



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 9 July, 2014**  
**City Hall Conference Room**

**Present**

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley      | Mayor              |
| 2. Mr. Bernard Pitts Jr.    | Councilor          |
| 3. Mrs. AlifaElrington Hyde | Councilor          |
| 4. Mr. Roger Espejo         | Councilor          |
| 5. Mr. Dean Samuels         | Councilor          |
| 6. Mr. Phillip Willoughby   | Councilor          |
| 7. Mr. Eric Chang           | Councilor          |
| 8. Mr. Michael Theus        | Councilor          |
| 9. Mr. Kevin Singh          | Councilor          |
|                             |                    |
| 1. Ms. Candice Miller       | City Administrator |
| 2. Ms. Whitney Waight       | Note-taker         |

**Absent without explanation**

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Dion Leslie    | Councilor |
| 2. Dr. Alain Gonzalez | Councilor |

**Present by invitation**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez   | Director of Finance                      |
| 2. Ms. SharleneRudon      | Director of Administrations              |
| 3. Mrs. Marilyn Garvin    | Chief Internal Auditor                   |
| 4. Mrs. Margaret McKenzie | Director of Legal Affairs, Legal Counsel |
| 5. Mr. Floyd Williams     | City Engineer                            |

**Opening**

1. The meeting commenced at 1:48p.m.
2. Councilor Michael Theus opened the meeting with a word of prayer.
3. The Mayor welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance.
4. The Mayor said that there were three matters he wanted to address before proceeding with the agenda items. The first is that he would like the minute taker to ensure that in the minutes the matters that are stated shows who raised those matters. He noted that in the previous draft minutes issues were raised but the minutes did not say who raised them. This is important because sometimes the council has to go back to the person who raised a point for clarification and we also want to recognize member's contributions to meetings.

5. The second matter is that the Mayor asked for the minutes of each council meeting to be posted on the council's website. Councilor Hyde expressed her disagreement with this. The Mayor then explained that this will help the council keep more accurate minutes and to document them properly and it will also allow members of the public to better be informed of what is going on with council and for councilors to take council meetings seriously. The Mayor directed that minutes be posted with immediate effect. This includes all previous minutes from March 2012 and then all subsequent minutes from this meeting.
6. The third matter is that the Mayor stressed the importance for councilors to come to meetings on time. The Mayor pointed out that this meeting was to commence at 2:00 p.m. and it started almost fifty minutes late because we did not have quorum.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

7. There were minor corrections to the minutes of 25 June, 2014. The minute taker was asked to correct the following for confirmation of the next minutes:
  1. Item number 4, there should be a "d" at the end of the word "schedule"
  2. Item number 5, the word should be "maximum" of two hours, not "minimum"
  3. Item number 7, second sentence, replace the word "intelligible" with the word "useable" and "stating" should be "stated"
  4. Item number 18 should include Hyde's Lane and New Road
  5. Item number 20 should read Councilor Hyde said that the matter of the traffic report sent to her and not sent to the City Administrator.
  6. Item 33 should be \$1 million and not \$1.5 million
  7. Item 64 replace the word "by" with "be"
  8. Capitalize all job titles for that of the City Administrator and City Engineer
  9. Add that council voted to adjourn the meeting and remove the *ed* from the word "adjourned"

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Report on Magazine Road Drainage**

8. Mr. Williams informed that he has met with Mr. Godfrey regarding the drainage project and they decided to go ahead with the pilot project either on Magazine Road or A Street. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Godfrey is working on estimates for the drainage project and he will follow up on the date when the project will commence.
9. The Mayor reminded the council that this is a pilot project and is being fully paid for by Mr. Godfrey so no council funds will be invested and it is an opportunity to test a new method of drainage to see if it is effective and to get free drains along at least one streets. He stated his preference for Magazine Road since the council is doing the street and there is a real need for drains along that street.
10. The Mayor asked Mr. Williams to have an update on this at the next council meeting.

