

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Caucus Room, Belize City Council

July 9th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Present at the meeting were the following:

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| 1. Mr. Bernard Wagner | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Eluide Miller | Deputy Mayor |
| 3. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr. | Councillor |
| 4. Ms. Kaya Cattouse | Councillor |
| 5. Mr. Edmund Kwan | Councillor |
| 6. Mr. Evan Thompson | Councillor |
| 7. Mr. Sherwin Garcia | Councillor |
| 8. Mr. Malcolm Nunez | Councillor |
| 9. Mr. Dorian Usher | Councillor |

Mr. Albert Vaughan
Ms. Carissa Casanova

City Administrator
Administrative Manager, Office of the
Mayor

Absent with Apologies:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 10. Mr. Javier Castellanos | Councillor |
| 11. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton | Councillor |

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM.

1.0 Belize National Prayer

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

2.0 Welcome Remarks

2.1 Mayor Wagner welcomed all present to the meeting and advised that Councillor Hamilton had requested to join the meeting virtually. He further extended apologies on behalf of Councillor Castellanos, who was unable to attend the day's proceedings.

2.2 The Mayor then thanked the City Administrator and the maintenance team for their continued efforts in maintaining City Hall. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that all Council offices accurately represent the values and image of the city they are striving to build. Ultimately, as a Council, they are trying to uplift the city's culture, and City Hall, after all, is "the people's hall."

2.3 Mayor Wagner advised that the Council will exist in perpetuity, and emphasized that City Hall will remain long after the current administration has concluded its tenure. Its condition, he noted, will reflect the stewardship exercised during their time in office. He described City Hall as one of the finest buildings in Belize City and underscored the importance of maintaining its upkeep and adhering to high standards. He concluded by once again welcoming all attendees to the meeting.

3.0 Ratification of the May 28th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

3.1 It was noted that item "2.4" in the draft minutes should be corrected to read "2.3".

3.2 His Worship Mayor Wagner reminded the Councillors that the approved minutes of Council meetings are published on the Council's official website. As such, he emphasized the importance of thoroughly reviewing the minutes to ensure they accurately reflect the deliberations and decisions of the Council.

3.3 Councillor Garcia moved for the minutes of the May 28th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting to be accepted. Seconded by Councillor Kwan.

4.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

4.1 With reference to item 9.1 of the previous minutes, Councillor Cattouse informed the Council that a recommendation had been made for Councillors to meet with the relevant authorities regarding the regulation of horses in the City. A meeting has since been held with representatives from the Public Health Department, the Council's Public Health Unit and Sanitation Department, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, Reimers Feed Mill, the non-profit SPARK, and the Belize Police Department.

4.2 The discussions focused on formalizing the process for registering horses used in the city to ensure compliance with the law. Councillor Cattouse noted that, at present, the process has stalled due to a lack of proper documentation and registration. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for later this month to advance the initiative and explore a viable framework for implementation.

4.3 Regarding item 4.2, the Council was updated on the formation of the committee tasked with reviewing garbage collection fees. The committee has since convened and includes the City Administrator, the Finance Director and his revenue managers, Councillor Pollard, the Director of Administration, and the Director of Communications.

4.4 In relation to item 6.2, the Council was reminded of the agreement with RT Auto for the removal of derelict vehicles from city streets. While the contractor was initially granted a 90-day grace period before starting operations, two extensions have since been requested. To date, the agreed-upon operations have not commenced, and the matter remains pending.

5.0 Announcements by the Mayor

5.1 Mayor Wagner reported that the Council's two electric buses have served approximately 160,000 passengers from July 2024 to June 2025, generating \$391,743.00 in revenue, with a total operating expenditure of \$272,000.00.

5.2 He noted that demand for the service remains high, and there is significant potential for increased revenue if additional routes are added. The Council has initiated discussions with Yutong, a bus manufacturer, and is exploring the acquisition of three buses, along with two minivans and a few taxis, at an estimated cost of \$300,000 to \$350,000 BZD each.

