



## **MINUTES of REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Caucus Room, Belize City Council**

**10:00 a.m.**

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Present:**

- 1. **His Worship Bernard Wagner** Mayor
- 2. **Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.** Deputy Mayor
- 3. **Mr. Albert Vaughan** Councilor
- 4. **Ms. Natasha Pipersburgh** Councilor
- 5. **Ms. Kaya Cattouse** Councilor
- 6. **Mr. Edmund Kwan** Councilor
- 7. **Mr. Michael Novelo** Councilor
- 8. **Ms. Deannie Requeña** Councilor
- 9. **Ms. Stephanie Hamilton** Councilor
- 10. **Mr. Javier Castellanos** Councilor

Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt **City Administrator**  
 Mr. Eluide Miller **Manager, Office of the Mayor**

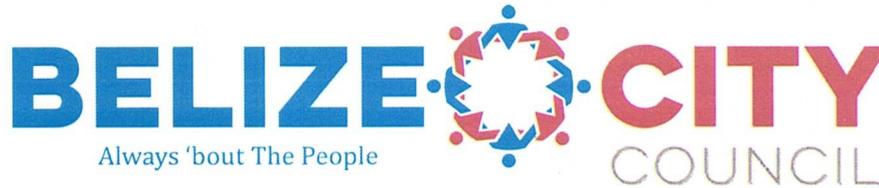
**Present Virtually:**

- 11. **Mr. Micah Goodin** Councilor

**Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.**

**1.0 Belize National Prayer**

Mayor Wagner led all in reciting the Belize National Prayer.



## **2.0 Welcome Remarks**

- 2.1 Mayor Wagner expressed that it is great to be back in office following his recent certified medical leave and acknowledged Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. for holding over in his absence and for chairing the previous Regular Council Meeting.
- 2.2 Mayor Wagner then thanked all Council members for taking time out to conduct the business on behalf of the residents of Belize City. Mayor Wagner reiterated the importance of making time to conduct the people's business as all members of the Council was elected to do so.

## **3.0 Ratification of the August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes**

- 3.1 Mayor Wagner asked all members to review the minutes of the August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, special meeting in the event they did not get to do so beforehand.
- 3.2 Correction to (4.6) of the special meeting minutes. Remove duplicated point.
- 3.3 Correction to (7.3) of the special meeting minutes.
- 3.4 Councilor Novelo moved for the August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, special meeting minutes to be ratified. Seconded by Councilor Hamilton.

## **4.0 Matters arising from Minutes**

- 4.1 The City Administrator noted that the Council successful hosted all its September Celebrations as expected except for the September movie night which was postponed due to inclement weather. The City Administrator then expressed her gratitude to the staff of the Belize City Council for hosting a very successful September Celebrations.
- 4.2 The City Administrator then announced that the third cohort of the Youth Shadow Council has been selected and will be announced in the coming weeks.



4.3 The City Administrator also shared that an event is being hosted for the second cohort of the Youth Shadow Council whose term is coming to an end. All Council members were invited to attend this going out social.

4.4 The City Administrator shared that a team from the Belize City Council will be visiting the Michael Finnegan Market on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as requested by the Council in the previous meeting.

### 5.0 Announcements by the Mayor

5.1 Mayor Wagner shared that he led a very fruitful trip to Belize City's new sister city, Angleton Texas who had the participation of the following representatives:

- His Worship Mayor Bernard Wagner, Mayor of Belize City
- Councilor Stephanie Hamilton, Councilor with responsibility for Tourism, Diaspora Relations, Zoning & Planning, Building Unit, Foreign Affairs and Sister City Relations
- Councilor Kaya Cattouse, Councilor with responsibility for Youth, Sports, Wellness, Sanitation and Maintenance
- Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt, City Administrator
- Dr. Vincent Palacio, President of the University of Belize
- Mr. Josue Carballo, Belize Tourism Board
- Mr. Giacomo Sanchez, Belize Chamber of Commerce, and Industry
- Mr. Eluide Miller, Office of the Mayor, Belize City Council
- Ms. Erin Garnett, Public Relations Department, Belize City Council

5.2 Mayor Wagner also shared the various presentations made by some of the delegates who joined on the trip.

5.3 Mayor Wagner noted that the Sister City Agreement with the City of Angleton is now signed and shared that he was most impressed by the Angleton Independent School District's (ISD) Career and Technology Program (CTE). Mayor Wagner shared that it is his intention to ensure that some level of student exchange is carried out of this new friendship agreement.