#### **Street Materials**

11. Mr. Williams reported that since the last meeting Cisco Construction and RJB Construction have been trucking excavated materials from street works to the council's facility at 4½ miles on the GPH. Cisco Construction had used some materials on Seashore Drive, which was needed. Mr. Williams reported that BWS was still trying to justify why they need the materials and should keep it, but Mr. Williams indicated that everyone acknowledged that these materials belong to the council and he is vigilant with collecting them.

12. The Mayor stressed the need to be continuously vigilant with contractors and with BWS to ensure that the council secures these excavated materials because it belongs to the council and can be used to upgrade additional streets. The Mayor pointed out the several streets upgraded by Councilor Samuel's team and this was aided by these excavated materials.

### **Potholes**

13. The Mayor directed Mr. Williams to go ahead utilizing the retention to proceed with repairs along Cemetery Road. The Mayor stated that the areas of concern were along Sixth Street, Madam Liz Avenue and Cemetery Road. There were done by Mr. Cardona.
14. Councilor Pitts stated that the intersection of Albert Hoy and Juliet Soberanis Street also needs repair. Mrs. Burke stated that Sixth Street is showing steel.
15. The Mayor asked for works along Cemetery Road to commence immediately and for the other works to be done as soon as possible. The Mayor also asked Mr. Williams to report at the next council meeting on the progress of works and for this to be treated with priority.

### **Tax Collection Rate**

16. Mrs. Ordonez informed that compared to last year presently the council has collected approximately 55% of its property tax revenue. A total of \$9.6 million was billed to residence and to date approximately \$4.3 is outstanding.
17. Mrs. Ordonez stated that the council is doing better than last year on collections, but more can be done to collect so that council has more revenue.
18. The Mayor asked Mrs. Ordonez to prepare a more detailed report on the percentages of collections in all areas: property, trade, liquor and traffic compared to last year.
19. Deputy Mayor Pitts asked if there is any other method besides bills sent for communicating with property owners. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Ordonez stated that the Compliance Unit has four full time persons who are responsible for calling and following up on bills and getting property owners to come in and make the necessary arrangements to clear their taxes. The Compliance Unit also does analysis of arrears and several reports to see what is collectable. The restrictions on issuing driver's license where persons owe property taxes is also successful.
20. Deputy Mayor Pitts asked if the Compliance Unit reports on tax receivables. Mrs. Ordonez said yes. The unit monitors both current bills and arrears. She also stated that the Compliance Supervisor Mr. Adrian Rodriguez sends timely reports by zones and with the blocking of driver's license and vehicle license renewal these measures are contributing to increase in collections. The council is also more vigilant in issuing stops orders and using the special constable unit to enforce collections of trade and property.
21. Deputy Mayor Pitts stated that there needs to be more than four persons in the Compliance Unit because this is an important area.
22. Mrs. Ordonez stated that collections is a huge part of the finance department and the Compliance Unit fits into a system. She stated that there is biweekly revenue meetings where the Compliance Unit meets with other revenue areas and they discuss additional areas of coordination to increase collections and they monitor arrears closely.
23. Councilors noted that from the tax financial report there is a lot of money outstanding to the council by properties listed as owned by the Government of Belize. Some of these are residential properties

owed through the Ministry of Housing. Mrs. Ordonez said that the Government is exempted from paying property tax, but in the case of the residential listings, efforts need to be made to see if the Ministry of Housing and the Lands Department can have these persons given their land titles and then having them pay property taxes.

24. Councilor Kevin Singh asked about the trade license for the Guardian Newspaper. He stated that the Guardian Newspaper is not paying trade license and they should be and he asked that the Council look into this. Councilor Singh asked that a representative of the trade license board communicate with Guardian Newspaper to ensure collection.
25. Councilor Espejostated that the tour operators should pay trade license. The Mayor agreed that the council should look into this. The Mayor said that the problem is that the trade license law is based on premises and square footage and businesses like tour operators and taxis who do not have an office or a place of business tend to say that they should not pay because the computation of the tax cannot be done on any premises that they operate from.

