

Belize City Council Meeting

Minutes of Closed Council Meeting -April 11, 2013 10:30 am

Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Eric Chang

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Roger Espejo

Councilor Dean Samuels

Councilor Phillip Willoughby

Councilor Dion Leslie

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr (10:50am)

Members absent:

Councilor Alifa Hyde

Councilor Michael Theus

Councilor Kevin Singh

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 PM. Councilor Alain Gonzalez said the opening prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

The adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 19th March, 2013 was done by Councilor Gonzalez and seconded by Councilor Leslie. There were no objections to the adoption.

1. Mayor Darrell Bradley

i. Monthly Financials

The Mayor went over the March financials with the Councilors. The Mayor was impressed with how well the Council finances are doing. Councilor Espejo remarked that Belize Tourism Board has been and is presently withholding payments to the Council because the Mayor refuses to sign the SI. Mayor responded that he will not sign and that they have to pay us the money.

ii. Street Work Update

The Mayor mentioned that street works are right on schedule and that the Council has completed a total of 65 streets. Councilor Espejo asked if the Council would look into fixing a street located in Bella Vista Area name unknown but Mr. Said Perdomo lives on the street.

Mayor expressed his interest in redesigning the Battlefield Park claiming that he has asked International Environment to provide a design and specs for the new park. He hopes to commence work on Monday 15th April, 2013. The vendors will be placed on Southern Foreshore during the renovations period.

Mayor asked Councilor Samuels and Councilor Chang to identify 10 -15 streets to be chip and seal on the Southside area of the city.

2. Councilor Phillip Willoughby

i. Persons on Contracts

Councilor Willoughby showed his discontent for the job performance of the City Engineer and asked for a motion by the Council whether they should terminate her contract or asked her to resign. The vote was as follow: DS, AG, PW – ask her to resign; BP & RE – not to fire; DL – believes she needs help; EC – believes she is not reliable.

3. Councilor Roger Espejo

i. Council Motions

Councilor Espejo asked the Mayor how or under what circumstances a motion can be raised at the Closed Council Meeting because lately he feels that his concerns are not being taken seriously. Mayor Bradley responded that a motion is decided on by the information given to the Council and if it is a technical issue both he and the Council have to be advised of the most favorable solution to be taken by the Council.

ii. Discovering Media

Councilor Espejo questioned the status of the proposal made by Mr. Alex Gamero from Discovering Media which was presented at the last Closed Council Meeting on March 19,

2013. Mayor stated that he was unable to comment on it because he wanted the technical personnel to review the proposal and see if it will be worthwhile for the Council and the Belize City residents.

iii. Access to Information

Councilor Espejo was curious to find out about how information is be given about the Council's Bond, street works, employees etc. Mr. Bradley mentioned that accurate information about the Council's activities can be gotten from the City Administrator or the Mayor.

iv. Recycling Proposal

Councilor Espejo asked about the recycling proposal previously mention in Caucus meeting. Mayor asked that Councilor Espejo meet with Councilor Dion Leslie to filter thru the proposal and see how well it will work for all parties involved.

v. Church & Leo Batty Sts. Upgrade/ Donations

Councilor Espejo mentioned that he has secured donations for both Church & Leo Batty Streets. He has received from \$10,000.00 from Belize Telemedia Limited and \$10,000.00 from Mr. Water Campos towards Church Street also \$14,000.00 from Leo Batty towards Leo Bradley Street.

vi. Fuel Consumption

Councilor Espejo asked the Council if they consider switching fuel provider so that the UNO Bel-China Service Station be the Council official fuel provider. Mayor replied that he is not in a position to make a decision on that.

4. Councilor Dion Leslie

i. Cemetery Manager

Councilor Leslie explained that the acting cemetery manager job is tedious and entails her to be mobile quiet a lot and in that respect he requested from the Council giving her fuel to complete her assign tasks.

ii. Usage of Material from Cemetery House

Councilor Leslie asked if the materials taken from with old cemetery can be dissembled and be used to build a shed at the works department of the Council. There were no objections to the request.

Other Important Matters

- The City Administrator notified the Council that there are two vacant positions that have been created. Financial Manager- Ms. Rosalie Perez and HR Manager- Cynthia Nunez also Ms. Rudon title has changed to Administrative Director.

- Dion Leslie will be out of the country during 20-27th April and 2nd - 6th May, 2013

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:35p.m. It was moved by Councilor Chang seconded by Councilor Pitts.

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