

MINUTES of SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Caucus Room, Belize City Council

10:00 a.m.

June 15th, 2022

Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. His Worship Bernard Wagner | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Albert Vaughan | Councilor |
| 3. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councilor |
| 4. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr. | Councilor |
| 5. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton | Councilor |
| 6. Mr. Edmund Kwan | Councilor |
| 7. Mr. Michael Novelo | Councilor |
| 8. Ms. Deannie Requeña | Councilor |

Present Virtually:

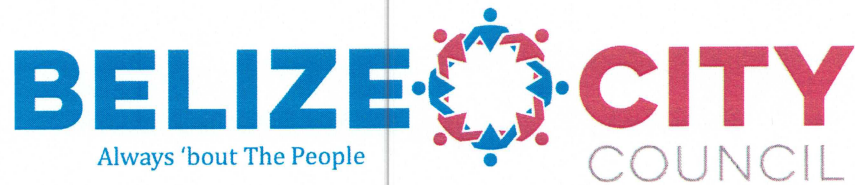
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9. Ms. Natasha Pipersburgh | Councilor |
| 10. Ms. Kaya Cattouse | Councilor |
| Mrs. Stephanie Lindo-Garbutt | City Administrator |
| Mr. Eluide Miller | Manager, Office of the Mayor |

Absent:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 11. Mr. Micah Goodin | Deputy Mayor |
|----------------------|--------------|

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Mayor Wagner informed all Council members present that Councilor Pipersburgh and Councilor Cattouse would be attending the session virtually. Mayor Wagner congratulated Councilor Pipersburgh for her continued commitment to her portfolio and congratulated Councilor Cattouse for representing Belize in the United States of America as a cyclist.



Mayor Wagner welcomed Councilor Novelo who arrived at the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Councilor Vaughan led all present in reciting the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis de Assisi.

Mayor Wagner then led all present in reciting the Belize National Prayer.

1.0 Welcome Remarks

1.1 Mayor Wagner welcomed all Council members to the meeting and reminded them that they were all elected by the residents of the city to serve the people and move the city forward. Mayor Wagner then reiterated his commitment to the Council and its vision.

1.2 Councilor Castellanos reiterated the sentiments shared by Mayor Wagner and encouraged all Council members to work together as a team and become united.

2.0 Matter of urgent public concern – A motion to recall the Deputy Mayor

2.1 Councilor Vaughan noted that it is his understanding from the news media and the City Administrator that Deputy Mayor Goodin has tendered his resignation to the Mayor via email. Councilor Vaughan reiterated that he is a man of principle who believes that holding such an office comes with a great level of responsibility and thanked all fellow Council members for supporting the motion at hand.

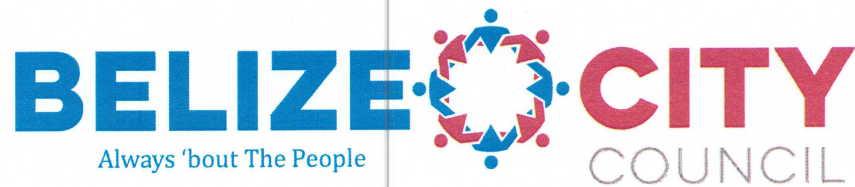
2.2 Councilor Vaughan highlighted that the resolution present has no malice and noted that as an elected Councilor, the Act gives him the power to table such a motion.

2.3 Councilor Vaughan then noted that Council will have to decide if they will accept the resignation sent by Deputy Mayor Goodin via email.

2.4 Mayor Wagner shared the correspondence sent by Deputy Mayor Goodin with all Council members and noted that it was very vague. As such, the Council will have to vote on whether they would accept and ratify the correspondence as his resignation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink is located in the bottom right corner of the page, overlapping the footer area.