- Angleton ISD's Career and Technical Education Department's vision is to support innovative CTE programs that prepare individuals to succeed in their education and careers and poise them to flourish in a global, dynamic economy through leadership, advocacy, and partnerships.
- 5.4 Mayor Wagner reiterated that the CTE Program is the best he has ever seen and so he wishes to have some city residents attend to see how they could improve their skills on an international level.
  - 5.5 Mayor Wagner shared that the delegation also visited Brazosport College where they got a first-hand view of the many programs offered. Located on 156 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds in Lake Jackson, Texas, Brazosport College has served as the college of choice for students in southern Brazoria County since 1968. Brazosport College offers four-year degree programs in Industrial Management and Health Services Management. BC also offers two-year degree and certificate options in a variety of career fields, as well as courses in major fields of study, which will transfer to four-year schools.
  - 5.6 Mayor Wagner shared that the core areas of the friendship agreement include Education, Sports, Tourism and Local Economic Development.
  - 5.7 Mayor Wagner highlighted that the City of Angleton will be leading a toy drive which is to be followed by a virtual handing over of all toys received to the Belize City Council. Those toys will then be distributed to city residents by the Belize City Council.
  - 5.8 Mayor Wagner noted that both him and Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. were out of country on official business at the same time due to a scheduling conflict but highlighted that the Council is made up of competent and capable Council members such as Councilor Albert Vaughan who filled in and acted as Mayor during their absence.
  - 5.9 Mayor Wagner expressed that Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. represented the Council well in the City of Miramar as he attended the Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE) and worked with the City Government to rekindle the Sister City Agreement between the City of Miramar and Belize City.



- 5.10 Mayor Wagner shared that he recently had a virtual call with the City of Newark who wants to host Belize City to participate in a Trade Show they are hosting in the coming weeks. Mayor Wagner then thanked Councilor Hamilton for driving her Sister City Portfolio.
- 5.11 Councilor Hamilton thanked Mayor Wagner and the City Administrator for their participation in driving forth the new Sister City Agreement with the City of Angleton. Councilor Hamilton then shared that both cities will be meeting on a quarterly basis to ensure that the relationship remains fruitful and strong.
- 5.12 Mayor Wagner shared that a new Belize City Video has been produced which will only help to draw more visitors to the city. Mayor Wagner shared that this video will be launched on all news stations in the coming days and noted that it will be shared with all Council members once complete.
- 5.13 Mayor Wagner shared that the UNDP has sent out a bid request for the development of Transport App which is to support the E-Transit Network project. Mayor Wagner also announced that a new E-Transit Network Expert has been selected by UNDP to lead the project. Mayor Wagner then shared that this remains a Pilot Project that will help private bus operators gauge how feasible the transition to electric buses really is.
- 5.14 Mayor Wagner shared that he recently met with the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) to see how they could better cooperate in the Council's efforts to complete infrastructural works across the city in the upcoming months. Mayor Wagner shared that the Council is currently ready to proceed with TV Ramos Street, but it requires some level of prerequisite works by BWS.
- 5.15 Mayor Wagner shared the list of streets to be completed by the Council over the upcoming months which include but is not limited to G Street, Hibiscus Lane, Jasmine Street, Kut Avenue, Mahogany Street, Maurice Bishop Street, Salt Street, Sarstoon Street, Thomas Vincent Ramon Street and Tigris Street.

