

Belize City Council Meeting

Minutes of Closed Council Meeting –3rd September, 2012 10:00 am

Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Dion Leslie

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Roger Espejo

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Michael Theus

Councilor Dean Samuels

Councilor Phillip Willoughby

Councilor Eric Chang (arrived 10:33am)

Councilor Alifa Hyde

Members absent:

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr (Out of Country)

Others Present:

Mrs. Candice Burke, City Administrator

Mr. Cordel Gonzalez, Administrative Officer

The Mayor chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:15 am. Councilor Gonzalez said the opening prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

The adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 2nd August, 2012 was done by Councilor Hyde and seconded by Councilor Singh. There were no objections to the adoption.

1. Mayor Darrell Bradley

i. Bond Update

The Mayor stated that Legacy Fund has stop working for like 3 weeks because they want to change the proposed agreement made with the Council. The agreement was that the total cost for their services would be 1% of Municipal Bond which amounted to \$200,000.00. Later they came with a new contract which stated additional costs in terms of fees such as legal and trustee fees which are undisclosed amounts. The Mayor mentioned that everything was previously discussed and now at the end Legacy wanted to change it. Likewise the mayor had many concerns with the new contract and was not prepared to accept it. Mr. Bradley stated that he has acquired the services of Mr. Patrick Tillett to complete a draft of the prospectus.

The Council was very upset of the way Legacy Fund is handling the Municipal Bond. They all expressed the need to call Legacy in their presence to see what is going on. A call was made 11:20 am to Mr. Shaun Finnetty, one of the director of legacy Fund, Mr. Espejo discussed a way moving forward is squashing the old agreement and establish a new contract with better terms but everything has to be in writing for this point forward.

Things on the table for next meeting are 1) From Mr. Patrick Tillett the Bond Prospectus 2) From Belize Bank Limited the underwriting terms of agreement. In order to continue street works the Council is seeking an advance of \$750, 000.00 from the Belize Bank Limited.

ii. Street Work Update

There were four (4) streets upgraded. These streets are Puma Street, Hyde's Lane, the 2nd part of Treasury Lane and the intersection of Caesar Ridge and Central American Blvd. These streets have been cemented and completed. There are four (4) streets that are currently in the process of being upgraded. These streets are Captain Eiley, Craig, Evergreen, and Barracks Road.

Some councilors expressed their concerns about how the Mayor is going about making certain decisions. The sentiments are that they are not being informed about decisions taken. The Mayor replied by saying that every councilor is welcome to sit in any meeting or be a part of any decision made here at the Council. One major concern was the selecting of contractor for a street upgrade contract. The Mayor wanted the Council to know how the contractors for the street upgrades were selected. First and foremost, the contractor with the lowest bid. Also, the qualifications and experience that they can do the work and type of payment to be used.

The Mayor had a prior engagement in Belmopan. Mr. Bradley proposed continuing the meeting on Wednesday 5th September, 2012.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:15p.m. It was moved by Councilor Kevin Singh seconded by Councilor Dion Leslie

All were in favor that the Closed Council Meeting be adjourned.

Continuation of Caucus Meeting from September 3, 2012

Councilor Eric Chang (arrived 10:20am)

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr (Out of Country)

Date: September 5, 2012

The Mayor chaired the meeting and called it to order at 9:45 am. Councilor Dean Samuels said the opening prayer.

The Mayor mentioned that he heard there was a meeting held with Minister Patrick Faber and a number of councilors wanted over issues of the Council and these issues were brought up in Cabinet. Mayor expressed how upset he was to find out about the meeting with the minister. Councilor Gonzalez explained to the Mayor about the purpose of the meeting with the minister and that they expressed concerns they have with the works contracts and how the selecting process is done. They feel as though it is not fair.

The Mayor decided for clarification purposes to pass a motion/resolution of how the process of selecting a contractor for the street upgrades will be selected from this point forward. In terms of the selecting which street or with contractor will be use a tendering committee will be formed consisting of Mayor Bradley, Dion Leslie, Roger Espejo, Dean Samuels, Eric Chang, Candice Burke, Kamilah Cardona, Benjamin Mendoza and any other councilor that wants to be present. The new policy will outline four (4) things:

- 1) All contracts must have a minimum of 3 quotations for the job.
- 2) Type of materials that will be use for the upgrade.
- 3) The qualification and experience of the contractor.
- 4) And most importantly, preferable the lowest bidder.

All in favor of implementing the new policy for selecting contractors and streets to be upgraded: All councilors voted YES except for Bernard Pitts who was absent.

i. Bond Update

The Mayor reiterated that Legacy Fund has stop working and at the end of the day wants to change their prior agreement. Mr. Erwin Perez is the one making all the decisions and all directors seem to be on different wave lengths. Mayor will see how the Council will proceed with Legacy Fund.

Mr. Patrick Tillett prospectus has significant difference from Legacy Fund findings. At this point Mr. Tillett is more beneficial to the Council. Mayor said he will see how far we will get with Patrick Tillett. A draft audit was received by Castillo, Sanchez & Burrell.

Councilor Roger Espejo

i. Russell Godfrey Kiosk

Mr. Espejo brought this issue before the Council already. The recommendation from our planning department is that we need have organized planning in these areas and until then no construction will be permitted.

ii. Cocisa

Likewise, Mr. Espejo mentioned that a group from Guatemala wants to conduct a study on the Northern Highway about the proposed infrastructure project for tolling the Northern Highway. Council needs to approve it and send a Letter of Interest and also the Central Government has to be notified.

2. Councilor Phillip Willoughby

i. Handy Money

Councilor Willoughby claimed that a loan lender, Handy Money, wants permission from the Council to do salary deduction from the Council staff. Mayor doesn't want to allow any more company to do loan deduction from respective councilor.

ii. Conversation M O W

The Ministry of Works wants to construction two pedestrian crossings on the Northern Highway to desist accidents from occurring so frequently. The City Council is to identify two locations that are best suited for the crossings. One suggestion is around the area of Scotia Bank/Brodies Store & Benny's and the other between phase 1 and Buttonwood Bay area.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:50a.m. It was moved by Councilor Roger Espejo seconded by Councilor Alifa Hyde.

All were in favor that the Closed Council Meeting be adjourned.