

Belize City Council

Financial Statements March 31, 2019

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Belize City Council, which comprise the statements of financial position as of March 31, 2019 and 2018, the statements of financial performance, statements of changes in general fund, and the statements of cash flows for the years then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the **Basis for Qualified Opinion** section of our report, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Belize City Council as of March 31, 2019 and 2018, its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We were unable to satisfy ourselves as to the accuracy of the amounts recorded for accounts receivable of \$6.5m and \$16.8m for March 31, 2019 and 2018 respectively, as well as to the adequacy of the provisions made by the Council for doubtful collections in relation to both years. Since recorded receivables enter into the determination of the financial performance, we were also unable to determine whether adjustments might have affected the net surplus (deficit) reported on the statements of financial performance and the net cash flows from operating activities reported on the statements of cash flows.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements** section of our report. We are independent of the Belize City Council in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide the basis for our modified opinion.



Responsibilities of Management and the Members of the Belize City Council for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS, and for such internal control as management determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Members of the Belize City Council are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatements when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Certified Public Accountant Belize City, Belize

January 29, 2020

Balance Sheets 31 March

		2019	2018
	Notes	\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash equivalents	2.03, 3	3,334,134	886,900
Inventories	2.04	69,987	80,948
Trade and other receivable	4	6,536,465	16,858,754
Total current assets		9,940,586	17,826,602
Property and equipment	2.05, 7	88,002,137	88,617,629
TOTAL ASSETS		97,942,723	106,444,231
Current liabilities Trade and other payables Unearned revenues Current portion of borrowings	5 6 8a, 8b	13,427,561 2,880,379 520,732	12,603,191 17,235,513 4,630,920
Total current liabilities	·	16,828,672	34,469,624
Net Municipal Bonds payable	8a	10,150,255	8,040,788
Other borrowings	8b	3,403,622	1,162,570
Gratuity/severance payable	11	3,985,693	3,652,013
TOTAL LIABILITIES		34,368,242	47,324,995
Fund balance			
Capital Grant	10	15,317,340	14,558,514
General Fund (Belize City Fund)	2.01	48,257,141	44,560,722
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		97,942,723	106,444,231

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Mayor	City Administrator

These financial statements were approved by the Council for issue on ______.

Statements of Financial Performance Years ended 31 March

		2019	2018
	Notes	\$	\$
REVENUES			
Property taxation		9,070,918	8,299,693
Traffic related revenue		6,029,061	4,551,683
Trade license fees		5,438,994	5,093,322
User charges -Tourism		1,938,001	979,037
Liquor license fees		511,091	498,813
Rent and concessions		595,461	622,199
Donations & contributions		179,557	213,932
Other income		162,305	260,944
Building permits		136,671	110,367
Cemetery		76,581	71,878
Interest income		33,047	57,910
Funding from Government	13	1,606,140	2,922,420
TOTAL REVENUES		25,777,827	23,682,198
LESS: EXPENDITURES (See appendix section for details)			
Finance and administrative department		8,005,430	9,242,316
Human resource management department		1,303,058	1,567,016
Market department		204,061	218,621
Mechanical department		•	1,078
Management information systems department		319,468	182,919
Municipal court department		524,487	556,073
Office of the Mayor		4,000,662	1,222,731
Public relations department		742,842	943,571
Revenue department		594,284	584,343
Sanitation department		3,307,518	5,381,466
Security department		•	121,656
Traffic department		1,380,319	1,494,503
Senior town planning department		353,454	262,982
Valuation department		440,620	456,274
Works department		1,708,948	2,290,719
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		22,885,151	24,526,268
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		2,892,676	(844,070)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements of Changes in General Fund Years ended 31 March

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
GENERAL FUND		
General Fund Balance, April 1, 2018 and 2017	44 560 722	40 029 142
• •	44,560,722	49,038,142
Adjustments to general fund	803,743	(3,633,350)
Surplus (Deficit) for the year ended March 31, 2019 and 2018	2,892,676	(844,070)
General Fund, End of Period	48,257,141	44,560,722

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements of Cash Flows Years ended 31 March

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	2,892,676	(844,070)
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	2,013,363	2,458,508
Prior year adjustments	803,743	(3,633,350)
Gratuity/severance provision	971,564	1,407,551
Deferred grant income	758,826	(758,826)
	7,440,172	(1,370,187)
Changes in working capital:		
Decrease (Increase) in trade and other receivables	10,322,289	(1,995,510)
Decrease (Increase) in inventories	10,961	(47,596)
Increase in trade and other payables	824,370	2,436,128
Increase (Decrease) in deferred income	(14,355,134)	7,031,603
Decrease in other assets	-	103,953
Net cash generated from operating activiies	4,242,658	6,158,391
Gratuity/severance paid	(637,884)	(593,969)
Net cash provided by operations	3,604,774	5,564,422
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,397,871)	(5,096,698)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	(1,001,011)	(0,000,000)
Purchase of other asset (land to be distributed to Council employees)	-	-
Net cash used by investing activities	(1,397,871)	(5,096,698)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayments of borrowings	240,331	(6,611,738)
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	240,331	(6,611,738)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,447,234	(6,144,014)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	886,900	7,030,914
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	3,334,134	886,900
Saon and Saon equivalents at one of the year	0,007,107	550,500