### **Independent Audit**

26. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Ordonez informed that Mr. Burrell of Castillo Sanchez & Burrell has assured them that as soon as Ramona is in office he will have her meet with them to finalize the 2012-13 audit. This is to be done before Friday.
27. The Mayor stressed that this is unacceptable and dangerous. The Mayor stated that he the council does not receive assurance of a date when the audit will be provided then the council should write a letter setting out that this is negligence and a serious breach of contract. The audit report is not outstanding for more than sixteen months.

### **Mayor's Announcements/Matters**

#### **Infrastructure**

28. The Mayor stated that Councilor Samuels and Mr. Williams are to put together a work program for the \$1 million worth of earthen street. The work plan is to include the names of streets, quantities, timeframe and cost. The Mayor asked that Councilor Samuel consult with other Councilors in developing the plan and also with area representatives.
29. The Mayor asked Councilor Samuels to give a report on the works that have been done so far on the earthen streets, mainly in the Southside of Belize City.
30. Councilor Samuelsstated that the council's works department has done approximately 22 streets at a total cost of approximately \$0.50 million. The streets have concentrated in Lake Independence, Collet, Queen Square, Freetown and Pickstock Division. This is complementing a Central Government project where they are spending \$2 million and with the materials collected from excavated concrete streets the council is putting significant efforts in these street upgrades. Councilor Samuels noted that the additional \$1 million will make a big difference.
31. Councilor Willoughby asked for work to be done on Lindos Alley and Richard Street.
32. The Mayor noted that Lindos Alley is to be concreted and he stated that he will do a report on street upgrades, including concrete works and other earthen streets works to be done going in to the end of the year. He also recommended that the councilors do a tour of the works being done so that they can satisfy themselves as to quality and extent.

33. Mrs. Ordonez recommended that at the next scheduled public meeting that the council allow residents to make suggestion on infrastructure projects so residents feel included and the Mayor stated that this is an excellent idea and asked that a presentation be put together for the next public meeting scheduled in August and that input be sought from the public.
34. Councilor Willoughby stated that he had taken the Commissioner of Lands in the Albert's Division to Conch Shell Bay and they noticed that a family had constructed their home over the river. Councilor Willoughby asked the council to assist the family with filling the area around the parameter of their home. The Mayor asked Councilor Willoughby and Mr. Williams to look at it and see what can be done and to do the filling if possible.

### **Financial Statements**

35. The council examined the financial statements for the period ending 30 June, 2014.
36. The Mayor stated that the social assistance still seem a high. Councilor Hyde identified that the majority of this expenses is for groups doing street works and odd jobs for the council.
37. The Mayor asked Mrs. Ordonez why these payments are under Social Assistance and Contributions rather than under salary or another category and Mrs. Ordonez explained that in the beginning these project, for example the painting crew and the additional street crews being hired, came out the Office of the Mayor and this head comes under that office.
38. The Mayor asked the City Administrator to do an assessment of the amount of worker and where they are and then the council can place them in the departments that they are working. For example, the crews working on streets should be with the works department and that should come out of their budget and the painting crew can be in sanitation.
39. The Mayor asked that the City Administrator work with HR to prepare recommendations for the next sitting of the council.
40. The Mayor stated that these works are hardworking and they have done a lot of good project, including the renovations of the maternity ward at Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, the computer lab at Excelsior High School and two science labs at Saint Catherine's Academy. They are now also working at SCA upgrading the counseling room. The council has always gotten excellent reports from the service sites. The problem is that this program needs to be regularized and the workers needs to be under specific departments so they can be monitored and also protected by being in the workforce of the council rather than as an ad hoc group.
41. Mrs. McKenzie stated that the report for social assistance and contributions seem incomplete. She recommended that more information be put into the system including a name. She also recommended that a contributions ledger be kept.
42. Councilor Hyde asked about a cheque for \$2198.00 stating payment being for miscellaneous expenses for boxing tournament and asked what this was used for.
43. The Mayor explained that the cheque was written out to Mrs. Michelle Smith for the purchasing of miscellaneous items for the boxing tournament, including for paying the boxers and prizes. The Mayor stated that they were approximately twenty boxers and boxers who won their match got \$100 and boxers who lost got \$50. This was the biggest part of that amount. Cheques could not be written in advance in the name of the boxers because we only knew who won at the night of the competition and the council wanted to give the prizes then.

