

## **Belize City Council Meeting**

### **Minutes of Closed Council Meeting –January 9, 2013 10:00 am**

#### **Conference Room, City Hall**

#### **Members Present:**

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Dion Leslie

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr

Councilor Roger Espejo

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Michael Theus

Councilor Dean Samuels

Councilor Phillip Willoughby

Councilor Eric Chang

#### **Members absent:**

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Alifa Hyde

#### **Others Present:**

Mrs. Candice Burke, City Administrator

Mr. Cordel Gonzalez, Administrative Officer

The Mayor chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:35 PM. Mayor Bradley said the opening prayer.

#### **Adoption of Minutes**

The adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 was done by Councilor Leslie and seconded by Councilor Singh. There were no objections to the adoption.

## **1. Mayor Darrell Bradley**

### **i. Monthly Financials**

The Mayor went over the November financials with the Councilors present. Quarterly and December financials will be presented and discussed at the next Caucus meeting. One major concern of the Mayor was the line item named 'Miscellaneous Income' he wanted to know what makes up this figure.

### **ii. Street Work Update**

The Mayor wanted the Council to know that he wants to upgrade 4 streets in Lake Independence from Mahogany Street to Haulover River. The streets are Oleander, Flamboyant, Jasmine, and Tibruce. Five streets that are currently being upgraded are Handyside, Driftwood, Moho, Chetumal and Freetown. There are six streets projected to be upgraded Pine, Madam Liz, Woodpecker, Spain, Pride, and Watermelon.

### **iii. Northern Highway Project**

The Mayor stated that he intends to do a massive upgrade of the Northern Highway. He has asked different company to start designs and bids for that area from San Cas Plaza to Haulover Bridge by March 8, 2013. The Mayor mentioned that he wants to get works started as soon as possible.

### **iv. Coney Drive Project**

The Mayor suggested that he wanted to look into a new design for Coney Drive. He has asked Arguelles & Co. to do a layout for presentation to the Council. He will update the Council as it progress.

### **v. Artisan Park Project**

Mr. Bradley suggested to the Council to lease the parking lot land besides the Belize City Council in order to build an Artisan Park. Mayor commented that the park will display different art pieces. Donations will be gotten from NICH, CARILED, PM office and any other body that is willing to contribute. He also intends for the park to be removable because at any time the lease could be terminate after a 3 years span for future infrastructure. His proposal will also include putting kiosk out there as well for vending. Mayor believes it will be worthwhile venture for the Council.

### **vi. Strategic Plan Workshop/ Council Retreat**

Mayor Bradley wanted to invite all councilors to a very important workshop to be held on the weekend of January 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2013. The workshop will be geared towards discussing the accomplishments of the Council, a 5 year Strategic Plan of the Council, and the Council's

one year anniversary gala schedule for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Mayor wants the one year anniversary to be really big and to highlight the Council so he intends to flood the media with PR leading up to this date.

### **vii. Economic Development Commission**

Mayor Bradley mentioned that he want to form the Economic Development Commission (EDC). The Belize City Council resolves to establish an Economic Development Commission for Belize City. Terms of reference is to development with the primary focus is to promote ongoing development and job creation within the boundaries of Belize City. Initially the commission will have 4 commissioners but can be expanding the council if needs be. The Council voted in favor of the commission: MAYOR, DL, MT, KS, BP, RE, DS, PW, EC.

### **viii. Empowerment Centre**

Mayor Bradley suggested also that the Council open an office in the commercial center to resource person looking for jobs. The centre will provide job referrals and get individuals to execute jobs for Belize City residents.

### **ix. Implementation of parking meters**

In relations to erecting parking meters within the city; the Mayor wanted to invite Councilors to bring all proposals to the next Caucus Meeting for review. Mayor said he would like to place them on Albert, Regent and Queen Streets first then move into other streets at a later date.

## **2. Councilor Mike Theus**

### **i. Use of Public Relation Office**

Councilor Theus expressed some issues he had with Public Relations Department. Mayor responded saying he will set a meeting with Councilor Theus to address these issues as soon as possible.

## **3. Councilor Eric Chang**

### **i. Garbage Truck**

Councilor Chang noted that 3 garbage trucks are being donated to the Belize City Council by the Taiwanese Government. Mr. Chang stated that all that is required from the Council is to pay the shipping cost to Belize. He is requesting that the Council pay the monies for the shipping and delivery of these trucks. The cost is BZ \$30,000 per truck. Mayor agreed on paying the freight charges and will sell one of the trucks to get back the cost of the freight.

#### **4. Councilor Dion Leslie**

##### **i. 13 Mls Upgrade/ Lord Ridge Cemetery**

Councilor Leslie commented that the cemetery is in need of funds for maintenance and upgrade. He has checked on the cost of placing a house equipped with an office, bathroom facility and storage room. The Mennonites estimated cost for a house like this is \$34,000.

##### **ii. Pricing of Graves**

Mr. Leslie asked if the Council would consider lowering the cost of graves from \$1000 to \$700 claiming that the amount is too high for the average Belizean family. There were many objections to this; Mrs. Burke claimed also that the local private undertakers charge as much as \$1200 to \$1300 for the same job we are offering. Eventually, the Mayor said he would leave the price as is and would offer a discount for people that may need it.

##### **iii. Hiring of Cemetery Supervisor/ Day Crew for Sanitation**

Councilor Leslie lobbied with the Council to hire new staff members for the cemetery and sanitation crews but Mayor was a bit reluctant and told Mr. Leslie that they will speak about the matter at a later time in his office.

#### **Other Important Matters**

- Mayor will authorized \$100,000. To cover Michael Finnegan Market. The Council voted in favor of the structure to cover the market: MAYOR, DL, MT, KS, RE, DS, PW, EC, BP

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:25p.m. It was moved by Councilor Chang seconded by Councilor Willoughby.

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

**NEXT CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE 30 January, 2013.**