

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Caucus Room, Belize City Council**  
**October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Present at the meeting were the following:

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. Bernard Wagner     | <b>Mayor</b>        |
| 2. Mr. Eluide Miller      | <b>Deputy Mayor</b> |
| 3. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.  | <b>Councillor</b>   |
| 4. Mr. Edmund Kwan        | <b>Councillor</b>   |
| 5. Mr. Evan Thompson      | <b>Councillor</b>   |
| 6. Mr. Sherwin Garcia     | <b>Councillor</b>   |
| 7. Mr. Javier Castellanos | <b>Councillor</b>   |
| 8. Mr. Dorian Usher       | <b>Councillor</b>   |
| 9. Mr. Malcolm Nunez      | <b>Councillor</b>   |

Mr. Albert Vaughan  
Ms. Carissa Casanova

**City Administrator**  
**Administrative Manager, Office of the Mayor**

Observer:

H.E. Dr. Candice Pitts

Absent with apologies:

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 10. Ms. Kaya Cattouse       | <b>Councillor</b> |
| 11. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton | <b>Councillor</b> |



**Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:22 A.M.**

**1.0 Belize National Prayer**

1.1 Mayor Wagner led all present in reciting the National Prayer.

**2.0 Welcome Remarks**

2.1 The Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting.

2.2 Mayor Wagner acknowledged the presence of City Administrator, Mr. Albert Vaughan and Dr. Cadince Pitts. He informed the Council that Mr. Vaughan would be demitting office on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and that Dr. Pitts would officially assume the role of City Administrator on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

2.3 The Mayor then reviewed the items on the day's agenda.

2.4 The Mayor emphasized that the business of the people requires Councillors to remain present and accessible to residents across the city.

2.5 The mayor further noted that while they collectively serve all ten constituencies and have accomplished many positive initiatives, public perception ultimately depends on how they are viewed as individuals.

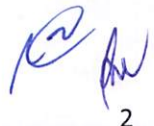
**3.0 Ratification of the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

3.1 Councillor Kwan moved for the ratification of the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes. Seconded by Councillor Garcia.

**4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

4.1 Councillor Pollard noted that Item 10.28 should be amended to refer to a street instead of a bridge.

4.2 The City Administrator reported that Western Avenue was addressed through remedial works. He further advised that a request will be submitted to the Government of Belize for financial support to complete the necessary rehabilitation.



Mayor Wagner informed the Council that remedial works were also carried out on Johnson Street. He emphasized the importance of fully rehabilitating this street in advance of the upcoming bridge projects, as it will serve as a primary thoroughfare during construction.

4.4 The Mayor further advised that the team will need to identify and determine suitable alternate routes for residents to use while the bridges are being replaced. He stressed that street improvement works must be prioritized to ensure these alternate routes, particularly those identified for the Belcan Bridge project, are properly paved to facilitate the smooth flow of traffic.

4.5 The Mayor noted that the Chetumal Boulevard remains in poor condition and requires repair. Although this area falls outside the Council's jurisdiction, he stated that recommendations can still be forwarded to the relevant authority.

4.6 Councillor Pollard expressed concern about the ongoing remedial works undertaken by the Council on the approaches to the Chetumal Street bridge. He emphasized the large volume of material that has already been placed on the approaches and noted that the Council has invested considerable resources in maintaining the area.

4.7 Councillor Pollard proposed that ten feet of concrete be placed at each end of the bridge. However, he was advised that the site has not yet stabilized and continues to sink.

4.8 Councillor Kwan added that persistent holes and poor drainage in the area cause water to accumulate whenever it rains.

4.9 Councillor Kwan also raised safety concerns regarding Holy Emmanuel Street and Lake Independence Boulevard, noting that the intersection poses a danger to motorists exiting the area.

4.10 In response, the Mayor reiterated that while the Lake Independence Boulevard is not under the Council's jurisdiction, the Council may still issue formal recommendations. He further instructed that the costs incurred by the Council in addressing the issues at Chetumal Street be quantified and that the responsible authority be billed accordingly. He requested that the team continue exploring long-term solutions for the matter.

## **5.0 Announcements by the Mayor**

5.1 The Mayor reported that the Council participated in activities held in observance of Older Persons' Week. He noted that while the Council's initiatives are generally youth-centered, on this occasion the focus was redirected to recognize and honor the elderly community.