***DEPUTY MAYOR POLLARD JR. ARRIVED AT THE MEETING AT 10:25 A.M.***

- 5.16 Mayor Wagner announced that the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) will be concreting Holy Emmanuel Street following the Council's work to line the canal.

- 5.17 Mayor Wagner then shared that the NICH Parking Lot on Regent Street will be hot-mixed, and it will be completely upgraded with safety cameras and other modern features.
- 5.18 Mayor Wagner also noted that the Council wrote to the Port of Belize and PUMA to see how they could assist in improving Caesar Ridge Road given that it is the constant traversing of their heavy trucks that caused that stretch of road to be damaged in the first place. Mayor Wagner noted that there has been no response from either entity thus far.
- 5.19 Mayor Wagner shared that there is a bigger plan for the completion of Green Street which remains a priority for the Freetown Constituency. Councilor Vaughan then noted that the Hon. Francis Fonseca, Area Representative for the Freetown Constituency will be meeting with MIDH to discuss this initiative in the coming days.
- 5.20 Mayor Wagner shared that Antelope Street Extension has been one of the worst streets in the city for quite some time. Mayor Wagner then highlighted that the Council recently laid down the culverts along the street and noted that the Works team is putting together an estimate as the Council is desirous of improving the street utilizing the chip and seal technique.
- 5.21 Mayor Wagner announced that Traffic Lights and Pedestrian Crossing Lights are to be installed at the intersection of St. Thomas Street and St. Joseph Street with a view to alleviate traffic congestion in the area.
- 5.22 Mayor Wagner then highlighted that all booths in the Digi Park recently received much needed upgrades which includes paint and new shutters.
- 5.23 Mayor Wagner shared that Nurse White Street will be rehabilitated with chip and seal in the coming weeks following the recent laying down of hardcore material.
- 5.24 Mayor Wagner noted that the PR Department is working to source lights for the Sir Manuel Esquivel Overpass that can change colors with a view to keep the overpass properly lit all year round.



- 5.25 Mayor Wagner ended his announcements by highlighting that the Council's Anniversary Super Sale is coming up and announced that 139 participants have applied to participate to date. Mayor Wagner encouraged all Council members to come out in support of the Super Sale and meet with the various entities who will be participating.
- 6.0 Presentation: Proposed Write-Off – Belize City Council's Revenue Team: Mr. Amir Carrillo, Mr. Frank Thompson, and Mr. Troy Smith**
- 6.1 Mr. Carrillo shared that after the Revenue Team reviewed the outstanding rental/lease arrears for rental properties, they noticed 320 accounts with outstanding balance.
- 6.2 Mr. Carrillo shared that these old accounts were closed in the old tax system and were then transferred over to NEO Systems which is being used today. As a result of this transfer, 263 accounts are still generating a monthly invoice when in fact they have not been in operation for an extended period of time.
- 6.3 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. highlighted that this would certainly affect the council's compliance rate.
- 6.4 Mr. Carrillo noted that closing these accounts would show an accurate reflection of the council's receivables. In addition, Mr. Carrillo noted that the arrears for the market and parking spaces for taxis needs to be addressed as well.
- 6.5 Mr. Carrillo highlighted that (55) Taxi Associations and freelance taxis have arrears more than \$83,000.00. The recommendation is to restrict the accounts of those freelance taxi operators so that they will come in and make the necessary arrangements to clear their arrears and become current on their account. In terms of the Associations, Mr. Carrillo recommended giving them a (30) day notice to settle outstanding balances.
- 6.6 Mr. Thompson suggested for a Trade License to be issued to those freelance taxi operators as opposed to a peddler's license.
- 6.7 Mr. Carrillo shared that there are approximately (50) accounts in arrears at the Michael Finnegan Market which accounts for just about \$60,000.00.