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Status

Belize City is the largest municipality in the country of Belize; its affairs are governed by the Belize City Council (the Council), which was incorporated on February 17, 1999 under the Belize City Council Act, Chapter 85 of the Laws of Belize (the Act). The Council's administrative offices are located at City Hall, Regent Street, Belize City, Belize.

Constitution and Term

The Belize City Council consists of a Mayor and ten other members (Councillors), elected in accordance with the provisions of the Act; it is lawfully constituted when the requisite number of members has been elected.

Every Council holds office until the last day of February next ensuing after the day in which the Council has been two years in office. An election of members of the Council is held on the first Wednesday next ensuing after the day in which the term of office of the Council expires.

During the period covered by this audit report, April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, the Mayor of Belize City was Mr. Bernard Wagner; (2017-2018, Mr. Darrell Bradley).

Duties of the Council

The Council is entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City and has the power, subject to the provisions of the Act, to do all things necessary to carry out such trust. The Council has the obligation to perform the following duties in Belize City in an efficient and timely manner:

- (a) to maintain all public cemeteries;
- (b) to coordinate, control, manage or regulate the timely and efficient collection and removal of garbage; and,
- (c) to construct, repair, alter, widen, lay out and make surveys for streets in Belize City; to cleanse and keep in good repair any public drain, canal, or creek in Belize City except when public health would, in the opinion of the Council, be endangered by such an operation.

Property taxation and other sources of revenues of the Council

Property taxation is the most significant source of revenues of the Council. The authority to levy and collect property taxes and other significant sources of revenues is established under the Act, Section 59, by reference to additional powers and functions granted to the Council in respect of the following Acts:

- (a) The Public Roads Act:
- (b) Trade Licensing Act;
- (c) Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act;
- (d) Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act;
- (e) Towns Property Tax Act;
- (f) Cruise Ship Passenger Tax Act.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.01 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), subject to such adaptations as are necessary for the public sector context. The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out in the following paragraphs.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

The Belize City Fund

The General Fund represents the Belize City Fund in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Act. All financial resources are accounted for in the General Fund. The operations are summarized by employing a separate set of self-balancing accounts which includes the Council's revenues, expenditures, assets, liabilities and fund balance.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgment in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Areas involving a higher degree of judgment or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimations are significant to the financial statements include employee benefit liabilities, property tax assessments, and collectability of receivables. Actual amounts, which are accounted for as they become known, may differ significantly from estimates.

Going Concern Basis

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The validity of this assumption depends on the continuing support of Central Government, the City's residents and the Council's suppliers of goods and services.

Changes in accounting policies and disclosures

The following new accounting standard may impact the accounting of the Council in future financial statements.

IFRS 16, 'Leases: This standard replaces the current guidance in IAS 17. This will require far-reaching changes in accounting by lessees in particular. Under IAS 17, lessees were required to make a distinction between a finance lease (on balance sheet) and an operating lease (off balance sheet). IFRS 16 now requires lessees to recognize a lease liability reflecting future lease payments and a 'right-of-use asset' for virtually all lease contracts. There is an optional exemption for certain short-term leases of low-value assets; however, this exemption can only be applied by lessees. IFRS 16 applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. Early adoption is permitted under certain conditions. The Council did not early adopt this new standard, and will evaluate its impact, as it relates to the Council's leasing arrangements, in due course.

2.02 Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

Items included in these financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Council operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Belize dollars which is the Council's functional and presentation currency.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognized in the statement of financial performance. The official exchange rate for the Belize dollar is fixed at BZ\$2 to US\$1.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are recognized in the statement of financial performance as revenues or expenditures in the period in which they arise.

2.03 Financial assets

The Council's financial assets include: cash and cash equivalents, and trade and other receivables.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and at bank, bank drafts, demand deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognized initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables or the appropriate taxing legislation.

Other short-term financial assets

Other short-term financial assets comprise term deposit investments held for one year or less; they are initially recognized at transaction price. Due to the short-term maturity of these financial instruments, their carrying values are approximately equal to their market values.

2.04 **Inventories**

Inventories of the Council include license plates, licensing decals, stationery and usable supplies. Inventories at year end are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value, cost being determined on the first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis.

Inventories are recognized as an expense when deployed for utilization or consumption in the ordinary course of operations of the Council.

