

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Caucus Room, Belize City Council

August 26th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Present at the meeting were the following:

1. Mr. Bernard Wagner
2. Mr. Eluide Miller
3. Mr. Allan Pollard Jr.
4. Ms. Kaya Cattouse
5. Mr. Edmund Kwan
6. Mr. Evan Thompson
7. Mr. Sherwin Garcia
8. Mr. Javier Castellanos
9. Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton
10. Mr. Dorian Usher

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor

Mr. Albert Vaughan
Ms. Carissa Casanova

City Administrator
Administrative Manager, Office of the
Mayor

Absent with Apologies:

11. Mr. Malcolm Nunez

Councillor



Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:16 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 and expressed appreciation to the Councillors for their attendance. He extended apologies on behalf of Councillor Nunez, who was unable to attend due to illness. He advised that Councillors Kwan and Castellanos would be joining the meeting shortly, as they were running late.

2.2 The Mayor also welcomed Mr. Danny Madrid, representative of the Order of Distinguished Service, and Youth Shadow Councillor Sanaa Rowland, both of whom were in attendance to observe the proceedings.

2.3 The Mayor proceeded to review the day's agenda and commended the Council team for their continued excellence. He acknowledged that, like any family, occasional challenges arise; however, the team remains steadfast in prioritizing the people's agenda. He expressed pride in the Council's ability to positively impact the lives of the city's residents.

3.0 Ratification of the July 9th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

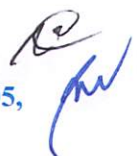
3.1 Deputy Mayor Miller recommended the standardization of the spelling of "Councillor" throughout the minutes to ensure consistency in official documentation.

3.2 Deputy Mayor Miller moved for the minutes of the July 9th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting to be ratified. Seconded by Councillor Garcia.

4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 With reference to item 4.4 of the previous minutes, the City Administrator advised that a recent correspondence from RT Auto, requesting an additional extension, has been submitted to the Council's attorney for review.

4.2 He further explained that a representative from the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) indicated via telephone that Mr. Tun's file was scheduled to be reviewed by the Board last week; however, the process remains lengthy. It was recommended that any further communication be submitted in writing for formal direction to the Council.



4.3 The Mayor expressed concern regarding the continued delays and noted that Mr. Tun has not demonstrated the financial capacity required to fund the proposed derelict vehicle project. As such, the Council will need to consider exiting the agreement.

4.4 The Council's attorney will review the existing agreement and advise on the appropriate course of action for termination.

4.5 With reference to item 5.2 of the previous minutes, Deputy Mayor Miller requested an update on the Yutong bus acquisition.

4.6 Mayor Wagner confirmed that Yutong has offered an additional three buses. He advised that provisions have been made for the proceeds of the municipal securities to be allocated toward the purchase. Once the reprofiling exercise is complete, procurement of the buses will proceed.

5.0 Announcements by the Mayor

5.1 The Mayor extended appreciation to all Councillors for their support of the MidWeek Wine Down initiative, noting its success and positive reception by the community. He recommended that the event be held more frequently during the summer months and proposed that it be formally branded as a Council-led initiative.

5.2 Mayor Wagner commended the successful hosting of the Ebo Town Festival, which in collaboration with NICH, was held in recognition of Emancipation Day. He congratulated and thanked the organizing team, remarking that "when you have a good team, the job is easy."

5.3 Regarding the recent visit from the Miramar delegation, the Mayor noted that although he was unfortunately unwell during the visit, the engagement proceeded seamlessly. He commended all involved for their support and acknowledged that while the Deputy Mayor was also unavailable, the remaining Councillors stepped in effectively to ensure the visit's success.

5.4 The Mayor read a message from Mayor Wayne Messam of Miramar, Florida, expressing gratitude for the Council's hospitality and professionalism. Mayor Messam noted that although he missed Mayor Wagner during the visit, the Councillors ensured the delegation felt welcomed and well cared for. He praised the team's helpfulness and professionalism.

5.5 Mayor Wagner noted that Mr. Calvin Neal, of Bridge 501, also extended thanks to the Council for the outstanding job done in hosting the Miramar delegation. The Mayor emphasized the importance of building on the upcoming exchange opportunity, which will allow Youth Shadow Councillors to visit Miramar and learn about local government operations there.

5.6 The Mayor announced the launch of the Belize Public Transport Ridership Card, highlighting its alignment with the Council's Smart City efforts. He emphasized the progress made in traffic infrastructure, noting that the city now has nearly nine traffic lights, up from just two when he first assumed office, thus reducing the need for manual traffic direction.

