

## **Belize City Council Meeting**

**Minutes of Closed Council Meeting –December 6th, 2013 10:00 am**

**Conference Room, City Hall**

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Darrell Bradley

Deputy Mayor Bernard Pitts Jr

Councilor Alain Gonzalez

Councilor Alifa Hyde

Councilor Eric Chang

Councilor Kevin Singh

Councilor Michael Theus

Councilor Dean Samuels

Councilor Phillip Willoughby (late)

Councilor Roger Espejo (late)

### **Members absent:**

Councilor Dion Leslie

### **Others Present:**

Mrs. Candice Burke, City Administrator

Mr. Jermaine Hyde, Administrative Officer

The Mayor chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:45 PM. Councilor Kevin Singh said the opening prayer.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

There was no adoption of Closed Council Minutes.

## **1. Mayor Darrell Bradley**

### **i. Bond Update**

Mayor began by addressing the issue of the bond. He stated that the bond would have completely expired by mid December 2013. The first payoff of the bond would be October 2014. There were no questions concerning the conclusion of the bond

### **ii. Monthly Financials**

Mayor stated that the monthly financials are to be updated monthly and be placed on the council's web site. Castillo, Sanchez & Burrell are finalizing the complete audit of the council's finances. There was also an increase in the insurance premium for councilors and directors.

Mrs. Burke also stated that there was a decrease in the overhead cost and said that the privatization of the Security Department needed to be decided on. If embarked on, the staff number would decrease and further decrease the payroll.

Mayor reinforced that the budget needs to be confirmed and updated that significant cuts were made in the budget. He also said he wants Mrs. Ordonez to make a presentation on the Budget to the council so that councilors are well versed with it.

### **iii. BTL Park Project**

Mayor announced that BTL Park will be opening on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2013. The council will host a ceremony, showcase fireworks and concert featuring various local artists and one international artist Demarco. Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 is the official ribbon cutting ceremony and media tour at 10:00am. The opening ceremony will be starting at 4:30pm with goodie bags and gifts, followed immediately by the concert until 12:00 midnight. There are twenty three (23) kiosks at the park and each will be renting at \$350.00 monthly.

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

Street works are ongoing; PM will be donating \$2.5 million towards street upgrades. The Heritage bank offer remains on the table if need.

## **2. Councilor Michael Theus**

- i.** Councilor Theus commented on a letter sent to councilors and mayor by Norman Rodriguez, concerning deferment of study leave since he didn't get into this year's enrollment but will attempt the next intake.

**Mayor** said all he needs to do is to write and request study leave when he gets in.

- ii.** Councilor Theus inquired about the Council's move towards amalgamating and forming a Municipal Police Unit. Mayor said that a concept paper on the amalgamation done by Court Manager Ms. Mckenzie will be reviewed for a decision.
- iii.** Councilor Theus inquired about the possibility of a taxi operator's monthly fee of \$30. He said they approached him and other councilors with the idea. Mayor said that for this to be considered, there must be a consensus amongst all the operators. He also requested that Councilor Hyde engage in a dialogue with them and report back to Council with a list of their proposition.
- iv.** Councilor Theus inquired if the termination of the Clerk of Market was proper. Mayor addressed the inquiry by stating that it was an administrative issue and doesn't need to be addressed by Council. Councilor Hyde inquired as to the circumstances of the termination. City Administrator informed Council of a letter submitted by the Clerk of Market which led to the decision. Councilor Willoughby inquired if any decision has been made in relation to the Market Manager and her role. Mayor said that the matter was addressed by the administration and it's not a matter for Council.

### **3. Councilor Alifa Elrington**

- i.** Councilor Hyde inquired about a possible increase in the amount of traffic officers.
- ii.** She relayed her pride and pleasure in the Sign language class the council provided for staff. She was overjoyed that Traffic officers, and other staff benefited from the classes. She stated that she was able to attend the graduation and enjoyed the service. She inquired about the possibility of the staff receiving level 2 training and possibility of more staff getting the training.
- iii.** Councilor Hyde also requested more handheld radios, uniforms and proper shoes for officers. Mayor said that a quotation should be submitted and it will be reviewed depending on its impact of the budget.

- iv. The issue of a \$10 inspection fee was brought up. Councilor Elrington further stated that since a fee is being charged that a proper facility for inspection must be looked into. City Admin said that the place for inspection was being reviewed along with the implementation of Mr. Rashaad Gillett as the inspector, since he was the person trained in that area. Councilor Elrington also brought up the issue of vehicles being licensed at Transport department and not at Belize City Council. Her fear is that it will have a major impact on the council's income. Councilor Samuels said that the public is satisfied with the service being offered by the council and he doesn't think that the \$10 fee will cause drivers to jump to transport department.
- v. Councilor Hyde also addressed the issue of the leaking roof at Commercial Center. The Councilor said that the Court Manager wrote several letters addressing the matter. Mayor said that the council is getting ready to do over the roof.

**Other Important Matters:**

Councilor Willoughby brought up the issue of the Local Building Authority and their working relationship with the council, ensuring that they work with BCC when we make decisions.

Councilor Hyde reminded council of the pending matter of Belize Social Security Board, Mr. Rupert Marin and BCC and it needs to be finalized.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:02p.m. It was moved by Councilor Hyde seconded by Councilor Gonzalez.

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