2.05 **Property and equipment**

Property and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditures directly attributable to bringing an asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Council, including acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset.

The Council adds to the carrying amount of an item of property and equipment the cost of replacing parts of such item when that cost is incurred if the replacement part is expected to provide incremental future benefits to the Council. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of financial performance during the period in which they are incurred.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is applied to other assets. The cost less expected residual value is amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

Buildings, reinforced concrete	40 – 50 years
Infrastructure	30 – 35 years
Computer and office equipment	3 – 5 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 – 10 years
Other equipment	5 – 10 years
Machinery and vehicles	4 – 10 years.

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed and adjusted, if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the assets' carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount. The cost of ordinary repairs and maintenance which does not add value to an asset, or materially extends the asset's useful life, is not capitalized.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

2.05 Property and equipment (cont'd)

The Council does not capitalize interest costs associated with the acquisition or construction of capital assets.

Gains and losses on disposals of property and equipment are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the statement of financial performance.

2.06 Borrowings

The Council employed the use of long-term debt to finance capital expenditures, which included infrastructure works and other expenditures greater than can be met out of the annual revenues of the Belize City Fund.

Borrowings are recognized initially at the transactional price, i.e. the present value of cash payable to the lender. Borrowings are subsequently stated at amortized cost. Interest expense is recognized on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in finance costs. Amortized cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the borrowing terms allow the Council to defer settlement of the liability, or a portion thereof, for at least twelve months after the reporting date. Interest is charged to expense in the period incurred and is included in the statement of financial performance.

Bond Issue

In accordance with Belize City Council (Municipal Bond) Act, 2012 (the Bond Act), the Council issued Municipal Bonds in 2012 and 2013 in the aggregate amount of \$19.97m, which mature in installments (serial bonds) ranging over a period of 2 years to 10 years, with interest rates varying from 3½% to 8% per annum. Use of the proceeds of the Municipal Bonds was restricted to those purposes specified in Schedule 2 of the Bond Act. The Municipal Bonds are classified as Revenue Bonds since their repayment is tied to specified revenue streams of the Council.

Bond Sinking Fund and Restrictions on Revenues

The Bond Act established the Belize City Municipal Bond Sinking Fund (the Sinking Fund) which shall be used for the purpose of repaying principal and interest payable to bondholders, and into which shall be deposited (a) all monies due to the Council in respect of cruise ship passenger fee; (b) all monies voted from time to time by the National Assembly for the use by the Council in the administration of Belize City; and (c) any other monies from the Belize City Fund that the Council considers necessary to ensure the adequacy of the Sinking Fund, which is immune from enforcement of any judgment or proceedings by any creditor or other person.

The Central Bank of Belize manages the Sinking Fund, and makes interest and principal payments to bondholders.

Other Provisions

The Bond Act requires that the Council shall maintain a debt ceiling below fifty percent of its previous year's recurrent revenues in respect of interest and principal payable in any year. Additionally, the Council's total debt shall not exceed forty million dollars.

2.07 Trade and other payables

Trade payables are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The non-current portion of obligations arising from trade is classified as "deferrals".

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

2.08 **Employee benefits**

Severance/Gratuity obligations

The City Council recognises termination benefits in accordance with the Labour Act, Chapter 297 of the Substantive Laws of Belize.

The Labour Act was revised in April 2011 to require that employees who have been employed for (a) five to ten years be paid severance pay of one week's pay for each year of service provided he is renting on or after 60 years of age or on medical grounds or his employment was terminated by the employer without good and sufficient cause and, (b) employees with more than ten years be paid severance pay of two week's pay for each year of service. The revised Act also provided that employees who had already completed ten years of service prior to the commencement of the revision be paid a week's salary for the period served prior to the commencement of the revision and two weeks' salary for the period served after the commencement of the revision to the Act. The revision was effective May 1, 2011.

Where a worker with a minimum of ten years' continuous service resigns his employment he is eligible for a gratuity equal to severance pay as computed in respect of redundancy. If a worker who had qualified for payment of severance or gratuity as outlined above dies while still in the employ, the employer must, within one month of the death, deposit any payment due with the Registrar General for the account of the estate of the deceased worker.

Pension obligations

As provided by the Belize City Council Act, Chapter 85 of the Laws of Belize, the Council may grant a pension to retirees under a defined benefit plan arrangement. A defined benefit plan establishes the amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one or more factors such as age, years of service and compensation; the plan is fully funded by the Council. In accordance with IFRS, the defined benefit obligation payable to qualifying retirees should be determined with sufficient regularity such that the amounts recognised in the financial statements do not differ materially from those that would be determined at end of the reporting period.

2.09 **Revenues and Recognition**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. The Council recognizes revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Council, and when specific criteria have been met for each of the Council's activities, as outlined below.

