



Minutes of the First Caucus Meeting for Newly Elected Council
Wednesday March 21, 2018
Conference Room City Hall

Present:

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

Absent:

- | | |
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| 1. Dr. Candice Pitts | Councilor |
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The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm
Councilor Hylton led the prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the "Ordinary closed Council meeting" were circulated and were read thoroughly.

Matters Arising

1. Councilor Elijio was concerned about who is responsible for the Local Building Authority (LBA).
2. Councilor Pollard asked if Rodolfo Ramos and Omar Tut contracts were signed off by the previous administration.
3. Mayor Wagner said that he will investigate regarding the contracts.
4. Councilor Goodin asked that the Council review the Coconut Fest 2018 donation request, while Councilor Arnold wanted to know about the budget.

Mayor Matters

Selection of Deputy Mayor

5. A vote was taken for the position of Deputy Mayor.
6. All of the Councilors who were present agreed.



7. Councilor Oscar Arnold was elected as the Deputy Mayor.
 8. Councilor Arnold accepted the responsibility of being the Deputy Mayor.
 9. All Councilors were in agreement with Councilor Arnold for Deputy Mayor.
- MOTION CARRIED.**

Issuing of Portfolios

10. Mayor issued portfolios to the Councilors:

- Councilor Albert Vaughan – Responsible for Works Department (seconded by Cllr. Norales)
- Councilor Candice Pitts – Responsible for Women & Children, NGO's, After School Program, Foreign Affairs (seconded by Cllr. Vaughan)
- Councilor Micah Goodin – Responsible for MIS, Staff Development & Training, Youth & Sports (seconded by Cllr. Pollard)
- Councilor Delthrude Hylton – Public Health (seconded by Elijio)
- Councilor Allan Pollard – Responsible for Traffic, Community Participation/ Public Relation, Special Events (seconded by Cllr. Castellanos)
- Councilor Ryan Elijio – Responsible for Tourism, Zoning & Planning, Local Building Authority (seconded by Cllr. Pollard)
- Councilor Javier Castellanos – Responsible for Economic Development, Small Business, Trade & Investment (seconded by Cllr. Norales)
- Councilor Aisha Gentle – Responsible for Market Beautification, Citizen Engagement & Market (seconded by Cllr. Goodin)
- Councilor Michael Norales – Responsible for Sanitation, CEMO, Security, Flood Mitigation, Climate Change (seconded by Cllr. Vaughan)
- Deputy Oscar Arnold – Responsible for Budgeting, Municipal Court, Special Constable (seconded by Cllr. Goodin)
- Mayor Bernard Wagner – Responsible for Finance & Administration, Human Resources & Anti-Corruption, CARILED (seconded by Deputy Mayor)

Trade Board

11. Mayor Wagner stated that five people will be sitting on the Trade License Board.
12. Councilor Goodin asked if Councilors will be allowed to sit on the Trade License Board, being that he is interested in sitting on the board.
13. Councilor Castellanos asked if he can sit on the board since he has a small business.
14. Deputy Arnold made recommendation that Anthony Mahler sit on the Trade board. Councilor Vaughan concurred with Deputy Arnold's recommendation.



15. Councilor Vaughan recommended for Michael Wong to sit on the Trade board, Councilor Gentle, seconded Councilor Vaughan's recommendation.
16. Councilor Goodin suggested that Marissa Longsworth from Belize Chambers of Commerce sit on the board.
17. Councilor Pollard recommended that Mohit Budhrani to sit on the board.

Taxi Policy

18. Mayor Wagner gave a briefing about the policy.
19. Councilor Norales raised concern about the existing policy being that operators should not be obligated to join a union.
20. Mayor Wagner stated that taxi operators should not pay a \$20.00 monthly fee to operate. He also requested that Councilor Pollard, who is the Councilor for Traffic Department, to conduct an investigation.
21. Councilor Goodin suggested that the \$20.00 monthly fee be removed because \$1.00 vans are currently outsourcing taxi drivers. He asked that the year 2006 be removed from the policy to enable people to acquire a taxi plate.
22. Deputy Mayor proposed that the Council look at the model of the vehicles instead and that cab drivers submit a vehicle inspection report.
23. Councilor Pollard explained that the \$20.00 fees are a part of the law.

BTL Park

24. Mayor Wagner mentioned receiving a letter from Felipe Rosado to utilize BTL Park to bring in rides for the period March 26 to April 1, 2018 and he also agreed to pay a \$500.00 weekly fee.
25. Councilor Gentle disagreed, she stated that the rental fee will not cover the cost from damages the rides will cause.
26. Councilor Goodin agreed with Councilor Gentle: he recommended that Rosado use "Hour Bar."
27. All Councilors agreed to conduct rides at private institutions. **MOTION NOT CARRIED.**

LED Digital Signage Proposal

28. Mayor Wagner gave a briefing about LED Signage proposal. The company is requesting approval for installation of LED Signage at downtown Albert Street and the Pedestrian overpass on the entrance of Philip Goldson Highway.
29. Councilor Goodin gave his approval for the display of the LED Signage.



30. Deputy Mayor advised that the Council review the proposal before it is approved.
31. Mayor Wagner gave assurance that an Attorney representing the Council will review the proposal.
32. Councilor Elijo requested that a protected screen be place in front of the LED Signage.

Council Lawyer

33. Mayor Wagner initiated that Attorney Tricia Pitts, the Council's legal Attorney be replaced with Ashanti Arthurs.
34. All present Councilors agreed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Other Matters

35. Councilor Vaughan held a meeting with the Works Manager Ramon Menjivar, and Assistant City Engineer, Ivan Camal requesting a six months work plan with respect to street repairs, manhole covers, vehicle inventory, serviceable and unserviceable vehicles. Councilor Vaughan was not pleased with the report.
36. Mayor Wagner agreed to the initiative and also implemented that all of the Councilors request work plans from the Manager's under their portfolios.
37. Councilor Elijo raised issues of concern regarding a demolished building situated on Cor. Jasmine & Periwinkle Street and that Council's urgent assistance is needed regarding the matter.
38. Deputy Mayor Arnold spoke about his meeting with the Chief Justice and was informed that they are in need of Magistrates. He raised concern about the progress of the Municipal Court. He asked Ms. McKenzie, Director of Legal Services, for a listing of things needed that will assist with the smooth running of Court. He also recommended that Prosecutors attend legal training.
39. He ended by congratulating the newly elected City Council team. **The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.**



BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR





**OSCAR ARNOLD
DEPUTY MAYOR**