5.2 Mayor Wagner also acknowledged the Council's collaboration with the Belize Cancer Society during Breast Cancer Awareness Month and commended the Councillors who participated in the activities held at Digi Park.

5.3 The Mayor informed the Council that the budget exercise had been completed and that the first draft of the budget was submitted to the Ministry of Local Government on October 24th. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the budget remains balanced, realistic, and reflective of the Council's future plans and initiatives for the upcoming year. He commended Councillor Garcia, Councillor Usher, and Deputy Mayor Miller for their participation in the in-person budget exercise.

5.4 The Mayor highlighted the recent event hosted at the Lord Ashcroft Center, noting the positive recognition the Council received for its leadership in that area.



5.5 The Mayor further commended Councillors Pollard and Hamilton, as well as Deputy Mayor Miller, for their participation in the Anniversary Super Sale. He noted that the Grand Raffle was a success and encouraged all Councillors to continue supporting and attending Council-led events. He expressed his eagerness to continue this valued tradition.

5.6 Mayor Wagner announced that Belize City is being recognized through the C40 Cities "Local Leaders Awards." He stated that he, along with Councillor Castellanos and E-Transit Coordinator Mr. Neil Hall, will attend the award ceremony in the coming week and expressed optimism about the city's chances of receiving an award.

5.7 The Mayor informed the Council that the Deputy Mayor will represent Belize City in Barcelona as part of ongoing efforts to advance the floating boardwalk concept. He noted that Belize City continues to lead the region in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

5.8 The Mayor reaffirmed the Council's continued support for the local branch of the National Garifuna Council and the upcoming Garifuna Settlement Day initiatives. He also noted that the Council's Director of Finance, Mr. Alex Nolberto, was recently elected as the President of the National Garifuna Council.

5.9 Mayor Wagner concluded by advising that representatives from Blue21 and the Global Covenant of Mayors will visit during the week of November 17th, 2025, to finalize the feasibility study for the proposed floating boardwalk. He stated that, depending on the outcome of the study, the Council will begin seeking funding for the project. He acknowledged the support already expressed by the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, and the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Mahler, noting that the initiative will further enhance the Belize City product.

## 6.0 General Updates from the City Administrator

6.1 The City Administrator reported that works are ongoing on Seagull Street, Mercy Lane, and Iguana Street. He explained that drainage work on Iguana Street is nearly complete and that the contractor is awaiting the completion of related works by the Belize Water Services (BWS) before proceeding with the rehabilitation of street.

6.2 The City Administrator advised that a walkthrough of Arlington Drive was conducted to assess progress on the rehabilitation of that street.

6.3 The City Administrator provided an update on derelict vehicles and noted continued efforts to address their removal across the city.

6.4 The City Administrator then informed the Council that he met with representatives from JICA recently regarding the Belcan Bridge and Swing Bridge projects. He advised that JICA is moving forward with the Swing Bridge initiative, and noted concerns about the potential impact should both bridges be closed simultaneously.

6.5 The City Administrator also advised that the Christian Workers Union (CWU) has requested a meeting. In addition to several other matters, the Union is seeking to engage in discussions regarding the recently implemented interdiction policy.

6.6 The City Administrator concluded by reflecting on the transition process, noting that he and Dr. Pitts have visited the Works and Traffic Departments and met with their respective teams. He expressed confidence that Dr. Pitts would meet their expectations and that operations would continue smoothly under the incoming City Administrator. He conveyed his gratitude to the Council, acknowledging the support and tolerance shown to him during his tenure.

## 7.0 Notices

7.1 No matters were tabled.

## 8.0 Questions

8.1 Councillor Thompson requested clarity on the reason for the removal of flower pots that were placed in the Home Park area.

8.2 Mayor Wagner explained that the pots were removed based on legal advice from the Council's attorney. He explained that there were procedural oversights related to gazetting prohibition of vehicular access to the sea front. Although the petition requesting the restriction of vehicular access was received and approved by the Council, the restriction had not yet been legally gazetted, making the placement of the pots premature.