5.3 Mayor Wagner assured the Council that the Yutong brand is among the better-quality electric buses available in China. He further assured the Council that they will continue to receive updates as the initiative progresses.

5.4 The Mayor commended Deputy Mayor Miller for successfully leading the Student Hub initiative under a tight timeline. He noted that the Minister expressed pride in the Council's ability to execute the project efficiently and effectively.

5.5 Mayor Wagner reported that the Father's Day event, "This One's for the Fathers," was a success. It was a day of fun, with strong participation and positive feedback. He thanked the business community for their generous support, which enabled the Council to issue over 50 raffle prizes, a testament to the strong relationship the Council has built with local businesses.

5.6 The Mayor then advised that Councillors Pollard and Cattouse accompanied him to New York to a scholarship gala, hosted by Friends Supporting the Anglican Diocese of Belize. He expressed pride in the positive feedback received from the diaspora, noting that many Belizeans in attendance acknowledged the shift and progress taking place in Belize City. The event provided an opportunity to connect with the diaspora and reaffirm their interest in the City's development.

5.7 The Mayor shared that the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Council, launched a vector control campaign to combat the rise in malaria and dengue cases during the rainy season. He commended the efforts of the Sanitation, Public Health, Finance, and Programs departments, all of whom contributed to the successful execution of the campaign, which focused on public safety and health.

5.8 Mayor Wagner thanked the Councillors for their support during the recent graduation season. He noted that several Councillors participated in ceremonies and gave keynote addresses, providing inspiration and encouragement to students and their families while celebrating the achievements of Belize City's young graduates.

5.9 The Mayor reported that the Council's summer programs are underway. The Peewee Basketball Program is scheduled to begin next week. All programs are free of cost and are designed to offer safe, engaging, and enriching activities for youth throughout the summer months.

5.10 Mayor Wagner expressed the Council's desire to foster a vibrant summer atmosphere in the city. He drew inspiration from a recent visit to Times Square, where he observed a lively evening scene. He has proposed launching a "Midweek Wine Down" series in Mule Park, beginning Wednesday, July 23rd.

5.11 This mid-week event will offer a relaxing environment featuring wine, cheese, poetry, jazz, and live music, and is intended to offer a more refined alternative to typical nightlife events. It will be located at Albert and Regent Streets and aims to provide an enjoyable and cultured experience for residents after work hours.

5.12 Councillor Nuñez raised a potential conflict between the event and the U23 Female Central Volleyball Championship. The Mayor confirmed that Team Belize is scheduled to play on Thursday, not Wednesday, and therefore no scheduling conflict exists.

5.13 The Council is partnering with the National Institute of Culture and History to host the Eboe Town Festival in commemoration of Emancipation Day. The event will take place at Isaiah Morter Square.

5.14 The Mayor announced that the Back-to-School edition of the Super Sale is currently scheduled to be held on August 9th, 2025. He further advised that the Council intends to host the event in conjunction with the GST-free weekend being scheduled by the National Government.

5.15 Mayor Wagner then highlighted a recent site visit to the Yarborough Fish Market. He noted that the Council intends to rehabilitate the facility to better serve the six fishermen who operate in that area. He noted that this will provide a more suitable environment compared to the current conditions near the bridge. As part of the upgrade, the area will also undergo branding and labelling enhancements.

5.16 Mayor Wagner informed the Council that Mayor Wayne Messam and the Miramar delegation will visit Belize City from August 4th to 8th, 2025. A balanced itinerary is being developed, which will combine business engagement with cultural and social experiences to showcase the City's vibrancy and development.

6.0 General Updates from the City Administrator

6.1 The City Administrator congratulated the Council on the positive direction in which it is moving, with particular commendation for the proposed rehabilitation of the Yarborough Fish Market.