44. Mrs. Ordonez informed that only in rare cases a cheque would be written in the name of a staff. The staff member would then have to turn in receipts or a refund to the finance department within days to show that the money was properly expended. This is usually only done with Mrs. Smith because she takes care of special events, and it was emphasized that Mrs. Smith always does everything by the book with the finance department in these instances and there has never been a problem with not bringing in receipts. Mrs. Garvin stated that the council should make every effort to write cheques directly to suppliers and keep cheques written to staff to a minimum.
45. Councilor Hyde asked why there are cheques for the San Benito Queen's visit being reflected in the expenditure report when the trip was cancelled. Mrs. Ordonez stated that the cheques were canceled, but it would appear that in the system the information wasn't adjusted. She will check on this and then confirm.
46. In regards to collections for the period ending 30 June, the Mayor stated that we are behind projections. The Mayor made reference to projections for property tax at \$697,032 and actual collections at \$449,881.89; traffic projections are \$461,746 and actual collection is \$350,539.75 and projections for liquor licenses \$403,417 and actual collection is \$166,432.
47. Councilor Hyde asked Mrs. Ordonez with respect to traffic revenues for the month of June why the report is saying no funds were collected for new registration of vehicle. Mrs. Ordonez indicated that just today there was a discovery that due to the change in format for the financial statements and the changes in classifications from that format from the Ministry of Local Government there are discrepancies. So when we make collections sometimes the data entry clerk cannot find a suitable classification and she inserts that amount into a different classification. Mr. Charles Halsall, our technical expert, had to create a separate format to match the old format and classifications. This is something that the finance department is looking at.
48. Councilor Samuels asked Mrs. Ordonez if the properties auctioned by the council are for properties whose property owners haven't paid their taxes.
49. Mrs. Ordonez and Mrs. McKenzie said yes that is the case. The properties are auctioned and the taxes are paid off then the auctioneer is paid and then the balance is paid over to the owner. If the owner is not available then it is left in an escrow account for a period of six (6) years and if it is not claimed within six years the council has rights to the funds.

### **Human Resources Regulations**

50. The Mayor stated that he chairs a committee of the Mayor's Association charged with finalizing new Human Resources Regulations for municipalities. This is something we want to finish and have in place before the end of the year. The committee is made up of: Mayor Kevin Bernard of Orange Walk Town, Ms. Rudon, Mrs. McKenzie, Ms. Burke and members from the Belmopan and Orange Walk councils.
51. The Mayor stated that the biggest impact of these regulations is to confer on our staff tenure. The regulations will also include provisions for a proper running pension fund and processes for hiring, training, appraisal, and discipline and the regulations are to encourage municipalities to develop a proper functioning public service.
52. The Mayor stated that it is important that municipalities set up an independent pension fund account for staff. This should be separate from our operational fund. The regulations will do this so that pensioners are protected. The council should also look at making increasing in pension payments because pensioners have not gotten an increase for a long time. The Mayor stated that the pension scheme is noncontributory.

53. Mrs. Ordonez said that the pension fund should be contributory. The Mayor stated that it would be impossible for us to change pension requirements for our existing staff but for new staff we could have discussions on a contributory scheme which may pay increased benefits.
54. Deputy Mayor Pitts asked if this pension would affect severance. The Mayor said no. Staff receive severance when that is appropriate and this is usually where staff does not qualify for pension or gratuity and then they receive gratuity after ten years and pension after fifteen years.
55. Deputy Mayor Pitts also suggested if the Council can encourage staff to form their own union. The Mayor stated that the staff are encouraged to join the union. The union is the CWU and the Mayor noted that the union represented the staff well in the recent redundancy for security staff and they contributions have been helpful. The Mayor said that he hopes that after the HR regulations are completed the council can put together a CBA with the union. That would have helped in the redundancy efforts and with other staff issues.
56. Councilor Hyde stated that the Council needs to ensure that Directors are aware of the letters being sent to employees by managers. He pointed out that the union recently wrote the council on behalf of an employee who was written up by a manager. So she asked directors to be informed of the happenings within the various departments and consult where necessary.
57. Councilor Hyde asked how the new HR regulations will affect the council's HR policies. The Mayor responded by saying that the HR regulations call for policies to be created, for example policies dealing with sexual harassment, drug use, dress codes, hiring, training, promoting staff retention and others, so the HR regulations will feed into a lot of what the council already has in place. The Mayor also stressed that these regulations will require that we are more effective with discharging our management functions.