Significant sources of revenues of the Council comprise property taxes, traffic related fees and charges, trade license fees, cruise ship user charges, government subvention, liquor licenses, and rental and concessions fees.

Property tax revenues

The Council bills and collects property taxes for municipal purposes. Property taxes are billed annually in January of each year for the ensuing financial year starting April 1st. Taxation revenues are recorded at the time billings are issued. Additional property tax revenues can be added throughout the year, related to new properties or properties which are reassessed. Taxation revenues may also be reduced for reassessments.

Government grants and subventions

The Government of Belize's subvention is an allocation approved annually by the National Assembly of Belize for all municipalities, including the Belize City Council. The monies are disbursed in monthly instalments by the Ministry of Local Government.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

User charges – Tourism

In accordance with the Cruise Ship Passenger Tax Act, the Belize Tourism Board collects the established head tax from manifested passengers of cruise ships arriving in Belize. A shared portion of those funds is contributed to a Tourism Development Fund held by the Ministry of Local Government, who then makes disbursements from that fund to the Council, based on an approved allocation, which varies based on actual cruise ship arrivals.

Restrictions on revenues

In conjunction with the Council's outstanding bond issue, and in accordance with the provisions of the Bond Act, certain revenues of the Council, including government subventions and tourism user charges, are not available for general usage but are paid directly into the Bond Sinking Fund, held and managed by the Central Bank of Belize.

Revenue from taxes, fees, licenses, fines and asset-exchange transactions

The Council recognizes revenues from taxes, fees, user charges, licenses, fines and asset-exchange transactions when the event occurs and the asset recognition criteria are met. To the extent that the revenues received benefit future periods, a deferred income liability is recognized. Any asset-exchange revenues are recognized when it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the Council and the fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Deferred revenues

Certain amounts are collected pursuant to legislation or agreement (liquor license fees, traffic related fees, trade licenses, property taxes) in a period prior to which the fees relate. Such amounts are recorded as deferred revenues and are recognized as revenues in the year for which the revenues were billed, as this is the time the eligibility criteria have been met.

Government grants and subventions

The Council applies the income approach in accounting for government grants and subventions. Revenues from government grants and subventions are measured at fair value and recognized on obtaining control of the asset (cash, goods, services and property) if the transfer is free from conditions and it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential related to the asset will flow to the Council and can be measured reliably.

Government grants are recognized in the statement of financial performance on a systematic basis over the periods in which the Council recognises as expenses the related costs for which the grants are intended to compensate. All grants which relate to depreciable assets are recognized as capital grant income on a systematic basis over the periods, in the proportions in which depreciation expense on those assets is recognized. The balance of unamortized costs is reflected on the Statement of Financial Position as Capital Grant.

Where government grants become receivable to the Council as compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the Council with no future related costs, such amounts are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which they become receivable.

Interest income

Interest income is recognized using the effective yield method; interest earning from the Sinking Fund investments are not paid to the Council but reinvested in the Sinking Fund managed by the Central Bank of Belize.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

2.10 Leases/Rental

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases are charged in the statement of financial performance on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

The Council leases out (rents out) stalls at the Michael Finnegan market, lots and other Council spaces and properties under operating leases. Rental income arising from operating leases is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease terms and included in revenues in the statement of financial performance.

2.11 Provisions

Provisions are recognized when the Council has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Where some or all of a provision is to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognized as a separate asset only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. Otherwise, the expense relating to any provision is presented in the statement of financial performance net of any reimbursement.

2.12 Income Taxes

In accordance with provisions of the Income and Business Tax Act, as amended, Chapter 55 of the Laws of Belize, the Council is exempted from income taxation on its revenues.

2.13 Financial Risk Management

The Belize City Council controls its exposure to financial risk of impairment to assets by conducting its activities under policies approved by the Mayor and the Councillors.

2.14 Trust Assets

Trust assets and their related operations administered by the Council are not included in these financial statements, but reported separately.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
3. CASH AND BANK BALANCES		
Scotia Bank Operating	1,759,883	426,650
Heritage Bank Operating	1,324,807	44,689
Atlantic Bank Business Savings	11,281	11,281
Atlantic Bank Operating	197,823	55,877
Atlantic Bank Operating	(21,388)	324,000
Scotia Bank Credit Card Account	61,728	24,403
	3,334,134	886,900
4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Property taxes receivable	17,224,838	20,628,012
Trade license receivable	2,087,124	3,047,437
Tourism related revenues receivable	1,593,492	1,593,492
Garbage fee receivables	275,196	275,196
Liquor license	10,633	128,779
Rent receivable	613,477	718,983
Staff receivable	124,093	143,395
Other receivables	209,514	381,471
	22,138,367	26,916,765
Less: Allowances for impairment of receivables	(15,601,902)	(10,058,011)
	6,536,465	16,858,754
5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities consist of the following:		
Trade payable	7,452,724	6,584,786
Other payables and accruals	5,684,221	5,727,789
Escrow funds held from liquidation of properties for tax arrears	290,616	290,616
· ·	13,427,561	12,603,191

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

2019	2018
\$	\$

6. UNEARNED REVENUES

Revenues received for advance payments for property taxes, licenses and other charges are included in deferred revenues.