6.2 He further reported that several street rehabilitation projects are currently underway. A recent site visit conducted with Ms. Patnett confirmed visible progress, and he noted it was encouraging to witness the Council's work being carried out in the field.

6.3 The Mile 4 Project is being actively advanced toward completion. The City Administrator also advised that the purchase of a trailer is under consideration to reduce the strain on the Council's small heavy equipment, which frequently travels between Mile 4 and the city.

6.4 He highlighted a logistical challenge with upcoming Sister City visits, noting the need for a suitable vehicle to facilitate the transportation of visiting delegations.

6.5 The City Administrator reported that staff have recently received their salary increments, resulting in improved morale across departments.

6.6 He concluded by congratulating the Mayor on the success of the "This One's for the Fathers" event, noting the substantial community impact and positive reception.

7.0 Notices

7.1 Councillor Pollard advised the Council that residents of the King's Park neighborhood had raised concerns regarding a stench emanating from the dialysis center on Meighan Avenue.

7.2 While the exact source of the odor had not been identified, he requested that the Public Health Coordinator engage with personnel from the National Public Health Department to investigate and address the matter.

7.3 Councillor Cattouse informed the Council that the issue had already been resolved. She explained that the odor was the result of a broken pipe, which the building owner had addressed by dispatching a plumber to complete the necessary repairs.

8.0 Questions

8.1 No matters were tabled.

9.0 Petitions

9.1 Councillor Kwan reported that at the corner of Orange Street and West Canal, a hole has been left in the sidewalk. A resident reported that the hole was created by Belize Electricity Limited for the installation of a post, but it now poses a hazard.

9.2 The City Administrator raised concerns regarding an area at the corner of West Canal and Orange Street where, although it is not a designated bus stop, groups of individuals regularly congregate, obstructing the flow of traffic. He requested that the matter be addressed.

9.3 Councillor Nuñez noted an increase in rodent activity on Sandy Hunter Street in Belama Phase 2. The City Administrator reported that since the Council's public health team had previously visited the area and engaged with residents, there has been a noticeable reduction in garbage. However, ongoing monitoring will be necessary.

9.4 Councillor Pollard relayed a report regarding complaints from residents on Samuel Haynes Street about the presence of snakes due to an overgrown estate in the area nearby.

9.5 Councillor Garcia reported a similar complaint received from a resident of Zericote Street in the Collet Division, regarding snakes on an abandoned lot near her home. The resident recently found a snake attacking her dog. The matter requires urgent attention.

9.6 Councillor Pollard raised concerns regarding the lack of consistency in assigning enforcement officers to the Faber's Road area, particularly in relation to road painting and parking enforcement. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong officer presence to prevent recurring issues.

9.7 The City Administrator explained that the matter was likely the result of a transition in officer assignments, but assured the Council that the team remains active and efforts will be enhanced.

9.8 Concerns were raised regarding a property on Lizarraga Ave., where a driveway construction has reportedly obstructed the existing drainage system. It was noted that no culvert was installed, and a concrete slab has been placed directly within the drain channel, thereby impeding water flow during periods of rainfall

9.9 The obstruction has adversely affected nearby residents. However, the property owner has asserted that a culvert was installed. To resolve the matter, it was agreed that Mayor Wagner, accompanied by Assistant City Engineer Mr. Menjivar, would conduct a site visit to engage with the property owner and clarify the situation, thereby determining appropriate remedial actions.

10.0 Reports from Councillors

10.1 Councillor Garcia reported on the plans for infrastructure and beautification upgrades to city parks. He explained that plans for Constitution Park include structural improvements to the security booth and the installation of additional solar lights to improve lighting.

10.2 At Digi Park, the benches will be upgraded, while at Memorial Park, plans are being made for replacing the corroded metal grills with a cement sidewalk. A walkthrough for the upgrades was conducted with the Assistant City Engineer.

10.3 Councillor Garcia added that ten palm trees were being planted in the Battlefield Park, with five being installed along Albert Street and five along Dame Minita Gordon Drive.