### **Trade License Amendments**

58. The Mayor stated that the trade license task force is continuing to work. This is a committee involving: Mrs. Ordonez, Mayor John Augustand representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. The taskforce is looking at changing the trade license law to make it an income based law rather than based on square footage.
59. The Mayor explained that the law based on square footage causes problems with businesses like taxis that do not have offices and also certain businesses like gyms get penalized for having large places of operations when their business may not be good. He made mention of Body 2000. They may have a large tax bill because the place is large but their business may not be making any money. Compare this with an accountant's office, real estate agent or law office which may have a small place of operations and paying very little taxes even though they may be making significant revenues. This does not promote economic development in the city.
60. The Mayor noted that several large businesses have left Belize City and if reform does not come to the trade license law then more businesses will opt for Ladyville which does not have any trade license or property taxes.

### **Staff Incentive Program**

61. The Mayor stated that he would like a formalized staff incentive program to encourage staff. He asked for this to be in place by the end of the year. The program would involve recognizing the most outstanding staff and also recognizing outstanding staff by departments. This is to be done at the Christmas program. The Mayor asked Mrs. Burke to submit a proposal with awards, plaque, photo on the wall, a monetary award etc., by August.

62. The Mayor said that he wanted the award to be merit based. But we should also look to recognize staff for long service. For employees for staff who are with the council for 15, 20, 30 years of service. The Mayor noted that now we name a street after staff who work with the council for more than 30 years.

### **Employee Land Proposal**

63. The Mayor stated that the council has the lease document for the property to be subdivided for staff and needs to apply for purchase. There is a delay because we have not been given the purchase price. The council is working on this. The land also needs to be surveyed.
64. The Mayor asked Ms. Rudonto take the lead on this project. The Mayor expressed his disappointment in the delay with this. He had indicated to staff that distribution would be done for Mother's Day and then Father's Day. Now it looks like Christmas.

### **Heritage Bank Facility**

65. The Mayor asked Ms. Burke and Mrs. Ordonez to write Mr. Joseph Waight of the Ministry of Finance for the loan facility being requested from Heritage Bank. In two weeks at the next sitting of the council the council should have a response and update and the council should be in a position to move ahead with this facility.

### **Sanitation Campaign**

66. The Mayor stated that at the last council meeting a committee was put together consisting of: Councilors Willoughby, Leslie and Hyde along with the Director of Finance, the Legal Counsel and the City Engineer. This committee will look at the new system to put in place when BML's contract comes to an end in January, 2015.
67. The Mayor asked if the committee has met. Councilor Hyde said no. The Mayor asked for the committee to start meeting and doing its works. This is very important. The Mayor said that residents need to know what the council will do and if we do not handle the transition effectively then the city will be dirtier. The committee should look at a PR campaign commencing soon since we only have about six months and new legislation to require persons to clean in front of their yards. The committee can identify the services currently done by BML and see how we will replace those and have a system in place to advise members of the public what to expect and what they need to do.
68. Mrs. Ordonez explained that BML's workers are already concerned about their jobs, as she has been approached. The Mayor stated that the Council may want to look at the need for additional people who we would take on from BML. This is something that the committee could look at and then report to the council. Councilor Hyde also indicated that the Council can use some of the same paint up crew members to expand the sanitation department.