Deferred Revenues

Property tax	835,265	9,070,918
Trade license	-	5,438,994
Liquor license	396,050	511,091
Traffic license	1,649,064	2,214,510
	2,880,379	17,235,513

7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land	City Streets	Furniture	Vehicles	Computers	Work in	Totals
	& Buildings	& Drains	& Fixtures	& Machinery	& Other	Progres	
		Infrastructure			Equipment	Streets/Drains	\$
Gross carrying amount							
Balance, April 1, 2018	54,516,542	35,096,524	367,021	3,745,280	1,102,299	3,481,662	98,309,328
Additions	505,630	1,927,010	8,102	620,941	263,198	-	3,324,881
Disposals	-	-		-	-	(1,927,010)	(1,927,010)
Balance, March 31, 2019	55,022,172	37,023,534	375,123	4,366,221	1,365,497	1,554,652	99,707,199
Accumulated Depreciation							
Balance, April 1, 2018	1,866,178	4,677,181	159,198	2,392,476	596,666	-	9,691,699
Disposals	-	-		-	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	252,329	1,002,512	22,548	569,214	166,760	-	2,013,363
Balance, March 31, 2019	2,118,507	5,679,693	181,746	2,961,690	763,426	-	11,705,062
Net carrying amount, March 31, 2019	52,903,665	31,343,841	193,377	1,404,531	602,071	1,554,652	88,002,137
Net carrying amount, March 31, 2018	52,650,364	30,419,343	207,823	1,352,804	505,633	3,481,662	88,617,629

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
a. NET MUNICIPAL BONDS		
The net unsecured long-term debt reported on the Statement of Financial Position comprises municipal bonds issued by the City Council as follows:		
Municipal bonds:		
Municipal bonds series No. 2 of issue No. 1, interest rate of 5.5%, maturing on December 24, 2017.		-
Municipal bonds series No. 3 of issue No. 1, interest rate of 8%,		
maturing on December 24, 2022.	6,000,000	6,000,00
Municipal bonds series No. 2 of issue No. 2, interest rate of 5.5%, maturing on May 24, 2018.		2,000,00
Municipal bonds series No. 3 of issue No. 2, interest rate of 8%,	•	2,000,00
maturing on May 24, 2023.	3,172,000	3,172,00
Municipal bonds series No. 2 of issue No. 3, interest rate of 5.5%, maturing on September 6, 2018.	-	500,00
Municipal bonds series No. 2 of issue No. 3, interest rate of 5.5%, maturing in November, 2018.	_	1,528,00
Municipal bonds series No. 3 of issue No. 3, interest rate of 8%,		
maturing in November, 2023.	2,300,000	2,300,00
Total municipal bonds Less: Bond Sinking Fund	11,472,000	15,500,00
Net Municipal Bonds Payable	(1,321,745) 10,150,255	(3,431,21 12,068,78
Current portion payable	-	(4,028,00
Non-current portion	10,150,255	8,040,78
Bb. OTHER BORROWINGS		
Heritage Bank Commercial Center (see note 9b)	3,924,354	1,765,49
Less: current portion	(520,732)	(602,92
	3,403,622	1,162,57
	, ,	, ,
Principal amounts on borrowings are repayable as follows:		
Year ended March 31, 2020	520,732	
2021	569,580	
2022	6,623,011	
2023 2024	6,153,454 745,379	
	14,612,156	

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

9. BANK INDEBTEDNESS

- a. The Council has a secured demand revolving credit facility in the amount of \$1,000,000 (2018 \$1,000,000), bearing interest at the rate of 8.5% (2018 8.5%) per annum. The facility is secured by a first lien over several of the Council's properties in Belize City. The full facility was available at March 31, 2019 (March 31, 2018 \$21,388 drawn).
- b. Heritage Bank loan of \$4.8m was obtained by the Council to refinance an existing loan (\$1.4m) and to assist with the rehabilitation of the Commercial Center building for City Hall (\$3.4m). The loan is repayable by 96 equal monthly installments of \$71,066 each, inclusive of interest at the rate of 9% per annum. The loan is secured by a guarantee of the Gov. of Belize for \$3.9m (valid to April 30, 2019), 1st charge over the Commercial Center, 1st charge over BTL Park, Princess Margaret Drive, 1st charge over City Hall Building, North Front Street, and Insurance cover to include fire and all risks.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
10. CAPITAL GRANT		
Government grants: infrastructure	13,892,073	13,475,311
Government grant: vehicles	1,425,267	1,083,203
	15,317,340	14,558,514
11. GRATUITY/SEVERANCE PAYABLE		
Employee benefit liabilities are as follows:		
Balance, Beginning of Period	3,652,013	2,838,431
Additions	971,564	1,407,551
Gratuity/severance paid	(637,884)	(593,969)
Balance, End of Period	3,985,693	3,652,013

12. INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

		2019 \$	2018 \$
13. GC	OVERNMENT GRANTS AND SUBVENTIONS		
a.	Contributions in cash	1,483,300	1,479,700
b.	Contributions in debt service	122,840	683,894
C.	Deferred grant income - infrastructure	-	416,762
d.	Deferred grant income - vehicles	-	342,064
e.	Contribution - flood relief programme	•	-
		1,606,140	2,922,420

- a. Cash contributions represent allocations approved by the National Assembly. The monies are disbursed in 12 equal monthly installments of \$123,708 to the Council by the Ministry of Local Government.
- b. Debt service contributions represent payments made on behalf of the Council by the Government of Belize towards the Council's bank loan.
- c. Deferred grant income infrastructure represents the depreciable portion of the construction costs granted to the Council for the completion of Belize City streets, which is recognized as income for the year.
- d. Deferred grant income vehicle represents the depreciable portion of the vehicles granted to the Council, which is recognized as income for the year.
- e. Contribution related to flood relief programme represents funds received from the Government of Belize to assist the Council with the cost incurred to clean the city drainage system following Hurricane Earl in August 2016.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Contingent liabilities reflect possible liabilities that may be incurred by the Council where the potential amount is unable to be estimated, and/or it is still not deemed probable that an obligating event has risen. Material contingent liabilities are disclosed in these financial statements.

14.01 Contracts

The Council was a party to contracts and business arrangements with various parties at March 31, 2019. Unless recognized as a provision in these financial statements, the Council had not yet received services for which amounts had become due and payable at balance sheet date.

Significant non-employment contracts which existed at March 31, 2019 date comprised the following:

- a. RJB Construction Co. Ltd., street refurbishment, \$140,584;
- b. RJB Construction Co. Ltd., street refurbishment, \$577,511;
- c. Ekaterina Diab, lease of land, \$300,000;

14.02 Legal Matters

The City Council is subject to various litigation and claims arising in the normal course of operations. Unless otherwise stated, the final outcome of the outstanding claims cannot be determined at this time. Adjustments to accrued amounts, where applicable, will be recorded once new information becomes available. A significant matter which existed at March 31, 2019 was as follows:

Claim No. 433 of 2018 – Candice Miller v. Belize City Council

This action was filed in the Supreme Court of Belize against the Council in which Miller claimed wrongful termination of employment and sought damages of \$498,175. The Council filed a counter-claim contending that it suffered loss in the sum of \$1,000,000 arising from the Miller's negligence during her employment with the Council.

See also subsequent event note.

14.03 Proposed General Obligation Bond Issue

By a resolution dated October 18, 2018, the Council proposes to issue The Belize City Council 2019 Series 1 Municipal Paper, also termed "the 2019 Series 1".

The 2019 Series 1 proposes to be direct obligations of the Belize City Council and will be repaid from the revenues generated by the Council. The Municipal Paper will be classified as general obligation bonds since its repayment is not tied to any specified revenue stream, but will be backed by the Council's taxing power.

In accordance with the Belize City Council (Municipal Paper) Act 2019 and the Council's Prospectus, the 2019 Series 1 will consist of three tranches with maturities varying from 91 days to 361 days. The Municipal Paper will be offered in denominations of \$5,000 and multiples thereof to a maximum of \$10m, as tradable instruments.

Interest on the 2019 Series 1 bonds will be payable quarterly at rates varying from 3.20% to 3.70% per annum.

For the years ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (expressed in Belize Dollars)

15. KEY MANAGEMENT AND COUNCIL COMPENSATION

The aggregate compensation of the Mayor, the Councillors, and the City Administrator for the year ended March 31, 2019 was \$500,450; (March 31, 2018 - \$515,055).

16. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

The City Council provides a wide range of services to residents of Belize City. The Council is organized into departments and its services are delivered through the various departments. The segmented information represents costs incurred by the departments, without allocation of revenues earned. Expenditures may represent amounts which are directly attributable to the department, as well as amounts which may have been reasonably allocated.

The segmented information is provided in the Appendix Section of this report and include the following departments:

- Finance and Administrative
- **Human Resource Management**
- Market
- Mechanical
- Management Information Systems
- **Municipal Court**
- Office of the Mayor
- **Public Relations**
- Revenue
- Sanitation
- Security
- Traffic
- Senior Town Planning
- Valuation
- Works

17. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

Legal Judgment

Subsequent to balance sheet date, a judgment of the Supreme Court was entered in the matter of Claim No. 433 of 2018 (Miller v. BCC) in which the claimant was awarded the sum of \$447,993. The City Council has appealed that judgment and awaits a hearing of the Court of Appeals.