8.3 The Mayor clarified that once the area is formally gazetted, the restriction can proceed. He further noted that while residents may voice concerns through petitions, the law stipulates that the Council is not obligated to adopt those views.

8.4 Mayor Wagner clarified that the Council is not party to any subdivision in the area and has consistently expressed that it is not sanctioning any such developments. The Council's actions in the area were in response to residents' quality-of-life concerns, including noise pollution and criminal activity.

8.5 Mayor Wagner noted that since the placement of the flower pots, residents have reported improvements in the neighbourhood.

8.6 Deputy Mayor Miller stated that criticisms suggesting the Council acted improperly were unfair and misleading. He emphasized that the Council has the authority to restrict vehicular access and that the subdivision issue is entirely separate. He also noted that one of the individuals claiming he was not consulted on the matter had, in fact, been listed as a signatory on the petition.

8.7 The City Administrator advised that since the matter is now before the court, members of the Council should refrain from further public comment. He further advised that the Council cannot independently verify petition signatures.

8.8 Councillor Thompson added that some residents have indicated that they were misinformed, and that signatures may have been obtained fraudulently.

8.9 Deputy Mayor Miller inquired whether Council members were aware of a petition being circulated to designate the area near the lighthouse as a quiet zone.

8.10 Referencing the petition, Councillor Pollard inquired about the number of signatures required for such petitions under existing procedures, and stated that individuals often pursue their own interests and agendas, which underscores the importance of implementing zoning regulations.

8.11 He advised that the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) has plans to upgrade the lighthouse area, which is designated as a recreational zone. Councillor Pollard further expressed concern regarding petitions that oppose the natural development of the city, noting that Belize City has reached a stage where certain progress cannot be reversed.

8.12 Councillor Pollard added that the area in question is not residential but forms part of the tourism zone, which extends from the Swing Bridge to the lighthouse area. He emphasized the need to balance infrastructure with recreation, noting that the Fort George Hotel, for example, is investing in walkways to enhance pedestrian experiences.

8.13 Councillor Pollard concluded by noting that quality of life also includes access to recreational activities, particularly for residents on weekends.

8.14 Councillor Castellanos urged the Council to remain focused on the broader development plan for the city. He noted that petitions of this nature frequently pose challenges and should be reviewed in conjunction with the Planning Department.

8.15 He reiterated the importance of zoning, stating that without proper guidelines, ordinary citizens may one day find themselves restricted from accessing certain public spaces. He emphasized that residents must be allowed to move freely throughout the city.

8.16 Mayor Wagner affirmed that the area under discussion is well-suited for social and recreational activities, especially for young people who use it as an outlet. He stated that all stakeholders must learn to coexist, noting that while businesses such as hotels have a right to operate, they must also integrate into the community space. He emphasized the importance of developing policies that balance youth engagement, recreation, and community use.

## **9.0 Petitions**

9.1 Councillor Kwan raised an issue regarding the unnamed street connecting the George Price Highway to Holy Emmanuel Street, noting the need for remedial works in the area. Councillor Kwan advised that he would share the exact location.

9.2 Councillor Castellanos reported that during the Anniversary Super Sale, a resident approached him regarding concerns about reserved parking for KYO Internet. He noted that the area is not officially gazetted. The City Administrator advised that the location should have already been gazetted and committed to verifying the matter with the Court Manager.

9.3 Councillor Castellanos also reported receiving a petition for a non-functional lamp post on Logwood Street to be repaired. He was informed that the matter will be referred to the City Engineer, who will contact Belize Electricity Limited to address the issue. The lamp post is identified as number 511361.

## 10.0 Reports from Councillors

10.1 Councillor Thompson reported that market revenues for the month of October currently stand at \$6,846.00; however, this figure has not yet been finalized.

10.2 He further reported that delinquent vendor accounts amount to a total outstanding balance of \$21,825.00.

10.3 Councillor Thompson informed the Council that two vendors, who occupy adjacent booths, have abandoned their stalls for approximately one month. He stated that these vendors have left products behind, which have begun to rot and are affecting surrounding vendors and attracting rodents.

10.4 Councillor Thompson also reported that repairs to the market bathroom facilities have been completed. The work was outsourced to Action One Plumbing, and repairs were made to the urinals and basins, as well as to the main plumbing lines.

