

## **Belize City Council Meeting**

### **Minutes of Closed Council Meeting –August 15, 2013 9:30 am**

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

#### **Members Present:**

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Eric Chang

Councilor Alifa Hyde

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Roger Espejo

Councilor Dean Samuels

Councilor Phillip Willoughby

Councilor Michael Theus

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Bernard Pitts Jr

#### **Members absent:**

Councilor Dion Leslie

#### **Others Present:**

Mrs. Candice Burke, City Administrator

Mr. Cordel Gonzalez, Administrative Officer

The Mayor chaired the meeting and called it to order at 9:50 PM. Councilor Alain Gonzalez said the opening prayer.

#### **Adoption of Minutes**

The adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 was done by Councilor Gonzalez and seconded by Councilor Theus. There were no objections to the adoption.

Also the adoption of the Closed Council Meeting Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 was done by Councilor Gonzalez and seconded by Councilor Chang. There were no objections to the adoption.

## **1. Mayor Darrell Bradley**

### **i. Monthly Financials**

The Mayor went over the June financials with the Councilors. The Mayor noted that legal fees need to be changed to reflect payment towards the judgment-Fred Lumor. He also addressed line item 3205- Traffic Violation Ticket 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. Heritage bank Facility**

The Mayor mentioned that Heritage Bank is willing to lend us \$5million with 10% interest rate for 10 years negotiations are still process. The money will be utilized for four purposes New City Council Office building, Michael Finnegan Market, Debt Reduction and an additional 20 streets. An update will be given at the next council meeting.

### **iii. Renovated Commercial Center**

Mayor expressed his interest in renovating of the Commercial Center in order to house the new offices of Belize City Council.

### **iv. Street Work Update**

Mayor stated that street work for Belize City is going according to plan and that the Council has completed 80 streets to this point. Some Councilors had some concerns such as having the engineer look into the approach of Bel-China Bridge with the elevation issues. Another councilor was concern with sidewalks and drainage of the completed streets.

### **v. BTL Park Project**

The Mayor mentioned that redesigning of the new BTL Park is underway. The new park will be equipment with kiosk, bathroom facilities, pier/jetty and playground.

### **vi. Battle Field Park Opening**

Mayor Bradley wanted to congratulate the councilors and staff for a job well done with the opening of the New Battlefield Park. On Thursday Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the park was officially opened, the park will be maintained by a park ranger to ensure longevity. Vendors will be banned from selling within the park unless they have a booth. Due to the park location, traffic flow and the way the park was newly constructed Mayor intends to regulate traffic when comes to the bus stop and taxi stands around the area.

### **vii. Antonio Soberanis Statue**

The Mayor enlightened the Council of the Antonio Soberanis Statue to be erected at the Battlefield Park that the cost of it is \$30,000. Mayor will ask Ms. Rudon to contact him and negotiate a more favorable price.

### **viii. Resolution on write offs**

The Mayor suggested to the Council that we pass a resolution to write off all debts under one thousand (\$1000) and write local government for approval. All in favor of the write off: MAYOR, EC, AG, MT, KS, RE, DS, PW, BP, AH. Absent: DL

### **ix. Dismissal of City Engineer**

The Mayor proposed to dismiss the current city engineer, Ms. Cardona, because of actions leading up to her absence for work without permission. All in favor of Ms. Kamilah Cardona dismissal as the City Engineer: MAYOR, EC, AG, MT, KS, RE, DS, PW, BP, AH. Absent: DL

### **x. Resolution Book**

The Mayor mentioned that needs to have a resolution book. This book should record all resolution that was vote on and to be sign by Councilors should be.

## **2. Councilor Roger Espejo**

Mr. Espejo spoke about different topics his concerns were most about development of the city. He mentioned that RFG Insurance will sponsor the Coney Drive Roundabout for a period of 6 months. An adaption agreement will be drafted and signed by RFG and BCC.

Council Espejo expressed the need for concreting of Magazine Road as urgent as possible claiming the street is in dire condition and that BEL is committed in contributing to the street construction. Likewise he mentioned the possibility of paving of Morter Lane. Mayor replied that he should go over the streets in mind to be paved with Council Eric Chang. Mr. Espejo also wanted the Council to know that some street need to have cemented speed bumps because motorist take the new build street as freeways and drive at exaggerated speeds.

## **3. Councilor Phillip Willoughby**

### **i. Mark King Proposal**

Councilor Willoughby commented that Minister Mark King has a proposal to construct a park in the Lake Independence area. The Council major concern is the land area claiming that the Council has to own the land not for a private entity. Minister King already has the design of the park and wants to invest in the city. Mayor Bradley is welcomed to the idea of the park and plans to go ahead with the park as soon as everything is finalized.

On two other notes, there has been no final decision concerning them out sourcing of the security department of the Council. In relation to the agreement with the BCC and BWC Mayor wanted a meeting with Ms. Alifa Elrington, Dion Leslie and Phillip Willoughby to go over the agreement of BCC and BWC.

#### **4. Councilor Dean Samuels**

##### **i. Nussy Jones Meighan Situation**

Councilor Samuels explained that Ms. Nussy Jones is asking the BCC to push a street off Fabers Road to accommodate some 6 household in the area. The Council decided to give the 50/50 option to her whatever she gets the Council will match.

##### **ii. Street Works Rehabilitation**

Councilor Samuels mentioned that street rehabilitation needs some attention. There are a lot of streets out there that are deteriorating due to the rains and flood water. Mayor responded and said we have to do it.

#### **Other Important Matters**

- Councilor Elrington commented that parking can one be on one side of Freetown Road stating the congestion is ridiculous
- Councilor Theus wanted the Council to address the situation of the city buses that inconveniently stop all over the city and asked that the Council do some type of enforcement
- Summer Camps: The Council and the Mayor wants to extend its congratulations to both Councilor Gonzalez and Councilor Pitts on their outstanding work done at their summer camp for the Belize City Youths.
- Councilor Willoughby /CEMO: a symposium is to be held likewise 10- 8x12 billboard to be erected for public awareness for the hurricane season.
- Council will support Norman Rodriguez with his studies as per usual.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:30p.m. It was moved by Councilor Chang seconded by Councilor Gonzalez.

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