10.4 Regarding the lighting at Constitution Park, Councillor Garcia advised that discussions have been held with the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Mahler, to replace the existing fixtures with brighter solar lights.

10.5 Mayor Wagner noted that the gas station across from the park switches off its lights at night, leaving the area dark and without adequate lighting. He emphasized the need to address the lighting promptly.

10.6 Councillor Garcia concluded his report by informing the Council that he had sought the support of Deputy Mayor Miller to address the lighting outside Rogers Stadium, with particular attention to the illumination of the murals. While lighting poles were installed some time ago, the fixtures remain unconnected. He further shared his intention to collaborate with NICH to complete the installation and ensure the area is adequately lit.

10.7 Councillor Thompson reported that the market manager has requested an additional employee to join the maintenance team. He noted that while the Sanitation Department assists occasionally, aid cannot always be rendered, and at times is insufficient.

10.8 Councillor Thompson further reported that tenants at the Michael Finnegan Market have all received their leases. He also noted that a temporary garbage bin has been installed at the market while the permanent bin undergoes rehabilitation.

10.9 Councillor Thompson advised that the recently implemented garbage fee was a good addition to the revenue-generating efforts at the market. He noted that the payments were collected on market days from those selling outside the market.

10.10 When asked about the revenue performance of the booths being leased, Councillor Thompson advised that approximately 60–70% of the booths are current with their payments. He further explained that the Market and Court Managers were working on compiling a list of delinquent vendors for enforcement action.

10.11 Mayor Wagner advised Councillor Thompson to meet with his departments to review collection efforts.

10.12 Councillor Thompson noted that a walkthrough of the market had been scheduled, but had to be postponed due to a scheduling conflict.

10.13 The City Administrator indicated that he had instructed the Director of Finance to compile a list of delinquent vendors for legal action. He further noted that he would follow up on the matter with the director at the upcoming Directors' Meeting.

10.14 Councillor Pollard advised that efforts are being made to address the ongoing issue of missing manhole covers, reporting that initial discussions had been held with welders to fabricate covers for Freetown Road and Water Lane.

10.15 Councillor Pollard further emphasized the need for more permanent solutions in high-traffic areas. He noted that works on Freetown Road and Queen Street were completed recently and that a proposal is being prepared to improve city signage, with a focus on clearer one-way and no-entry markings to aid residents and visitors alike.

10.16 Councillor Pollard then reported that the newly acquired thermoplastic paint machines have been handed over to the Council, and staff have been instructed to carefully review the user manuals before use.

10.17 He further explained that the Council's current stock includes six buckets of thermoplastic paint, but additional paint will be required for curb and pedestrian ramp markings. The pedestrian crossings along Faber's Road are scheduled for completion before August, with plans to paint school ramps ahead of the reopening of classes.

10.18 Councillor Pollard further reported on plans to procure a chip spreader and trailer for machinery transport, which will assist with hauling the equipment used for drainage and grading in flood-prone areas.

10.19 He acknowledged that a permanent solution is still required for the approach to the Chetumal Street Bridge, which remains under the stewardship of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing.

10.20 Regarding the Council facilities, he expressed satisfaction with improvements to the 4.5-mile compound, noting plans to repurpose the rear parking lot into a mechanic's bay with a concrete slab and shed. At the same time, the front area will be cleared of derelict vehicles, and the bathrooms will be upgraded.

10.21 Councillor Pollard added that the supplier of the thermoplastic applicator may also serve as a paint supplier.

10.22 Councillor Usher reported that sixty-five derelict vehicles have been removed from the streets, but expressed concern about mechanics returning vehicles to public spaces. He requested greater enforcement on this matter.

10.23 Councillor Usher also informed the Council of ongoing inspections being carried out in collaboration with the Public Health Unit. He highlighted that the main access road, as well as the drainage system, at the Mile 13 Cemetery, needs to be addressed.