5.7 Mayor Wagner then shared a list of streets that are currently under rehabilitation in the Collet, Freetown, and Lake Independence constituencies. He stressed the importance of aggressively marketing the Council's infrastructural work to ensure public awareness.

5.8 The Mayor called for reflection on the Council's shortcomings in grass-cutting operations. He cited the overgrown drain near Renaissance Towers as unacceptable and expressed concern over the lack of visibility of the Council's grass-cutting teams.

5.9 The City Administrator shared his personal observation from Maurice Bishop Street, where residents actively maintain their surroundings. Councillor Cattouse noted the challenge of maintaining over 700 city streets with fewer than a dozen grass cutters, stating that it takes over four months to revisit an area.

5.10 Mayor Wagner noted that despite the Council's efforts to recruit 50 grass-cutters, only two applications were received.

5.11 Councillor Garcia echoed the concern and noted that residents were urged to submit applications to fill the vacancies. He wondered how it is that the Council only received two applications.

5.12 It was agreed that a comprehensive analysis of the issue would be conducted and revisited at a future meeting.

5.13 The Mayor provided an update on the Belcan Bridge Replacement Project. He noted that the Government of Belize has indicated that the Council would serve as an implementing partner, through the Ministry of Local Government.



5.14 Mayor Wagner emphasized that this shift signals a push for greater municipal autonomy. Given the absence of in-house engineering capacity, the Council through Local Government will collaborate with the Ministry of Economic Development to engage qualified external engineers for technical guidance and procurement activities. A designated committee comprising of personnel from the Ministry's of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Local Government along with key technical and engineering personnel will manage the tendering process and submit recommendations to the Council for final determination.

5.15 The Mayor explained that preliminary activities, including stakeholder consultations and a usage analysis of the bridge, will be conducted by the supervising consultant. He emphasized the importance of engaging a formal consultancy to guide the reconstruction process and noted that Young's Engineering has conducted verification of the design and the new structure. The project is being financed through a grant from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the Government of Belize, with the Council serving as the implementing agency through the Ministry of Local Government.

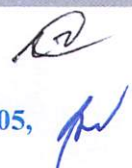
5.16 The Mayor noted that the September Celebrations are fast approaching. He reported that the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), along with the National Celebrations Commission, has been actively coordinating the schedule of events. Key activities which require the Council's involvement include the Flag Raising Ceremony on September 1st, the 10th Bram at the Lord Rhaburn Plaza, National Service Day on September 19th, and the Uniform Parade and Bash on Independence Day.

5.17 Mayor Wagner advised that the Bash is being brought back to Albert and Regents Streets. He emphasized the importance of securing sufficient bands, DJ systems, and stakeholder support.

5.18 The Mayor then advised that this year's Official Independence Day Ceremony will be held in Belize City at the Battlefield Park.

5.19 The City Administrator remarked that this is an opportunity for the Council to showcase its capabilities and encouraged full Councillor participation, noting the importance of presenting a unified front.

5.20 Councillor Garcia noted that the Flag Raising Ceremony coincides with the first day of school and suggested that this be taken into consideration during planning.



6.0 General Updates from the City Administrator

6.1 The City Administrator advised that the Uniform Parade would commence in front of the Municipal Court Building on North Front St.

6.2 Mayor Wagner asked that branded polos be provided for the Council members, who will be participating in the parade.

6.3 The City Administrator then explained that a contribution of \$15,000 has been received from the National Celebrations Commission (NCC), and an additional \$50,000 is customarily granted and is being requested for the September Celebrations, to ease the financial strain on the Council.

6.4 The City Administrator reported that he, along with the City Engineer and Assistant City Engineer, met with representatives from Belize Water Services (BWS) regarding the list of streets scheduled for rehabilitation. Monthly coordination meetings are to be held with all utility companies to ensure that infrastructure elements, such as manholes and underground equipment, are addressed before the commencement of street works, thereby avoiding delays.

6.5 In addition to street rehabilitation, drainage works are actively underway. Site visits confirmed that several drains are currently being addressed as part of the broader infrastructure improvement efforts.

6.6 The City Administrator advised that the Council would be moving forward with the procurement of the main E-bus stop which is to be situated in the general vicinity of the Battlefield Park.

6.7 Councillor Castellanos emphasized the importance of properly designated bus stops for the E-transit initiative.

6.8 The City Administrator then highlighted recent improvements to the Lord Ridge Cemetery and acknowledged that while the Council may fall short in certain areas, others reflect commendable progress. He attributed the improvements to the dedication of the Cemetery Manager and the Councillor responsible for the department.

6.9 The City Administrator noted that streets within the Collet Division have suffered from decades of neglect, approximately 30 years, but noted that some of the streets being addressed are in this constituency.