### **Commercial Centre**

69. The Mayor stated that preparations are being made for the renovation of the Commercial Centre. Vendors have been given notice and the council is working on temporary housing for our staff who work in that building.
70. The Council is working to limit the cost of the project to \$2 million and IE is to give a reduced bill of quantities. The Mayor also stated that Mrs. Burke is working on getting another quotation from Thurton & Associates to compare and then the council can determine which direction we will go. This quote is to be given by the next sitting.

## **Financial Measures**

71. The Mayor stated that the council is going into its slow season. The Mayor said he met with Ms. Burke and Mrs. Ordonez and the council needs to suspend the following: all overtime, unless absolutely necessary and approved by the Mayor and City Administrator, all donations, the purchase of color ink, payment in lieu of vacation, staff loans, special projects unless substantial donations are received, extraordinary gas payments and excessive food. This will go in to effect immediately and the council will monitor the impact over the next two months.

## **Notices & Reports**

### **September Celebrations**

72. Ms. Rudongave an update of the September Celebrations planning. She informed that the celebrations for the Official Independence Day will be held on the actual day which is Sunday. The September Celebrations Commission asked the council to submit the events by the council for the Official September Celebrations Calendar and we submitted the annual events as per normal: 10<sup>th</sup>bram, cycling criterium, 20<sup>th</sup> night celebrations, 21<sup>st</sup> Official Ceremonyand uniform parade and 21<sup>st</sup> day block party.

### **Atlantic Bank Facility**

73. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Ordonez asked council to increase the facility from \$100,000.00 to \$125,000.00. The additional \$25,000.00 is to be used for additional filling, beautification and enhancement of the cemetery at mile 13 on the PGH.
74. There was a discussion on what exactly the additional \$25,000.00 will cover then there was a vote as to the adjustment. The Mayor and Councilors Theus, Chang, Singh, Espejo, Willoughby, Samuels and Pitts voted yes and Councilor Hyde votedno. The minutes then should reflect an approval by council for a facility increase to \$125,000.00.
75. The Mayor stated that any project exceeding \$9,999.00 must have a written contract and must come before the council for approval. The council has contracts for all street works and this should extend to other projects, including the building of the cemetery houses and the upgrades being conducted. This will ensure greater accountability.

## **Appraisal**

76. Councilor Elringtonupdated council on the appraisals. She informed that the council is proceeding with the appraisals of all employees and this should be completed by 2 August, 2014. The appraisal is much better to what the council had in place before but there the council still needs to develop an appraisal form for managers and directors.
77. Councilor Theusasked on the satisfactory level and recommendation process of the system. Ms. Burke responded by explaining that this appraisal is to identify the weaknesses and strengths of employees and so that they can improve accordingly. The appraisals are to be done in consultation with employees. Ms. Burke also said that two appraisals are to be done in each year and the manager is to suggest corrective actions to the employee and the second appraisal will report of the improvements were made.
78. Councilor Theus asked if there was anything in place for a log or file to support the appraisal information. Councilor Hyde informed that each employee will go through the appraisal with their respective manager and this will form part of their personnel file.

79. Councilor Willoughby stated that the council may want to look outsourcing the appraisal system so that it is impartial. The Mayor said this is a good idea but the Mayor also emphasized that the appraisal system is to help our internal management process to ensure managers are supervising staff appropriately and that assessments are documented.

### **Summer Program Update**

80. The Mayor stated that at this point in the meeting Councilor Pitts was not present and Dr. Gonzalez was absent from the meeting so no report on the summer programs could be given. The report should be given at the next meeting.

### **Staff Promotion and Confirmation**

81. The council passed a resolution to confirm Mrs. Margaret McKenzie as the Council's Legal Counsel/Director of Legal Affairs, all presented voted in favor: Mayor and Councilors Chang, Theus, Hyde, Singh, Espejo, Pitts, Willoughby and Samuels. All also voted in favor of promoting Mr. Edward Evelyn to Manager of the Special Constable unit and Mr. Bodden to Manager of the Municipal Court.