10.5 Councillor Thompson then briefed the Council on ongoing subleasing issues at the market and noted that follow-up actions will be undertaken.

10.6 Councillor Garcia reported that on October 1<sup>st</sup>, an event was held at the Digi Park in observance of International Day for the Elderly.

10.7 He further reported that Park Ranger, Mr. Tyron Card, was promoted to Sr. Park Ranger, following several months of strong performance and a successful interview.

10.8 Councillor Garcia then informed the Council that major works continue at Digi Park, including the replacement of shutters for most vendors, with completion expected by mid-November.

10.9 The City Administrator recommended that a comprehensive maintenance plan be developed for the new shutters.

10.10 Councillor Garcia advised the Council that the Coastal Zone Management Authority is conducting renovation works at the Rose Garden Triangle Park, including repairs to swings, benches, and painting. The park is located in the Caesar Ridge Road area.

10.11 He also advised that the Council supported the Coastal Zone Management Authority in coordinating a night market that was hosted at the Memorial Park. Additionally, he reported that sewer and waste management concerns raised with Belize Water Services have been addressed at the park.

10.12 Councillor Garcia concluded by providing an update on improvements at Jane Usher Park, which include the installation of benches, plants, bleachers, and upgraded lighting for the basketball court.

10.13 Councillor Castellanos reported that the CEMO Unit continues with its work as the hurricane season comes to a close.

10.14 Councillor Pollard reported that due to frequent rainfall, the team at the Works Department has been carrying out works when weather conditions permit. He informed the Council that repairs to several deteriorating concrete streets are in progress.

10.15 Councillor Pollard noted that testing of the paint machine had to be postponed due to the weather conditions.

10.16 He further reported that preparations for the Christmas season have begun, with the removal of the Christmas tree from storage.

10.17 Councillor Pollard then proposed the rehabilitation of the walkway along Seashore Drive, noting that the walkway is in poor condition but is heavily used by residents for exercise and evening walks. He informed the Council that an in-house estimate for the necessary demolition, steel works, and drainage improvements totaled \$32,861.00.

10.18 He advised that although completing the works in-house is the most cost-effective option, it would require additional time. He recommended that the Council adopt a more proactive approach by outsourcing the work.

10.19 Councillor Usher reported that the geotagging of burial plots at the Lord Ridge Cemetery has been completed and that the team has now moved on to geotagging the plots at the Eternal Gardens Cemetery.

10.20 Councillor Nunez reported that the Programs Department is currently planning for the departure of the current cohort of the Youth Shadow Council.

10.21 Deputy Mayor Miller reported that he is working with the Finance Department to redesign staff pay slips.

10.22 He further reported that the agreement for the Belize City App is pending and is expected to be received shortly from the Council's attorney.

10.23 He commended the Cemetery Department for its ongoing work on the cemetery mapping initiative.

10.24 Deputy Mayor Miller informed the Council that anti-counterfeit measures have been implemented on vehicle registration certificates through the use of tamper-evident stickers. He noted that a recent submission to the Council was identified as fraudulent due to a misspelled word on the stamp.

10.25 Deputy Mayor Miller also reported on several critical pending issues. He stated that backup battery units are urgently required due to the instability of electricity supply, which poses a risk to Council equipment. He further highlighted website security concerns and advised that unauthorized plug-ins have had to be removed.

10.26 He recommended the redevelopment of the Council's website to strengthen security and functionality.

10.27 He informed the Council that the IT Manager has been attempting to secure training for his staff; however, on two previous occasions, the required payments were not prepared in time, resulting in missed training opportunities.

10.28 Deputy Mayor Miller then reported that the recent Super Sale event was a success, with 140 businesses participating and offering a wide range of services. He advised that the Council also provided discounts on property tax arrears during the event.

10.29 Deputy Mayor Miller noted that he was able to visit all booths to thank vendors for their participation and expressed appreciation to the entire Council team for their support of the initiative.

10.30 Deputy Mayor Miller further reported that he will represent the Council at the Smart City World Congress in Barcelona from November 4th to 6th. He thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to represent the Council and noted that he will make a presentation alongside the Blue21 team. He also informed the Council that he has been invited to have dinner with the Mayor of Barcelona.