6.10 The City Administrator also highlighted the transformation of the Council's Four Mile Compound and noted that further improvements are anticipated.

6.11 The Mayor emphasized that as the Council prepares for its quinquennial review, it must demonstrate tangible service delivery and measurable impact across all operational areas.

7.0 Notices

7.1 No matters were tabled.

8.0 Questions

8.1 No matters were tabled.

9.0 Petitions

9.1 Councillor Hamilton shared a request from Sixth Form students who have requested that the bus service operate until 9:00 PM to better accommodate their evening schedules.

9.2 It was noted that the bus service already operates until 9:00, but that the buses may pass the location before the students are out of class, as they must be back at the depot by 9:00. The matter will be brought to the attention of the E-transit Manager.

9.3 The Mayor advised that he has not received any updates on the requested route extension. He advised that the E-transit Coordinator was tasked with requesting the permit from the Department of Transport.

9.4 Councillor Castellanos raised a concern from a resident regarding drainage on Kraal Road. The resident's home, situated below street level, continues to experience flooding despite recent drain clearance.

9.5 He was advised that the Council had addressed drainage in the area already, but because the resident's home lies below the level of the street, flooding will always be an issue. Nonetheless, the works team will be asked to visit the area to assess the situation firsthand and determine if additional interventions from the Council can be taken.

9.6 Councillor Cattouse submitted a petition from a faculty member of Saint Catherine Academy (SCA) for William Fonseca Street to be designated as a quiet zone in support of student learning.

9.7 The City Administrator advised that such requests should originate from the school's administration rather than an individual faculty member.

9.8 Councillor Pollard supported the petition and emphasized the broader need for quiet zone designations near schools, churches, and hospitals. He recommended an educational campaign, installation of signage, and increased enforcement to address noise-related infractions.

9.9 The City Administrator acknowledged the challenges posed by excessive noise, particularly from vehicles using “Jake brakes”, and noted that the Council is currently limited in its enforcement capacity. He further suggested that with administrative changes in the Department of Transport, the issue could be revisited. He further emphasized that all schools, not only SCA, deserve equal consideration.

9.10 Deputy Mayor Miller endorsed the petition and reiterated that formal requests should be submitted by school administrators. He also expressed support for Councillor Pollard’s recommendations.

9.11 Councillor Thompson recommended that the related correspondence be forwarded to the Public Health Team and that support be sought from SCA’s administration. He also thanked Mayor Wagner for the Council’s efforts to aid students during the back-to-school season. He noted the contribution of school bags was well received.

9.12 The Mayor affirmed that school zones, hospitals, and churches should be treated with reverence and that the Council must work toward ensuring respectful environments around these institutions.

9.13 Councillor Pollard reported complaints from residents of Palmdale Drive regarding sewage issues at a blue apartment complex located at 6164 Palmdale Drive. The property lacks a soakaway system, resulting in overflow during high tide and rainfall. The matter will be referred to the Public Health Team for investigation and follow-up.

10.0 Reports from Councillors

10.1 Councillor Hamilton reported on the Miramar delegation’s recent visit, describing it as a week of valuable information sharing and knowledge exchange with stakeholders, including the Belize Chamber of Commerce, BELTRAIDE, and the University of Belize.

10.2 She explained that October 2026 is being explored as a potential date for hosting “Belize Day” in Miramar. She also noted that a Robotics Competition being hosted in Miramar, is scheduled for December 2025.

10.3 Councillor Hamilton further explained that she would work with the Deputy Mayor, Director of Communications/Mayor’s Aide, and the City Administrator to get the Youth Shadow Council delegates ready for the upcoming exchange visit.

10.4 Councillor Hamilton then reported that the Diaspora Help Desk successfully assisted in hosting the 2nd Good Deeds Day Caribbean Leader Conference delegation. Specific sessions of the conference were attended by her, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Director of Communications/Mayor's Aide.

10.5 Councillor Hamilton concluded by commending the work of the team that executed the successful back-to-school drive.

10.6 Councillor Garcia informed the Council that, effective August 11th, Mr. Darrel Bell was appointed as the new Parks Manager, while Mr. Delroy Herrera assumed the position of Market Manager/Clerk.

10.7 He reported that RF&G has prepared a redesign proposal for the adoption of the roundabout on Princess Margaret Dr. He noted that painting of booths at Digi Park is ongoing, with shutter replacements also planned.

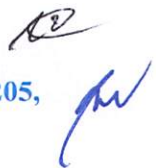
10.8 Councillor Garcia then reported that maintenance works are also being carried out at the Flag Monument, Memorial Park, and Battlefield Park, in preparation for the upcoming September events.

