

Belize City Council Meeting

Minutes of Closed Council Meeting –June 27, 2013 10:00 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 Michael Theus

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr

Members absent:

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 10:25 PM. Councilor Michael Theus said the opening prayer.

Adoption of Minutes

The adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 11th April, 2013 was not done.

1. Mayor Darrell Bradley

i. Monthly Financials

The Mayor went over the April financials with the Councilors. The Mayor noted that he was not impressed with figures because it showed a loss. A significant change was Maintenance cost which went from \$200, 000 to \$1 million due to the street infrastructure. Councilor Espejo proposed that councilors review the financials and email any feedback or queries.

ii. Street Work Update

The Mayor mentioned that street works are right on schedule and that the Council has completed a total of 70 streets. A listing of the street infrastructure and balance owing was handed out for Councilors to review.

iii. BTL Park Project Update

Mayor expressed his interest in redesigning the BTL Park claiming that he has asked International Environment (IE) for a design and specs for the new park. A handout with the design and 23 kiosks was circulated. He continued to say that the estimated cost would be approximately \$1.4 million of which he hopes Cariled with be able to fund the building of the kiosks and in turn provide jobs the economic development side of the project. Likewise, BTL has committed to contribute \$250, 000 towards the park new design.

iv. Downtown Free Zone

Mayor has stated that he is interested in transforming the downtown area of Belize City into a commercial free zone. He claimed that substantial work has already been done to the tourism area and to both Albert and Regent Streets. The only set back at this point is to issue official CFZ license.

2. Councilor Eric Chang

i. Restructure of LBA

Deputy Mayor Chang requested a change on the Local Building Authority Board claiming that the present Chairman Mr. Froylan Alvarado is very difficult to work with, has a dictatorship attitude and believes only his way of doing thing is the correct way. Deputy Chang is asking the Council to remove Mr. Alvarado and replace him with Mr. Benjamin Mendoza. Mayor Bradley and the Council agreed and a formal letter will be sent to Ministry of Housing to acknowledge the change.

3. Councilor Alain Gonzalez

i. Annual summer Camp

Councilor Gonzalez commented that his annual summer camp is still on as scheduled. As per usual Mr. Gonzalez intends to get donations from different business entities and will be providing lunch and snacks for the kids for the duration of the camp (3 weeks). He asked the Council to facilities the food, drinks and snacks and stipend for lecturers and helpers. Mr. Gonzalez wanted the Council to know this is a worthwhile venture for the Council and the Belize City residents.

4. Councilor Dean Samuels

i. FFB

Councilor Samuels explained that the Belize National Football Team will be participating in a CONCACAF tournament in the USA. He requested a monetary donation towards the team expenses for their trip. The Council decided to donate \$7,500.00.

5. Councilor Bernard Pitts

i. Summer Program & Albert Hoy Field

Councilor Pitts mentioned that he too will be having his sports summer camp for 5 weeks and he has secured \$25,000.00 in donations and asked if the Council can afford him an additional \$10,000.00 for sport invigilators and assistance.

Councilor Pitts also wanted to update the Council about the progress on Albert Hoy Field stating that the upgrades are going as plan and the field will be a useful resource to assist youths in a constructive output within their lives.

Other Important Matters

- None

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m. It was moved by Councilor Samuels seconded by Councilor Gonzalez.

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