- 2.5 Councilor Vaughan highlighted that the way in which Deputy Mayor Goodin carried out his resignation is offensive and disrespectful to the Mayor and his fellow Council members.
- 2.6 Councilor Hamilton and Councilor Requeña seconded the sentiments shared by Councilor Vaughan.
- 2.7 Councilor Vaughan questioned if Councilor Goodin even wants to hold his portfolios given the vagueness of his resignation. Councilor Vaughan then noted that the record should show contempt based on the way the resignation was presented.
- 2.8 Councilor Novelo also seconded the sentiments shared by Councilor Vaughan, noting that a bit more respect was to be shown by Deputy Mayor Goodin.
- 2.9 Councilor Hamilton noted that she believes the Council should accept the resignation submitted by Deputy Goodin. Councilor Hamilton expressed her disappointment as she expected more of the Deputy Mayor in this situation.
- 2.10 Councilor Pollard Jr. shared the same sentiments Councilor Novelo expressed, noting that the resignation tendered was very vague and Councilors were not even copied in as a show of respect. Nonetheless, Councilor Pollard Jr. believes that the resignation should be accepted despite the tone of the email which he deems to be disrespectful.
- 2.11 Councilor Kwan noted that he has not felt so disrespected by a colleague's actions in quite some time but encouraged the Council to accept the resignation tendered so that the Council can move forward in continuing its service to the residents of the city.
- 2.12 Councilor Castellanos shared that he accepts the resignation tendered by Deputy Mayor Goodin.
- 2.13 Councilor Cattouse noted that she accepts the email sent by Deputy Mayor Goodin as his resignation from the post of Deputy Mayor.



2.14 Mayor Wagner asked the Council for permission to amend the existing motion. Mayor Wagner then moved a motion to accept the email correspondence sent by Councilor Micah Goodin dated June 14th, 2022 as his official resignation from the post of Deputy Mayor of Belize City. **MOTION PASSED.**

3.0 Deputy Mayor Election

3.1 Mayor Wagner noted that the post of Deputy Mayor is now vacant and as such, the floor is opened to nominations for the post.

3.2 Councilor Requeña nominated Councilor Pollard Jr. for the post of Deputy Mayor. Seconded by Councilor Castellanos.

3.3 Councilor Pollard Jr. accepted the nomination.

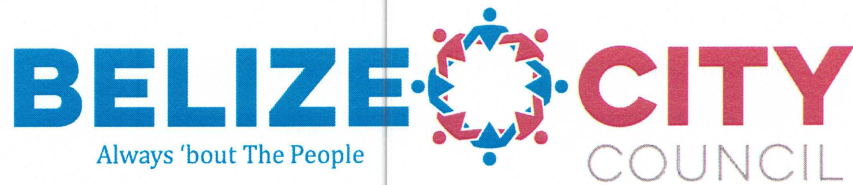
3.4 Councilor Vaughan reiterated the importance of the post of Deputy Mayor and maintaining confidentiality.

3.5 Councilor Castellanos expressed his support for Councilor Allan Pollard Jr. to be elected as Deputy Mayor of Belize City.

3.6 Councilor Novelo noted that he would have liked for another Council member to serve in the capacity given that Councilor Pollard Jr. had served as the Deputy Mayor previously but also shared that he is confident that Councilor Pollard's experience will help the Council to move in the right direction going forward. Councilor Novelo then expressed his support for Councilor Pollard Jr. to be elected as the Deputy Mayor of Belize City once more.

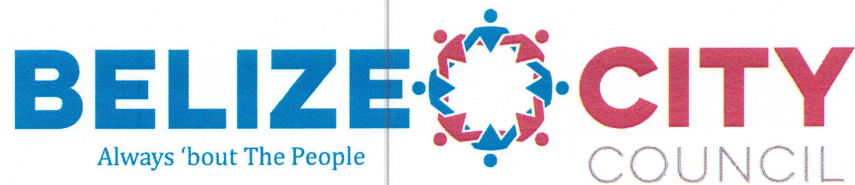
3.7 Mayor Wagner asked all Councilors to vote on a motion to elect Councilor Pollard Jr. as the new Deputy Mayor of Belize City. All Councilors voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature appears to be a stylized name, possibly "J" or "A".



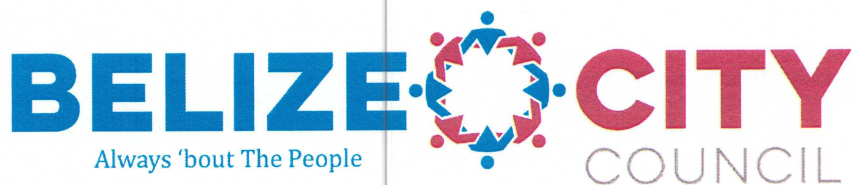
- 3.8 Newly elected Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. thanked all his fellow colleagues for showing their support for a second time and noted that it is his intention to help move the Council forward despite the various challenges faced most recently. Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. then highlighted that he gained a wealth of experience during his first stint as Deputy Mayor of Belize City which allowed for him to foster a great relationship with Mayor Wagner.
- 3.9 Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. then expressed that Councilor Goodin is more than welcomed to continue his service to the residents of Belize City despite recent events, noting that all Council members were voted in by city residents to represent them.
- 3.10 Mayor Wagner congratulated Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. on his election and expressed that he is hopeful that the team will be more unified going forward. Mayor Wagner reminded all Council members that his door remains open and encouraged all Council members to feel welcome to speak to him at any time.
- 3.11 Mayor Wagner reiterated his commitment to the Council once more and asked the Council's indulgence in having Councilor Hamilton serve as the Acting Mayor during his absence as he and Deputy Mayor Pollard Jr. is expected to travel to Rwanda to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which is scheduled for 22-25 June, 2022.
- 3.12 Councilor Vaughan shared that he too will be leaving the country in the upcoming week for a period of one (1) week.
- 3.13 Councilor Castellanos then shared that he will also be traveling abroad in the coming days for a period of three (3) weeks.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to be the name of the Mayor or a council member.