10.9 Councillor Thompson reported that Mr. Herrera is still in the process of settling into his new role at the market.

10.10 Councillor Usher reported on the painting of the cemetery and highlighted delays in the collection of derelict vehicles due to the lack of storage space at the 4-Mile compound. He further advised that disposal of the existing vehicles in the Council's possession is still pending.

10.11 Councillor Cattouse reported that the Youth Connect Student Hub will resume operations on September 1st at the Hope Center and on September 8th at its main location at City Hall. She highlighted the success of the English and Math summer program, which impacted 120 students, who received certificates and official school letters. The program, facilitated by Mr. Dennis Thompson, included tours of City Hall, the e-Transit Depot, and the Museum of Belize. She extended gratitude to the Office of the Mayor and NICH for their support.

10.12 She also reported on a meeting with UNICEF, attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Programs Manager, regarding the Council's role in maintaining child-friendly spaces.



10.13 She further noted a partnership with the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU), which contributed \$5,000 to summer initiatives and provided three interns who assisted with programs. A draft memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening social interventions for at-risk youth is currently under review.

10.14 Councillor Cattouse highlighted collaborations with Dibary and the Grassroots Youth Foundation, which included the distribution of 100 vouchers for school supplies, lunches, and 1,500 school bags. Additionally, 32 primary schools each received 20 vouchers for distribution to vulnerable students.

10.15 She reported on the Council's routine yard maintenance support to the Welcome Resource Center, and the Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipalities (SCFM) Youth Action Plan Survey.

10.16 Councillor Cattouse announced that the fifth annual Belize City Half Marathon would be held on September 28th, 2025.

10.17 She further advised that the annual Youth Panel Discussion in collaboration with UNFPA and DYS is also being scheduled for later this year.

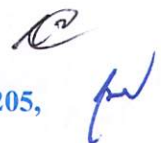
10.18 Councillor Cattouse informed the Council of the passing of Sanitation Supervisor Mr. Mervin Gentle, emphasizing his integral role in the department, and expressing gratitude for his dedication to the Council during his time of service.

10.19 Councillor Cattouse then raised concern over equipment shortages in the Sanitation Department, noting that of the 15 weedwhackers, only 6 remain operational.

10.20 Councillor Cattouse then announced that she had the opportunity to accompany five youth athletes who qualified to represent Belize at the Junior Pan American Games in Asuncion, Paraguay.

10.21 She concluded by expressing appreciation to those who contributed to the back-to-school drive initiative.

10.22 Councillor Castellanos thanked the Council for supporting the Blue Horizon sponsorship, which enabled 24 students to visit the reef, Hol Chan Marine Reserve, and Shark Ray Alley. The initiative, supported by BTB and the Belize City Council, which provided transportation and logistics, enabled students to gain a deeper understanding of coral reefs and marine life.



10.23 Councillor Pollard reported on the Works Department's preparations for the September Celebrations, noting that streamers were being installed at Memorial Park and the Flag Monument.

10.24 He also updated the Council on the expansion and rehabilitation of the Works Compound, expressing satisfaction with progress. Plans include a new shed and bay area for mechanical repairs, as well as a security booth with a bathroom at the front gate.

10.25 Additional updates included plans for the concreting of Lavender Street, and the conversion of concrete manholes to metal ones in an effort to mitigate the issue of damaged and or missing manholes.

10.26 Councillor Pollard also proposed the procurement of a trailer for transporting paint machines and other Council equipment to ensure that they are adequately maintained and can remain in use for years to come. He reported that paint samples provided by the supplier of the paint machines were diverted to the Cayman Islands and are expected to arrive in Belize within two weeks, at which point testing will take place at the Works Department parking lot.

10.27 He also noted that a signage project is underway to help motorists better identify one-way streets; an update from the Works Manager is pending on this matter.

10.28 Councillor Pollard further reported that the feasibility of transitioning towards manufactured speed bumps is being explored in an effort to prevent damage to chip-and-seal streets.

10.29 Councillor Pollard advised that the vendor is still awaiting payment for the chip spreader currently being procured by the Council. He noted that, given the relatively inactive rainy season to date, this presents an opportune window to finalize the procurement process. Doing so would enable the team to capitalize on the favourable weather conditions and advance street rehabilitation efforts across the city.

10.30 Deputy Mayor Miller reported on his participation in the opening ceremony of Good Deeds Day. He also noted the success of the Back-to-School Edition of the Downtown Super Sale, which coincided with the GST-free weekend and saw the participation of 120 businesses.

