

Belize City Council Meeting

Minutes of Closed Council Meeting –February 14, 2013 10:00 am

Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Dion Leslie

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Michael Theus

Councilor Roger Espejo(arrived 10:40am)

Councilor Dean Samuels(arrived 10:55am)

Councilor Phillip Willoughby(arrived 11:10am)

Councilor Eric Chang

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Alifa Hyde

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 10:25 PM. Councilor Gonzalez said the opening prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

The adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 9th January, 2013 was done by Councilor Hyde and seconded by Councilor Singh. There were no objections to the adoption.

Dr. Alain Gonzalez presented a plaque given by the Venezuelan Embassy to the Belize City Council for the program “Mission Miracle.” Mayor and the Council expressed its gratitude for the plaque and will send a formal letter of appreciation stating its continued support of the program.

1. Mayor Darrell Bradley

Mayor began by asking the Council to commence voting of a new Deputy Mayor. Nominees were Councilor Eric Chang- accepted and Councilor Alifa Hyde- declined. Eight persons were present. Seven voted in favor of Eric Chang as Deputy Mayor and one abstention. Mayor congratulated Councilor Chang on his appointment and stated it will take effect on March 15th, 2013.

i. Monthly Financials

The Mayor went over the January financials with the Councilors present. Financials are to be email out to all councilors every month. One concern of the Mayor was the line item named ‘Property Tax’ he wanted to know what makes up this figure. The city administrator explained that the figure used last year was a targeted budget amount but the figure used this year is the actual.

ii. Street Work Update

The Mayor mentioned that he will add Angel Lane to the current listing making the list to fifty 50 streets upgraded. The Council intends to acquire an engineering consultant to assist the city engineer with the current work load. Also, Mayor stated that he will go ahead with upgrading street that are less than \$200,000.00 Councilor Hyde doesn’t support the fact that the mayor will upgrade street under \$200,000 without the knowledge of the Council.

iii. Northern Highway Project

The Mayor presented handouts with projected revenue for a 25 year span should the Northern Highway be toll. This information was compiled by M & M Engineering Company. The Company that will finance in this project will have the responsibility of ensuring the figures in estimated revenue are accurate and viable to for the investment. It will be like a Non-Secured Revenue Bond that will yield 10% interest.

iv. Coney Drive Project

The Mayor had a draft design for Coney Drive Upgrade that was generated by the city engineer Kamilah Cardona. Mayor intends to use the design and tender it out for bidding. Whenever the Council meets again, they will discuss the progress of selecting a contractor at a later date.

v. BTL Park Project

Mr. Bradley presented a design to the Council a design by Osmond. The Council shall receive projections and scope of works by Monday 18 February, 2013. As soon as this is completed, rendering from Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) to the Council for modification will occur.

vi. Strategic Plan Workshop/ Council Retreat

Mayor Bradley wanted to unveil a 5 year Strategic Plan of the Council at the Council's one year anniversary gala schedule for March 8th, 2013. He commented that the workshop was very helpful in outlining the goals that were accomplished and goals to be accomplished.

vii. One Year Anniversary

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. There are intentions to have a staff social and a mini fair to acknowledge all the persons that have assisted in making fifty streets a reality for the Belize City Council.

viii. Visit to San Benito

Mayor Bradley mentioned that the Council will be hosting a delegation from San Benito headed by Mayor Sonia Rivera. They will be here from March 1-3, 2013 for the purpose of expressing gratitude and signing of a sister city relationship between the two cities.

ix. Street Naming

There was a listing of Street names presented to the councilors that was original composed by the previous administration. The listing was scrutinized by the Mayor and councilors to finalize the street names to be issued. Some names to be added were Rowan Garel, Dr. Lisa Johnson, Michelle Arana and Edmond Pennil.

2. Councilor Phillip Willoughby

i. Belize Waste Control Settlement

Councilor Willoughby expressed his disapproval of the conflict/bickering between the Belize City Council (BCC) and Belize Waste Control (BWC). One major issue was a letter issued by the Mayor on the Council behalf; Mr. Willoughby felt that he should have been notified of such by the Mayor. Councilor said that sanitation is under his portfolio and it looked bad when he had no knowledge of what happened. He stated he only heard documents have been exchanged between BCC and BWC without necessary protocol.

3. Councilor Alain Gonzalez

i. Summer Camp

Councilor Gonzalez mentioned that the summer is fast approaching and he is planning on having the similar Summer Camp like the one held last year. He intends to focus on the kids of the Belize City Council staff. He also wished to express to the Council that the camp will be bigger thus more funds will be needed. He wants to start asking for

4. Councilor Alifa Hyde

i. Confirmation of Bus Route & Permit

Councilor Hyde commented that the Traffic Advisory Committee met on 8th January, 2013. It was recommended by the committee that the respective bus companies be given the specified bus route listed below:

Haylock Bus Service – Belama Route

Lemoth Bus service – Port and Fabers Route

Lopez Shuttle Service – West Landivar Route

Belize Metro Service – Kings Park and Lake I Route

Note: Big buses will not be on the city streets starting June of this year.

ii. Traffic & Councilors

Councilor Hyde asked if the Councilors and their families could please respect the traffic officers. There have been complaints by a number of traffic officers that Councilors have been disrespectful towards them. Councilor Hyde also requested that for ease of the flow of traffic in light of all the street upgrade PR department needs to update the traffic department as early as possible.

iii. BBC Policy Manual

Councilor Hyde mentioned that the policy manuals have been completed and asked that councilors and staff familiarize themselves with the policy manual to keep abreast of how to address situations that will arise within the workplace. The manual will also include how Councilors should conduct themselves and are governed by this manual.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:35p.m. It was moved by Councilor Leslie seconded by Councilor Willoughby.

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