10.24 Councillor Kwan presented updates on the revenues generated from the sale of properties and compliance efforts from the Municipal Court. He reported that property sales have totaled \$1.7 million, while the Court continues to pursue arrears in property taxes, trade licenses, and rental accounts.

10.25 Councillor Kwan explained that as of March 26th, ninety-six accounts had been referred to the Court, with sixty-one cases concluded and thirty-five still in progress. He added that the Compliance Unit is preparing a new list for submission.

10.26 He further reported that judgments in June yielded \$93,000 in collections, representing a significant improvement over last year. In addition, he noted a marked increase in traffic violation tickets and commended the Enforcement Unit for maintaining their duties in all weather conditions.

10.27 Councillor Kwan concluded by reporting on recent meetings between the Enforcement Team and commanders of the four Police precincts to strengthen collaboration and enhance public education. He also noted the Unit's request for handheld radios, observing that the current twelve radios are limited in battery life and need to be replaced or upgraded.

10.28 Councillor Nunez reported that the Council welcomed participants of the Youth Ambassadors Program, an initiative spearheaded by the Love Foundation. As part of their visit, the participants toured City Hall and engaged with Council staff, members of the Youth Shadow Council, and other Council officials.

10.29 During his presentation, Councillor Nunez also encouraged Councillors to visit the ongoing summer programs in their area, and announced that a Community Health Festival is being hosted in Fort George.

10.30 Councillor Cattouse reported that the new Student Hub at the Hope Center has been fully operational since June 12th. She added that the Student Hub at City Hall, which typically serves between twenty and forty students daily, saw an attendance of ten to fifteen students during the final two weeks of school.

10.31 Councillor Cattouse then advised that both student hubs have closed temporarily for routine repairs and program adjustments. However, English and Math classes will once again be offered at City Hall as part of the Council's summer initiatives.

10.32 Councillor Cattouse also advised that the Council recently recruited a licensed teacher who has been appointed as the new Student Hub Officer.

10.33 She then informed the Council of the Programs Department's specialized training, which was held in collaboration with the CEMO Unit to strengthen the Council's emergency preparedness capacity and to better support persons with disabilities.

10.34 Turning to upcoming initiatives, Councillor Cattouse reported that the feasibility of the Back-to-School Drive is under review and will depend on available resources.

10.35 Councillor Cattouse commended the sanitation crews for their continued work and expressed gratitude to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Administrator for personally meeting with the night crew, who conveyed their appreciation for the meal provided. She further thanked the Council for its support of summer programs.

10.36 Deputy Mayor Miller advised that the Local Economic Development Unit launched a survey of BCAP participants. He reported that 65% of businesses indicated growth since participating in the program. He also noted that 50% of respondents are between the ages of 35 and 44.

10.37 Regarding the Traffic Department, Deputy Mayor Miller reported that the department's revenues for June 2025 totaled \$492,000, which is slightly below the \$500,000 goal, but still within an acceptable range. He then thanked the Council for facilitating the recruitment of additional staff for the department, including three students who are working for the summer in the records office.

10.38 Deputy Mayor Miller then advised that the MIS Department has been working on upgrading the traffic camera system from three to eight 4K cameras. He also reported that a draft agreement, for use of the Digi App infrastructure to develop the Belize City App, is pending attorney review.

10.39 Deputy Mayor Miller then reported that the MIS Department is working on procuring a new server; he advised that payment from the Finance Department is pending. He also highlighted that the leaks in the server room remain unresolved and stressed the importance of timely repairs.

10.40 The City Administrator confirmed receipt of a proposal from FT Williams for infrastructure works and repairs to City Hall. He advised that priority will be given to securing the server room.

10.41 Deputy Mayor Miller continued by advising the Council that the staff of the MIS Department are young and relatively inexperienced; recommendations have been made for technical training to be provided to the staff through Udemy, an online platform that offers courses in many fields.