82. The Mayor said he was very pleased that the council is promoting internal staff before we go outside to seek people. The Mayor said this should continue.

### **Fundraising & Donation Policy**

83. The Mayor said that the council needs to develop an fundraising and donations policy. He asked the council to pass a resolution on developing this policy. The aim would regularize soliciting and to ensure that there is accountability to this process and also to avoid over soliciting. Donation requests should come from the City Administrator or from Programs and the letters should be from the Mayor or City Administrator. The Mayor stressed that Councilors should not be asking for donations directly. This is dangerous. All voted in favor of creating the policy.

### **Engagement of Auditors**

84. The Mayor stated that he, the Chief Internal Auditor, the Finance Manager and the City Administrator met with PKF. Their partner Jose Bautista was the lead auditor in the meeting. PKF is willing to do the council's 2013-2014 audit. The Mayor said that the auditors came across as very knowledgeable in dealing with public bodies and professional.

85. The Mayor said that PKF sent a proposal letter but the Mayor required that they amend the letter to provide that the fee of \$25,000.00 not be an estimate but a fixed fee for the entire audit and that they commit to having the audit done by August. Payment is to be made in three parts and the council is prepared to engage them. The Mayor asked councilors for a vote in favor of engaging PKF and all councilors voted in favor of engaging them on the terms set out in the amended letter contained the points insisted upon by the Mayor.

86. The Mayor asked Mrs. Ordonez to be in communication with PKF to ensure that arrangements are in place for them to commence the audit as soon as possible.

### **Planning Matters**

87. Mrs. Burke informed the council that there was a request for the erection of an advertising business sign on the highway. Mr. Williams noted that they have no objections and Council voted in favor of

this. The Mayor and Councilors Theus, Chang, Espejo, Willoughby, Singh and Samuels voted in favor and Councilors Pitts and Hyde voted against.

### **Any Other Business**

88. Councilor Hyde asked the Mayor when they will proceed with the hiring of a Parks Manager, as they have conducted an interview a couple weeks ago and the person is waiting for a response. The Mayor said he will address this when he returns from Los Angeles.
89. Councilor Chang said that the Taiwanese Ambassador to Belize David Wu is scheduled to demit office and leave Belize this weekend. The Mayor asked Ms. Rudon to prepare a key to Belize City to issue to Ambassador Wu in recognition for his service to the people and country of Belize and we will try to give him the key in the next few days at an appropriate forum.
90. Deputy Mayor Pitts asked if the Council can name a street after a retired teacher Mr. Leroy Connor. The Councilors were in favor of this.
91. Councilor Espejostated that Slingshot has been a good corporate citizen and supporter of the council and they have been supplying the council with plates and would like the council to continue doing business with them in that regard.
92. Councilor Espejostated that he would like the Horse and Carriage Committee to be reformed. The Mayor noted that this committee was never disbanded and he had on several occasions requested that the committee give its input but was informed that the committee was inactive. Since the committee was already chartered by the previous council and since this charter was never cancelled and the committee was never asked to cease its work the Mayor stated that Councilor Espejo can simply move to have the committee be active again.
93. Councilor Espejo also asked that the taxi moratorium be revisited. The Mayor said that at the next sitting of the council this matter can be tabled and discussed. The council would need a report from the traffic manager and from Councilor Hyde. Councilors also pointed out that tour operators are operating without a taxi license and this needs to be part of the discussion. Councilor Singh stated that he thought the taxi moratorium ought to be lifted.

### **Adjournment**

94. The Mayor asked for councilors to move that the meeting be adjourned. The adjournment was moved by Deputy Mayor Pitts and seconded by Councilor Espejo.
95. The next sitting of the council was agreed to for 25 July, 2014 at 10:00a.m. at the Belize City Hall Conference Room.
96. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40p.m.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

These minutes, which are the minutes of a Council Meeting of the Belize City Council duly convened and held on 9 July, 2014, werereviewed and approved by a Resolution of the Council dated ( ) July, 2014.

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**DARRELL BRADLEY, Mayor**

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**CANDICE BURKE, City Administrator**