These financial statements have <u>not</u> been adjusted to provide for the effects of the judgment.

APPENDIX

SEGMENT REPORTING

The segmented information provided herein is consistent with the aggregate balances reflected on the statements of financial performance presented in these audited accounts, although individual account classifications within departments may vary from year to year in some cases.

Year Ended March 31,	2019	2018
	\$	\$
. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION		
Advertisement	1,400	1,815
Board meetings	6,101	16,278
Consultancy and professional fees	40,238	53,395
Depreciation	2,013,363	2,458,508
Disaster preparedness - Hurricane Earl	16,943	18,297
Donation	6,048	160,527
Financial expenses	1,389,603	741,897
Fuel	94,639	128,173
Implements	945	647
Indemnities	1,260	7,438
Insurance and licenses	137,301	98,591
Materials and supplies	140,869	240,401
Miscellaneous	2,348	2,831
National celebrations/festivities	9,952	121,702
Pensions, severance and gratuity	1,016,174	1,487,355
Provision for uncollectible receivables	465,043	632,207
Rent and leases	15,850	39,466
Repairs and maintenance	26,628	48,660
Street maintenance	507	113,856
Salaries	1,546,478	1,440,907
Contracts and Consultancy	708,090	717,785
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	25,837	368,437
Staff benefits and social security	86,784	125,874
Training	6,172	5,229
Transport & Travel	2,925	64,419
Utilities	243,932	147,621
	8,005,430	9,242,316

Yea	ar Ended March 31,	2019	2018
		\$	\$
ь шп	MAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
			1 500
	rd Meetings	•	1,500 10
	ster preparedness - Hurricane Earl ation	-	-
_		245	1,000
	expenses rance and licenses	9,508	22,104
		154,766	206,443
	erials and supplies	24,410	86,018
	cellaneous	6,802	5,934
	onal celebrations/festivities	154,229	205,887
Pens		268,745	252,968
_	t and leases	62,295	61,500
-	airs and maintenance - Building	747	5,672
Sala		327,975	308,932
	erance and Gratuity	262,768	214,690
	al assistance and contributions to social activities	1,834	3,988
	f benefits and social security	28,587	172,519
Trair	•	•	16,053
	sport & Travel	147	195
Utilit	ies	•	1,603
		1,303,058	1,567,016
	RKET DEPARTMENT Ister preparedness - Hurricane Earl	_	
Fuel	·	1,319	447
		·	
	ements	7,698	13,098
	erials and supplies	2,272	8,359
	cellaneous	63	35
	onciliation differences write off	40.707	11,005
	airs and maintenance	19,727	3,627
	et maintenance ·	814	3,795
Sala		123,384	130,912
	f benefits and social security	6,999	5,375
Utilit	iles	41,785	41,968
		204,061	218,621
	CHANICAL DEPARTMENT		
Staff	f benefits and social security	-	1,078
		-	1,078

Year Ended March 31,	2019 \$	2018 \$
e. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM DEPARTMENT		
Disaster preparedmess - Hurricane Earl	_	25
Fuel	- 7,222	8,020
Implements	-	27
Material and supplies	- 55,758	5,823
MIS Consultancy	26,472	5,025
Repairs and maintenance	86,264	477
Salaries	127,210	160,287
Staff benefits and social security	5,672	4,525
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	150	4,323
National celebrations/festivities	575	-
	575	135
Transport and travel	•	
Contracts and Consultancy Utilities	10 145	3,600
Unities	10,145 319,468	182,919
	319,400	102,919
f. MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT		
Board Meetings	-	3,000
Fuel	4,314	2,369
Implements	-	64
Materials and supplies	6,899	20,882
Miscellaneous	255	-
National celebrations/festivities	192	-
Pension, severance and gratuity	-	12,626
Rent and leases	129,340	112,904
Repairs and maintenance	-	337
Salaries	351,718	347,441
Staff benefits and social security	20,938	18,654
Transport & Travel	•	180
Utilities	10,831	37,616
	524,487	556,073