10.42 Deputy Mayor Miller then reported that he had the opportunity to participate in the Commonwealth Climate Engagement Forum, which focused on sustainable development and climate resilience.

10.43 Deputy Miller also advised that he was able to participate in community outreach activities, including the sanitation night crew appreciation and cleanup campaigns with St. Joseph School and Oceana, in commemoration of World Oceans Day.

10.44 He then thanked the Public Relations Team for assisting the Council in hosting the Miss Universe reception for the Miss Universe delegates. He also thanked the Mayor and Councillors for their participation in the launch of the Belize at 44 Theme and encouraged their ongoing involvement in the National Celebrations.

10.45 Deputy Mayor Miller concluded by advising that the Council's digitization of the Cemetery Records is scheduled to go live on July 21st. He highlighted that the completion of this project will enable real-time data access to burial information at the Lord Ridge and Eternal Gardens Cemeteries.

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 Cattouse moved a motion for the Council to approve the renewal of an employment contract for Mr. Jeffrey Trapp, who has passed the age of retirement. Seconded by Councillor Garcia. MOTION APPROVED.

12.2 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve the renewal of the employment contract between the Council and Mr. Alex Nolberto, who has been serving as the Finance Director.

12.3 Mayor Wagner reviewed the Director's performance assessment and highlighted areas requiring improvement. He advised that, should the contract be renewed, a mid-year evaluation of the Director's performance would be conducted to assess progress.

12.4 Mayor Wagner further noted that the employment contract would be renewed for a period of one (1) year. He added that improvements in the Director's performance have already been observed over the past two to three months. The motion was seconded by Councillor Kwan.

12.5 Councillor Cattouse stated that the Council has always sought to maintain high standards among its employees, noting that young, qualified personnel have consistently made the Council proud. However, she expressed concern that substandard reporting by a high-ranking officer does not reflect the standards the Council aims to uphold. While supporting the renewal of the contract, she stressed that if performance does not improve within six months, the Council must be prepared to take corrective action.

12.6 Councillor Pollard echoed these sentiments, indicating that while he has not had extensive experience working with the Finance Director, he would be guided by the Mayor's assessment.

12.7 He expressed reservations but remained optimistic that under the Mayor's leadership, dialogue between Councillors and Directors, as well as the working relationship with the Finance Director, would strengthen. He emphasized the importance of implementing checkpoints to ensure accountability. He confirmed his support for a one-year renewal on the condition that the Council continues to receive value for money.

12.8 The City Administrator advised that the Finance Director's performance would be reviewed in six months, at which time a determination would be made on the way forward. MOTION APPROVED.

12.9 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve the renewal of the employment contract with Mr. Neil Hall, E-Transit Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Councillor Nunez.

12.10 Deputy Mayor Miller clarified that Mr. Hall's salary had previously been funded through the E-Mobility Project; however, with the project now nearing completion, the Council will assume responsibility for covering his salary. MOTION APPROVED.

12.11 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to renew an employment contract with Mr. Derick Card. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia.

12.12 Councillor Cattouse drew the Council's attention to a letter written by Ms. Brenda Usher, which highlighted concerns about Mr. Card's performance during his probationary period.

12.13 Councillor Cattouse was assured that Mr. Card's conduct and output will continue to be closely monitored. MOTION APPROVED.

12.14 Deputy Mayor Miller moved a motion for the Council to approve the installation of a bus stop on Princess Margaret Drive, by the Insurance Corporation of Belize. Seconded by Councillor Cattouse. MOTION APPROVED.

12.15 Deputy Mayor Miller moved a motion for the Council to approve an Interdiction Policy applicable to employees who are formally charged with criminal offences. The motion was seconded by Councillor Kwan.

12.16 Noting that the proposed policy stipulates a maximum interdiction period of six months, and should the matter remain unresolved beyond this timeframe, the employee would be separated from the services of the Council, Councillor Pollard cautioned that, before implementation, the Council must ensure the policy's provisions are fully aligned with the Labour Law and relevant employment regulations. MOTION APPROVED.