- 6.8 Mr. Carrillo announced that multiple notices were given to these vendors over the past six (6) months but to minimal avail. The Revenue Team is therefore recommending that a final (30) day notice be given to these vendors to settle arrears, failure to settle will lead to eviction.
- 6.9 Mayor Wagner supported the recommendations made by Mr. Carrillo and Mr. Thompson.
- 6.10 Mr. Carrillo then introduced the data for proposed property tax incentives for the year 2023. The Revenue Team proposed for the same structure as the fiscal year 2021-2022 which was 15% discount in January, 10% discount in February and 5% discount in March.

Mr. Frank Thompson and Mr. Troy Smith left the meeting.

**7.0 Audit Report – Mr. Amir Carrillo, Director of Finance**

- 7.1 Mr. Carrillo shared that he will be reviewing the Balance Sheet, Cash Flow and Profit and Loss Statements from the Draft Audit Report with the Council.
- 7.2 Mr. Carrillo shared the Total Assets for the Fiscal Year ending March 2020 and March 2021.
- 7.3 Mr. Carrillo shared Property and Equipment values for the Fiscal Year ending March 2020 and March 2021.
- 7.4 Mr. Carrillo shared the Profit and Loss values for the Fiscal Year ending March 2020 and March 2021 and highlighted total revenues for both years.
- 7.5 Mayor Wagner highlighted the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in revenues decreasing by over five (5) million dollars over the course of one year.
- 7.6 Mr. Carrillo highlighted the net surplus and deficit for the Fiscal Year ending March 2020 and March 2021.

- 7.7 Mr. Carrillo shared the statement of cash flow which justifies how the net deficit was financed.
- 7.8 The City Administrator shared that her salary is inaccurate in the Draft Audit Report and asked that it be removed by the Auditor or else she will request that the Council pays her the difference.
- 7.9 The City Administrator also shared that the Directors of the Council's salaries be shared on the Audit Report as well.

#### **8.0 Notices**

- 8.1 No notices were tabled.

#### **9.0 Questions**

- 9.1 Councilor Cattouse highlighted the increased traffic congestion in the area between the Marion Jones Stadium and Pallotti High School during the morning time. Councilor Cattouse asked that the Council's Traffic team engage both schools to have them allow students to be dropped off on campus as opposed to outside of campus as this adds to the congestion.
- 9.2 Councilor Vaughan noted that the City Administrator and the Traffic Enforcement Manager previously met with all the schools in this area with a view to declare the area a School Zone which would help to alleviate the traffic congestion. Councilor Vaughan shared that cones will be placed outside of the Saint John's College in the coming week with a view to help alleviate congestion in the morning.
- 9.3 Councilor Novelo raised concerns over a mechanic which is located at the corner of Pelican Street as the cars parked in front of his property blocks the view of oncoming traffic. Councilor Novelo asked that the Council's Traffic Enforcement team work to address this situation.



9.4 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. asked for an update on the matter of the mechanic on Faber's Road. Deputy Pollard Jr. reiterated the importance of addressing this situation as it is a grave health and safety hazard to residents in the immediate area.

9.5 The City Administrator shared that the gentleman was notified that he cannot lawfully operate a junkyard and he is to be formally written once again in the coming days with the guidance of the Legal Counsel. The City Administrator also noted that the Enforcement Manager and the Municipal Court Manager is following up with the gentleman.

## 10.0 Petitions

10.1 Mayor Wagner highlighted that a petition was submitted by the residents of the Home Park area in the Caribbean Shores Registration Section. This petition was submitted by residents who reside on St. Edward, St. Charles, St. John, St. Matthew, and St. Mark streets and those living in the immediate surroundings. The petition is for the Belize City Council to close public access to the seafront area with a view to stop loitering in the entire neighborhood and specifically the area widely known as "Hanga".

10.2 The petition highlights that for years the residents of the community have been disturbed by the many troubling activities that take place in-front of the area which includes but are not limited to:

- Excessive Drinking
- Smoking of prohibited drugs
- Playing very loud music
- Sexual activities
- Physical abuse
- Groups of vehicles culminating on front of properties
- Burglary and theft
- Transferring of contraband goods
- Dumping of garbage in the sea

10.3 Mayor Wagner then highlighted the notable signatories on the petition which includes some very well-known city residents.

