

**Belize City Council Meeting**

**Minutes of Emergency Closed Council Meeting –10<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 10:30 am**

**City Hall Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Dion Leslie

Councilor Roger Espejo

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr

Councilor Phillip Willoughby

Councilor Michael Theus (Arrived 11:05)

Councilor Alifa Hyde (Arrived 11:20)

Councilor Dean Samuels (Arrived 11:20)

Councilor Eric Chan (Arrived 11:45)

**Members absent:**

**Others Present:**

Mrs. Candice Burke, City Administrator

Mr. Cordel Gonzalez, Administrative Officer

The Mayor chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:45 AM. Mayor Darrell Bradley said the opening prayer.

**Adoption of Minutes**

There was no adoption of the previous Closed Council Meeting Minutes.

## **1. Mayor Darrell Bradley**

### **i. Review of Street Works**

Mayor Bradley commented that the initial list of street to be upgraded was at 67 streets but he wanted the list to be increased to 80 streets. Mayor Bradley proposed 5 streets from the Collect area and 5 from University Heights area and an additional 3 from any other area. The Mayor stated that streets are selected based on heavily traffic streets in a particular area. Mayor Bradley's goal is to reach a total of 100 streets for upgrade the only major issue is Belize Water Services and their work plan.

Concerning the residential garbage fee, Belize Water Services limited is asking for a flat fee of \$8,500.00 plus an additional 5% on collection per month for their services. The mayor and a number of councilors expressed their reservation with this payment arrangement.

Mayor Bradley updated the Council on how well the sale of the first tranche of the Bond went. Social Security Board bought the bulk of the Bond with \$4.3 million, RFG bought \$3.5 million, Central Bank bought \$1.5 million and the balance was sold to companies and individuals.

### **ii. Trade Board**

Mayor Bradley asked the Council if they were pleased with the Trade license Board or if they were willing to change the entire board or just the councilors who sit on the board. They agreed on only changing the councilors. Nominations were taken and the Council voted. Mike Theus won with 5 votes and Eric Chang won with 4 votes. They will start to sit on the board in the coming year.

### **iii. Property Tax Discount**

Mayor Bradley mentioned that the Council will offer a discount on property to encourage payment. The discount is 10% off on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013 and 15% off on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012. Also, he will offer 25% off for senior citizens over the age of 65 years. All councilors were in approval of this motion to offer the discount.

### **iv. Naming of Belize Bank Lane**

Mayor Bradley asked for the Council's approval to name the street that runs between Belize Bank Limited and Battlefield Park "Belize Bank Lane" and also the crescent that is between Faber's Road and Neal pen Road "Andrew Faber Crescent". All councilors were in approval of the motion. Mayor commented that there are still a lot of streets in the city that do not have a name. He suggested that we name some the streets off of passed councilors or employees that have served the councilors over a great number of years.

### **Other Important Matters**

- Mrs. Alifa Hyde mentioned that a proper PR campaign needs to be done about the changes in the Belize City Council Trade License increases. In that light, Mayor Bradley and Troy Smith will go on different morning shows to address these issues. PR department is to make the necessary bookings.
- Councilor Espejo asked if the Council would be willing to fund another cemented speed bump crossing on the Northern Highway. He stated that the bumps are much needed at this point because too many lives are in danger.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:10p.m. It was moved by Councilor Leslie and seconded by Councilor Gonzalez.

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