12.17 Deputy Mayor Miller moved a motion for the Council to approve an Attendance Bonus Policy for Staff. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia.

12.18 Mayor Wagner advised that the union was in support of the policy and noted minor recommendations for improvement or consideration. MOTION APPROVED.

12.19 Deputy Mayor Miller moved a motion for the Council to approve a Performance Bonus Policy applicable to Directors and Managers. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia.

12.20 The Mayor advised that the determination of performance bonuses will be contingent, in part, upon the Council's overall organizational performance, as measured against the annual budget. Specifically, the Profit & Loss Statement will be reviewed at the end of November to assess the extent to which projected revenues have been realized. MOTION APPROVED.

12.21 Deputy Mayor Miller moved a motion for the Council to approve the renewal of the security and surveillance maintenance contract between Champion Security Systems Limited and the Belize City Council. The motion was seconded by Councillor Cattouse.

12.22 Councillor Cattouse expressed her support for the motion, noting that Champion Security Systems has consistently provided exceptional service and high-quality equipment.

12.23 Councillor Pollard acknowledged the importance of maintaining a security service but raised concerns regarding the proposed five-year contract term. He emphasized that such a duration exceeds the Council's standard practice of limiting contracts to the three-year term of office.

12.24 Deputy Mayor Miller acknowledged Councillor Pollard's concern, explaining that the nature of the service requires a significant upfront investment. The contractor has indicated that a five-year term is necessary to ensure adequate return on their investment.

12.25 Mayor Wagner added that Champion Security Systems has been engaged with the Council for several years, including prior to the current administration's first term in office. MOTION APPROVED.

13.0 New Business

13.1 The City Administrator invited the Council to observe a moment of silence to honour the lives of former Council employee, Mr. Luke Jones, and his mother, Mrs. Evadnie Jones, who were recently tragically killed.

14.0 Submissions from the Building Unit

14.1 A request was submitted by Mr. Vinoud Chawla for a letter of No-Objection to the Central Building Authority for the construction of a warehouse located at Parcel No. 2435, Phillip Goldson Highway.

14.2 The Council expressed concern that the proposed location is not suitable for this type of facility due to safety and traffic-related issues. Specific concerns were raised regarding the maneuvering of containers within the compound, including the lack of adequate headway for turning and the potential for obstruction to the free flow of traffic.

14.3 It was emphasized that trucks must not reverse into or out of the property as this poses a safety hazard to both motorists and nearby residents. The current loading and offloading design must be reconfigured to meet safety standards. MOTION DENIED, pending redesign of the facility layout.

14.4 A request by Mr. Rupert Hall on behalf of Harbor View Cottages for the renovation of boat piers located near Fort Street. MOTION APPROVED, provided that the renovation does not interfere with other projects in the area.

14.5 A request by Ms. Deannie Requena for the rental of Booth #8 at the Mahogany Street Marketplace. MOTION APPROVED, provided that there is no sale of alcohol.

14.6 A request by Mr. Santos Herrera for the construction of a retail store located near Pallotti High School on the Philip Goldson Highway. The Planning Department noted its objection to the request as this area is designated to remain open for beautification and to preserve clear sightlines, which are essential for reducing pedestrian risks and enhancing overall public safety. MOTION DENIED.

15.0 Any Other Business

15.1 Councillor Cattouse informed the Council that she would be out of the country in August, representing Belize as Head of Delegation in a regional sporting event being held in Paraguay.

15.2 Deputy Mayor Miller advised that he would also be abroad in early August, attending the World Expo being held in Osaka, Japan.

15.3 The Council was advised that all businesses required to relocate, either partially or entirely, as part of the Swing Bridge Replacement Project have been formally notified in writing

16.0 Adjournment

16.1 Mayor Wagner called the meeting to a close.

The meeting concluded at 1:07 pm.



BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR



ALBERT VAUGHAN
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