- 10.4 Councilor Vaughan raised concerns over the fact that this is the second petition coming from this same area and noted the need for the signatures to be verified.
- 10.5 Councilor Vaughan stated that he cannot support the petition as he believes the area should remain open for public use.
- 10.6 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. shared that he absolutely does not support the petition and went further to state that he does not understand how a resident can buy a piece of property in a public area and then expect the area to be closed off to the public.
- 10.7 Councilor Kwan shared that he does not support the petition as the area is a public reserve and should remain as such. Councilor Kwan recommended for there to be increased policing of the area to help alleviate the concerns articulated by the residents.
- 10.8 Councilor Requeña shared that she cannot support the petition as this area is well utilized by the young population. Councilor Requeña requested that the Council work to uplift the area in terms of its infrastructure.
- 10.9 Councilor Castellanos noted that he does not support the petition as it will set a bad precedent.
- 10.10 Councilor Novelo noted that he does not support the petition but advised that the Council lean on law enforcement to tackle those areas of concerns raised by the residents. Councilor Novelo highlighted that this area is a public reserve, and it should remain as such.
- 10.11 Mayor Wagner shared that the Council would write back to the residents expressing that the Council does not support the petition.



## 11.0 Presentation of Reports from Councilors

- 11.1 Councilor Vaughan expressed that he is impressed with the notable improvement in the performance of the Council's Enforcement Team and highlighted their recent effort to clear up a property where a resident was stockpiling old washing machines in his yard which was a nuisance to residents in the Victoria Street area.
- 11.2 Councilor Vaughan then highlighted the need for the Council to meet with both Parking Meter Vendors at the earliest to discuss progress and possible areas of improvement. Councilor Vaughan ended his update by congratulating Mayor Wagner and the delegation who visited the City of Angleton and who led the signing of the new Sister City Agreement between the two cities.
- 11.3 Councilor Cattouse shared that the area once demarcated as the area which would be utilized to build the Ring Road Park is now overgrown and suggested for the Council to bush the property.
- 11.4 Mayor Wagner highlighted that the Area Presentative for the Lake Independence Constituency has other plans for the area and the park facility will be built in another space.
- 11.5 Councilor Cattouse invited all Council members to the light riding event leading up to Christmas. Councilor Cattouse noted that she will be sharing more information on this event as time progresses.
- 11.6 Councilor Novelo highlighted plans to increase the human resource at the Cemetery Department and shared that he is excited to see the impact it will have on their ability to effectively carry out the functions.
- 11.7 Councilor Kwan shared a concern expressed by a resident who is concerned about the fact that there is no sidewalk on St. Joseph Street which is heavily trafficked by pedestrians. Councilor Kwan asked that the City Engineer and the City Planning Unit investigate this matter at the earliest.
- 11.8 Councilor Requeña congratulated Mayor Wagner and Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. for their work in pursuing new Sister City Relationships. Councilor Requeña shared that she is happy to see the work being done to repair Apollo Street following complaints by residents in the area.



- 11.9 Councilor Requeña then announced that she is working very closely with Ms. Vasquez of NICH to see how they could partner to host some extracurricular activities for students on weekends at the Bliss Institute. Councilor Requeña also highlighted plans to go into various schools across the city to educate students on the role of the Belize City Council and its Sanitation Department.
- 11.10 Councilor Hamilton shared an update on the Food Hub Project in the Lake Independence Area. Councilor Hamilton noted that four (4) new booths have been constructed in Block 1 of the Project Zone. Councilor Hamilton then noted that the project is now heading in to Block 2 which will see the installation of several new booths within the next ten (10) days.
- 11.11 Mayor Wagner shared that it is important to have all the new booths fully functional at the time when the ribbon cutting is carried out.
- 11.12 Councilor Pipersburgh shared that she will be attending the 2022 Blue Economy Resilience Forum being held in November. Councilor Pipersburgh then highlighted that the 16 Days of Activism is quickly approaching and shared that she would want to carry out the raising of the 16 flags at the Flag Monument and do a ceremony and a vigil on the very first day (launch day).
- 11.13 Councilor Pipersburgh also shared that she met with the National Special Needs Committee to see how the committee could be strengthened.
- 11.14 Councilor Pipersburgh highlighted that the keys to the Charles Burton Park was handed over to Mayor Wagner and the Belize City Council in a small ceremony held at the park.
- 11.15 Councilor Pipersburgh announced that the first harvest from the Council's Urban Garden Project will be ready in the upcoming week. Councilor Pipersburgh then ended her update by noting that the Dolphin Park is being upgraded by the Area Representative for the Caribbean Shores Constituency, Hon. Kareem Musa.
- 11.16 Mayor Wagner noted plans to construct a small park in the Gungulung Area, like the one that was recently inaugurated in the Collet Constituency.