4.0 City Administrator's Updates

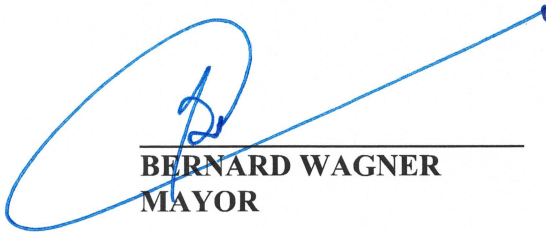
- 4.1 The City Administrator noted that the Council is already working on preparations for the upcoming September Celebrations.
- 4.2 The City Administrator shared plans for several summer programs including sporting activities, financial literacy courses etc. to be offered by the Council.
- 4.3 The City Administrator shared plans for a Back-to-School Downtown SuperSale to be held in late July 2022.
- 4.4 The City Administrator noted that they met with the Christian Workers Union (CWU) in reference to the merger of the Traffic Department and the Special Constable Unit and shared that they are in support.
- 4.5 The City Administrator then highlighted the drainage works being done ahead of the rains expected to make landfall in the coming weeks.
- 4.6 The City Administrator shared that much progress has been made with the Urban Garden Project and highlighted that the finishing touches are being carried out. The City Administrator then shared plans to identify a new space for an additional Urban Garden the Council is hoping to complete in the upcoming months.
- 4.7 The City Administrator shared that the Council is moving forward with the project in honor of the legendary Belizean musician, Lord Rhaburn.
- 4.8 The City Administrator noted that the official flyer has been released for the Council's Cosmetology Workshop Program which is being led by the Local Economic Development (LED) Unit.
- 4.9 Councilor Vaughan reiterated the importance of Council members highlighting the Council when promoting initiatives.
- 4.10 The City Administrator informed all Council members that residents will now be able to pay traffic tickets and vendor fees for the market via the E-Kyash digital payment system.



- 4.11 The City Administrator noted that Mayor Wagner did a walkthrough of the Digi Park along with the Council's technical team. As a result, works will be carried out on several critical areas which need urgent rehabilitation.
- 4.12 The City Administrator then shared plans to host a PeeWee Basketball League which will commence in late July and will conclude on August 12th, 2022. This league will cater to kids between the ages 7 to 12.
- 4.13 Mayor Wagner highlighted that the aim of the PeeWee League is to engage kids from an earlier age. Mayor Wagner shared that he is working to bring a professional basketball player from the National Basketball Association (NBA) in the United States to make an appearance at the closing ceremony of the tournament.
- 4.14 The City Administrator shared that the Council's Basketball Team, the Dragons, are moving on to the semi-finals stage of the Belize City Interoffice Tournament and shared that the Council has made continuous efforts to cover the cost of tickets for staff members through the pooling of monies from the Council's management team.
- 4.15 The City Administrator concluded her updates by informing Council members of efforts being made to secure a contribution of two (2) garbage compactors from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through the Embassy of Japan in Belize.
- 5.0 Other Matters**
- 5.1 Councilor Castellanos shared a thank you message from the National Women's Commission (NWC) for generous donation made by the Council towards their safehouses initiative.
- 5.2 Councilor Castellanos highlighted Mayor Wagner for attending the posthumous pardon of Ms. Nora Parham which took place recently.
- 5.3 Councilor Novelo shared his support for the Council's proposed PeeWee Basketball League which is to commence late July 2022.

6.0 Adjournment

- 6.1 Councilor Hamilton moved for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:25 a.m.
Seconded by Councilor Castellanos.



BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR



MRS. STEPHANIE LINDO-GARBUTT
CITY ADMINSTRATOR