10.31 Deputy Mayor Miller noted that Councillor Nunez will participate in a convention on November 29th to assume leadership of the Belize Youth Movement (BYM) and encouraged the Councillors to support Councillor Nunez in this endeavor.

10.32 The Deputy Mayor expressed gratitude to the City Administrator for his leadership over the last 18 months and stated that he looks forward to continuing to work with him, possibly in a different capacity. He added that he looks forward to working with Dr. Pitts and commended the smooth transition process.

10.33 Deputy Mayor Miller then advised that the Council traditionally participates in the Yurumein during the National Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations.

**11.0 Request for leave to move the adjournment of the Council on a definite matter of urgent importance.**

11.1 No matters were tabled.

**12.0 Motions by Mayor & Councillors**

12.1 Councillor Garcia moved a motion for the Council to approve the write-off of arrears, from September 2024 to February 2025, for Ms. Ashley Young Balderamos, for the rental of booth No. 8 at the Memorial Park. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Miller.

12.2 Deputy Mayor Miller explained that he was familiar with the matter, and advised the Council that although Ms. Balderamos had signed a lease for the rental of the booth, she was unable to gain access to the booth due to electrical and plumbing delays. The total amount being written-off is \$2,100.00. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.3 A motion to approve the standardization of application forms for the rental of booths at the Michael Finnegan Market was deferred.

12.4 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve a one-year employment contract between the Council and E-bus Driver, Mr. Roy Reyes, who has passed the age of retirement. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia.

12.5 Councillor Castellanos recommended that the duration of the contract be extended to two years in an effort to provide a greater sense of security for the employee. The motion was amended as recommended. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.6 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve a one-year employment contract between the Council and Mr. Earl Miller.

12.7 Deputy Mayor Miller advised that he was unaware that the matter was being tabled at today's meeting, and excused himself from the room.

12.8 The motion was seconded by Councillor Castellanos who again recommended that the period be extended to two years. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**Deputy Mayor Miller returned to the meeting.**

12.9 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve an amendment to Resolution No. 92 of 2025. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia.

12.10 Mayor Wagner advised that since the approval of Resolution No 92, which approved for the Council to enter into an agreement with Waste Management Limited, the company has changed its name to Reliable Waste Solutions Limited. The amendment is simply to reflect that change. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.11 Mayor Wagner further advised that the agreement had not yet been signed as there were some points that still needed clarification. These include the date the agreement comes into effect, the matter of GST exemption, contract renewal, and late fees. He advised that the draft agreement, along with the Council's concerns had been sent to the Council's attorney for clarity.

12.12 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve the rehabilitation of six (6) streets in the Lake Independence area, namely Raleigh Street, Estell Street, Alicia Street, Brown Street, and two unnamed streets connecting Brown and Estelle Streets. The motion was seconded by Councillor Nunez. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.13 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve the concreting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in the King's Park neighborhood. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Miller. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**13.0 New Business**

13.1 No matters were tabled.

**14.0 Submissions from the Building Unit**

14.1 A request from Mr. Alvan Gillett for the provision of a letter of no-objection for the construction of a first-floor addition to a Commercial Structure located at Parcel No. 5084 Philip Goldson Highway. **MOTION APPROVED.**

14.2 A request from Ms. Abbie Leslie for approval to occupy a portion of the public reserve located on Freetown Road between the ITVET compound and Second Closet. **MOTION APPROVED.**

14.3 A request from Ms. Shantel Neal to enter into a lease agreement with the Council for the usage of booth #16 at the Mahogany Street Market Place. **MOTION APPROVED.**

14.4 A request from Mr. Akeem Smalling for a letter of no objection for the construction of a driveway in front of Parcel No. 4637, Coney Dr.

14.5 The City Planner advised that Mr. Smalling has demolished a portion of the reserve that has been designated as a green space and constructed the driveway without the Council's permission. **MOTION DENIED.** Mr. Smalling is to repair any damages to City property that he has caused as a result of the construction of the driveway.

**15.0 Any Other Business**

15.1 No matters were tabled.

**16.0 Adjournment**

16.1 The meeting was called to a close at 1:20 pm.



  
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**BERNARD WAGNER**  
**MAYOR**

  
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**ALBERT VAUGHAN**  
**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**