- 11.17 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. commended each Council member for the work they are doing in their respective portfolios and highlighted the increase synergy among members.
- 11.18 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. shared that the Works Department has been on top of the street upgrades and expressed that they have been doing a splendid job. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. then noted that he met with the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) recently to work out some kinks in the scheduling of street upgrades to be done given that some level of intervention on their part is required.
- 11.19 The City Administrator noted that she had to lead the City Engineer and the Works Manager in developing a work schedule in order for the street upgrades to commence.
- 11.20 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. commended the Council's PR Department on showcasing the various activities being carried out by the Council.
- 11.21 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. highlighted the need for a greater effort to be made in respect to the bushing of the city. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. noted that it would make sense to him for the Council to place a cutting crew in each constituency.
- 11.22 The City Administrator shared that Mayor Wagner has approved for additional cutting crew members to be hired. The City Administrator noted that the notices will go out in the upcoming week and encouraged all Council members to share it with their respective constituencies.
- 11.23 Councilor Vaughan stated that he is currently negotiating with NICH to have them take over the maintenance of the Yarborough Cemetery going forward. Councilor Vaughan shared that this arrangement should be finalized in the upcoming week.
- 11.24 Councilor Kwan shared that he supports the hiring of additional cutting crew members and having them bring their own cutting equipment. Councilor Kwan also suggested that the Council can possibly fund the equipment and deduct the cost of it through salary deductions.



- 11.25 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. shared that he attended FITCE in Miramar, Miami on behalf of the Council and highlighted that he also met with Government Officials from the City of Miramar on several occasions with a view to rekindle Belize City's Sister City relationship with the City of Miramar.
- 11.26 Councilor Vaughan noted that he has called for a Street Naming Committee Meeting to be held in the upcoming week.

***COUNCILOR GOODIN LEFT THE MEETING AT 12:56 P.M.***

**12.0 Request for leave to move the adjournment of the Council on definite matter of urgent public concern**

- 12.1 No matters were tabled.

***COUNCILOR HAMILTON LEFT THE MEETING AT 1:00 P.M.***

**13.0 Motions by Councilors**

- 13.1 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to appoint Ms. Angelita Esquilliano to the Post of Human Resources Manager effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, having served in the capacity of Acting Human Resources Manager since May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.2 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to appoint Mrs. Marcia Joseph to the Post of Public Health and Cemetery Manager effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, having served in the capacity of Acting Public Health and Cemetery Manager since May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.3 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to confirm Mr. Devin Daly to the Post of Programs Manager attached to the Office of the City Administrator effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.4 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to confirm Ms. Carissa Casanova to the Post of Administrative Manager attached to the Office of the City Administrator effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. **MOTION PASSED.**



