Arnold cited that individuals would still need to feed their families while undergoing this training.
66. Councilor Castellanos suggested having the training in different levels.
67. Mr. Flowers informed the Council that the money for the project has to be spent according to the proposal.
68. Deputy Arnold asked for clarity on what specifically Mr. Flowers and Mr. Mungal were asking for, i.e., a letter of support and a down payment.
69. Mr. Mungal asked if a vote could be taken to proceed with the project.
70. Deputy Arnold informed him that at the moment the Council could only commit to looking at the document and putting a committee together to review the document.
71. Councilor Pitts stated that she does not believe the Council should be forced into a timeline to sign on to the proposal.
72. Councilor Pollard asked if the Council could afford to sign on to the project.
73. Councilor Castellanos commented that the project is a good initiative.
74. Councilor Norales stated that he was not aware that the Council needed to make a monetary contribution to the project.



75. Councilor Hylton mentioned that the project looked good on paper, but she was displeased by some of the comments made by Mr. Flowers.
76. Councilor Gentle remarked that she did not understand the first draft of the project, and she initially came to the meeting to decline the proposal.
77. Councilor Vaughan commented that the concept was sterile.
78. Deputy Arnold stated that the Council will be faced with many proposals in the months ahead and that development won't come without risks. Some good ideas were in the project. Some needed to be worked out.
79. Deputy Arnold asked for members to serve on the review committee.
80. Councilors Pitts, Deputy Arnold, and Councilor Castellanos volunteered to review the document.
81. Councilor Vaughan suggested for the findings of the committee to be presented to the entire Council for a decision to be made on the project.

Other Matters

82. Councilor Norales mentioned that people are writing the Council for assistance and are not being given any feedback. He also stated that these individuals are contacting the Councilors personally.
83. Councilor Norales queried how Social Assistance is given and what amount is given.
84. Councilor Norales suggested writing a letter stating that each month a certain sum of money is to be distributed.
85. Deputy Arnold mentioned that people not getting feedback is a recurring problem. He also stated that as a point of respect, individuals should be given a response.
86. Deputy Arnold clarified that \$500.00 monthly is budgeted for Councilors, provided that there is money for the budget.
87. Councilor Pitts stated that there was one incident with a mother whose son was killed. A letter was sent to the Mayor for assistance. The letter was approved, yet the individual did not receive the assistance.
88. Councilor Vaughan mentioned that they cannot have one set of people asking for assistance.
89. Councilor Pollard expressed concerns with the donation and vacancy process.
90. Councilor Vaughan informed the Council that he was reliably informed that the Education Subsistence provided by the MOE would no longer be given to PUP area representatives.
91. Councilor Pitts mentioned that she spoke with Nando's. The pantry project was to commence by June 1, 2018. However, the CEO could not access the person responsible for putting the packages together.
92. Councilor Hylton asked what would be the cost of the pantry.



- 93. Mrs. Ordonez clarified that the pantry used to be free. Recipients did not pay.
- 94. Deputy Arnold mentioned that the Council would need to decide how the pantry would be distributed.
- 95. Councilor Pitts stated that 30 persons from each constituency would receive the pantry.
- 96. Councilor Vaughan brought to the attention of the Council that the students from Wesley Junior College painted the Swing Bridge. He also mentioned that he has been trying to get some speed bumps at the pedestrian crossing at Albert & North Front Street.
- 97. Councilor Vaughan indicated that 266 manhole covers were retrieved from the Council's previous contractor – Moro's Construction.
- 98. **The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.**

OSCAR ARNOLD
DEPUTY MAYOR

MARILYN ORDONEZ
AG. CITY ADMINISTRATOR