Year Ended March 31,	2019	2018
	\$	\$
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR REPARTMENT		
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR DEPARTMENT		0.750
Board Meetings	227	3,750
Donations	150,824	3,613
Fuel	22,831	305
Implements	1,202	88
Miscellaneous	128,117	31
Materials and supplies	75,082	45,679
National celebrations/festivities	60,307	6,000
Contracts and Consultancy	2,822,150	711,111
Repairs and maintenance	34,223	2,463
Remuneration of Mayor and Councilors	444,113	388,983
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	174,763	12,716
Salaries, staff benefits and social security	30,486	20,532
Transport & Travel	47,018	17,047
Training	954	-
Utilities	8,365	10,413
	4,000,662	1,222,731
. PUBLIC RELALTIONS DEPARTMENT		
Advertisement	148,767	128,975
Donations	881	534
Fuel	17,395	25,165
Implements	563	4,969
Miscellaneous	112	27,298
Street maintenance	40,983	40,106
Materials and supplies	20,161	192,387
National celebrations/festivities	73,715	420
Rent and leases	2,719	696
Repairs and maintenance	150	411,713
Salaries	364,450	16,417
	•	
Staff benefits and social security Social assistance and contributions to social activities	20,556 47,985	87,485
	,	1,080
Transport & Travel	60	854 5.470
Training	4045	5,472
Utilities	4,345	-
	742,842	943,571

Year Ended March 31,	2019	2018
	\$	\$
i. REVENUE DEPARTMENT		
Commissions paid	310,943	229,061
Board expenses	26,306	37,612
Financial expenses	740	60
Fuel	4,710	11,694
Implements	-	-
Materials and supplies	2,549	16,498
Miscellaneous	2,189	30
National celebrations/festivities	1,115	750
Repairs and maintenance	308	553
Salaries	231,700	274,907
Staff benefits and social security	13,724	13,178
Transport and travel		-
Utilities		-
	594,284	584,343
j. SANITATION DEPARTMENT		
Fuel	146,421	147,404
Implements	31,752	33,089
Indemnities	450	325
Insurance and licenses	•	2,275
Materials and supplies	106,709	48,130
Miscellaneous	124	-
National celebrations/festivities	12,905	2,867
Repairs and maintenance	21,528	57,931
Street maintenance	51,270	92,866
Rent and leases	74,814	104,905
Salaries	2,439,657	2,341,883
Contracts and Consultancy	253,605	2,437,654
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	17,002	90
Staff benefits and social security	150,541	111,937
Transport & Travel	740	110
Training	-	-
	3,307,518	5,381,466

Year Ended March 31,	2019 \$	2018 \$
SECURITY DEPARTMENT		
Fuel	-	-
Consultancy and professional fees	-	-
Repairs and maintenance	-	-
Contracts and Consultancy	-	121,656
Staff benefits and social security	-	-
Transport & Travel	-	-
	•	121,656
TDAFFIC DEDADTMENT		
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	400	450
Financial expenses	480	159
Fuel	47,075	66,473
Implements	568	651
Insurance and licenses	3,139	5,169
Materials and supplies	197,826	318,123
Miscellaneous	1,076	
National celebrations/festivities	1,954	8,701
Repairs and maintenance	17,298	20,558
Salaries	992,232	28,211
Staff benefits and social security	51,976	963,327
Street maintenance	27,236	44,469
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	•	1,698
Contracts and Consultancy	5,325	4,750
Transport & Travel	-	1,760
Utilities	34,134	30,454
	1,380,319	1,494,503

Year Ended March 31,	2019 \$	2018 \$
n. SENIOR TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT		
Disaster preparedness - Hurricane Earl	•	450
Board Meetings		15,450
Fuel	51,301	31,296
Implements	429	1,148
Materials and supplies	10,401	4,826
Street maintenance	16,379	24,323
Rent and leases	•	1,418
Repairs and maintenance	6,894	8,546
Salaries	248,904	167,833
Contracts and Consultancy	4,000	-
Staff benefits and social security	14,325	7,692
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	821	-
	353,454	262,982
. VALUATION DEPARTMENT		
Advertising	_	_
Board meetings	_	1,125
Fuel	9,188	10,760
Indemnities	3,100	683
Implements	<u>-</u>	003
Materials and supplies	- 5,447	- 44,001
Miscellaneous	•	30
	1,901	
Contracts and Consultancy	•	2,350
Repairs and maintenance	-	2,105
Salaries	393,747	358,392
Staff benefits and social security	18,659	17,519
Transport & Travel	11,678	19,309
Training	•	-
	440,620	456,274

Year Ended March 31,	2019 \$	2018 \$
WORKS DEPARTMENT		
Donations	540	-
Fuel expenses	155,787	187,785
Implements	16,758	7,860
Insurance and licenses	14,249	8,420
Materials and supplies	21,496	34,299
Miscellaneous		84
National celebrations/festivities	28,386	-
Pension, severance and gratuity	6,120	5,610
Rent and leases	16,396	94,096
Repairs and maintenance	100,121	186,106
Salaries	1,020,652	977,489
Staff benefits and social security	61,951	39,770
Social assistance and contributions to social activities	106	585
Street maintenance	215,545	711,255
Transport & Travel	360	135
Utilities	50,481	37,225
	1,708,948	2,290,719