- 13.5 Mayor Wagner moved a motion to approve the appointment of WA Lindo LLP as the Belize City Council's legal representative. The services to be provided by WA Lindo LLP will be provided in respect to any in progress or new matters that may arise which require legal guidance and as instructed by approved personnel of the Council. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.6 Councilor Pipersburgh moved a motion for the Belize City Council to approve for Ms. Mercy Hammon to lease one (1) booth at City Hall for a period of three (3) years for the purpose of establishing a business entitled "Mercy's Collection". **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.7 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to approve a contract for K&M Construction Limited to carry out the installation of six (6) traffic lights with shields and four (4) pedestrian crossing lights with push button features at the intersection of St. Thomas Street and St. Joseph Street with a view to alleviate traffic congestion in the area and ensure pedestrian safety. The project would be carried out at a total cost of \$161,900.00. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.8 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to approve the renewal of Love FM's contract for promotional services for a period of one (1) year with a total cost of \$10,800.00. **MOTION PASSED.**
- 13.9 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to approve a contract for GEL Quarry Ltd. to carry out the following works in the Lake Independence Community with a view to fulfill one of its campaign promises to eliminate london bridges and improve the quality of life for residents in the area.

The scope of works for this project include:

- the upgrading of the access road which runs alongside the canal (from the Haulover Creek to the George Price Highway of approximately 2,260 running feet) that is perpendicular to the Gungulung Canal (the canal that runs alongside Holy Emmanuel Street),



- the excavation of at least 5,652 running feet of the canals including the removal and transportation (in accordance with any and all applicable environmental laws) of at least 25,120 cubic yards of all debris from the canals and/or site and its nearby vicinity to a designated dump site to be specified by the contractor, with the prior written consent of the Council, within the limits of Belize City,
- the lining of the Gungulung Canal from the existing lined portion near the small bridge to approximately 366 linear feet where the canal narrows.

The contract has a total value of approximately \$1.2 million dollars. **MOTION PASSED.**

13.10 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to ratify and adopt the audit report of the Belize City Council completed by Mr. Cedric Flowers for the Fiscal Year ending March 2020 and March 2021. **MOTION PASSED.**

#### 14.0 New Business

14.1 No new business was tabled.

#### 15.0 Submissions from the Building Unit – Ms. Chelsea Perera, Assistant City Planner

15.1 A request submitted by Mr. Alirio Franco, Manager of Harbour View Boutique and Hotel & Yoga Retreat for the closure of both ends of the narrow alley located at the end of Dredge St. between Radisson Fort George South Wing and Harbour View Hotel's fence and to install two wire gates with locks on both ends of the alley. This motion is approved under the condition that both entities and the Council have a copy of the keys to the locks to be placed on the gates at both ends of the alley. **MOTION PASSED.**



- 15.2 A request submitted by Ms. Carmen Cawich, owner of Parcel #1925, Block 16 in the Caribbean Shores Registration Section for the construction of an access road to property or for closure of the street for it to be consolidated with property. **MOTION DENIED.**

#### **16.0 Other Business**

- 16.1 The City Administrator informed the Council that Mr. Daniel Hilton is no longer interested in leasing the “Pier One” location inside the Digi Park and recommended that the Council utilize this space and establish a recreational facility for residents.
- 16.2 The City Administrator shared that Bowen & Bowen will be partnering with the Council to carry out this year’s Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1<sup>st</sup> and noted that the Sir Manuel Esquivel Overpass will be lit simultaneously.
- 16.3 The City Administrator shared plans to host this year’s Christmas Staff Luncheon on December 2<sup>nd</sup> inside the Belize City Center.
- 16.4 The City Administrator shared that the Christmas in the Park event will be hosted on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 16.5 Mayor Wagner shared plans to host a Belize City Awards event in February 2023 with a view to award those residents, businesses and enterprises who have served the city well in the previous year. Mayor Wagner noted that the idea is to make this an annual event which would seek to emulate the “Grammys”.

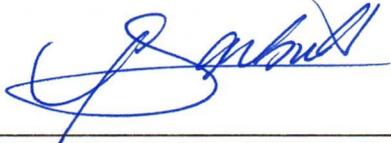
#### **17.0 Adjournment**

- 17.1 Councilor Kwan moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by Councilor Pipersburgh. Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.



  
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**BERNARD WAGNER**  
**MAYOR**



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