10.31 He extended gratitude to the Local Economic Development and Public Relations teams for the execution of the event and recognized the Mayor and City Administrator for their support.

10.32 Deputy Mayor Miller informed the Council that the legal review of the Belize City App document remains pending. He further advised that an alternative payroll system is under consideration, noting that a presentation by Intelligent Solutions demonstrated the system's capability to integrate with the new SARA management platform.

10.33 He reported on the progress of the Cemetery Digitization Project, highlighting that over 7,000 cemetery records have now been digitized.

10.34 He further advised that the MIS Department has recently acquired a new Wingle pickup truck along with additional surveillance equipment to strengthen the security of Council properties.

10.35 Updates to the Traffic Department include the replacement of the photo room computer, the procurement of a 4K camera, a blue backdrop, and a modern signature pad to improve ID processing. He further reported that materials for upgrading the server room have been purchased and are awaiting installation.

10.36 Deputy Mayor Miller then commended the Traffic Team for generating \$580,000 in revenue in July. He noted that the department has been consistently meeting its targets.

10.37 Deputy Mayor Miller also confirmed that the official Independence Day Ceremony will be held at Battlefield Park.

10.38 He then thanked Councillors Nunez and Cattouse for their efforts with the Council's summer programs. He recognized the Mayor and team for advancing the Council's cashless e-Ride initiative, encouraging its application to the e-taxis.

10.39 He shared his experience at the World Expo in Japan and expressed gratitude for being able to represent the Council, in some capacity, on the World Stage.

10.40 The Deputy Mayor then encouraged Councillors to participate in the CARSI Program being facilitated through Galen University, and advised that applications are due by September 21st.

10.41 Deputy Mayor Miller again congratulated his colleagues on the successful launch of the Belize Public Transport Ridership Card, which was well-received and demonstrated potential for closer collaboration with Digi Wallet, which facilitated the use of the cashless payment system. He noted Digi Wallet's interest in follow-up discussions to integrate renewal of driver's licenses and property tax payments into its platform.



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

11.1 Mayor Wagner announced that the City Administrator has formally tendered his resignation. He acknowledged that the transition would be challenging, given that the new City Administrator's tenure would be for only 20 months. He noted that prospective candidates will have to consider their term limitations, as their term will likely align with that of his remaining tenure, with a three- to four-month transition period to allow the new 2027 Mayor and Council to select an individual of their choice.

11.2 The Mayor commended the City Administrator for his leadership during a period marked by electoral victory and personal tragedy. He noted that the City Administrator held the office with distinction, fostering unity within the Council and executing his duties in a manner that strengthened the team. On behalf of the Mayor's Office, he extended sincere thanks for his service.

11.3 The Mayor advised that the resignation has been formally communicated to the media, and the Council will initiate the transition process, including the issuance of a vacancy notice, establishment of a timeline for applications, and reconvening of the interviewing panel. A tentative timeline will be set for the appointment of a new City Administrator.

11.4 Councillor Pollard expressed mixed emotions about the transition, acknowledging the challenges ahead while also expressing gratitude for the working relationship developed over the years. He noted that despite differences of opinion, they were able to find common ground. He further described the City Administrator as a "great equalizer" who helped balance politics and administration, guiding the Council to achieve its goals within available means.

11.5 Councillor Castellanos expressed appreciation, noting that the City Administrator's leadership compelled him to ensure his initiatives were well-considered and strategically sound.

11.6 Councillor Hamilton reflected on the City Administrator's role in welcoming and mentoring newly elected Councillors, particularly in navigating the Council's standing orders and procedures.

11.7 Councillor Thompson thanked the City Administrator for his professionalism, impartiality, and ability to maintain balance within the workplace. He extended best wishes for his future endeavours.

11.8 Councillor Kwan affirmed his continued support for the City Administrator, citing his deep understanding of Council operations and consistent professionalism. He wished him continued success.

11.9 Councillor Cattouse acknowledged the City Administrator's support for her initiatives and passions, regardless of political context. She commended his commitment to offering sound advice and guidance.

11.10 Deputy Mayor Miller reflected on the bond established during their time in office, highlighting the City Administrator's role in maintaining order and conducting himself with dignity. He acknowledged the Administrator's decision to step down earlier than expected, and commended him for providing stability during a challenging period. He further expressed confidence in the Mayor's leadership throughout the transition and extended his best wishes for the City Administrator's future endeavors.

12.0 Motions by Mayor & Councilors

12.1 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to approve the appointment of Ms. Imani Jex to the position of Marketing Manager in the Public Relations Department. The motion was seconded by Councillor Kwan. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.2 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to ratify Resolutions No. 68 and 69 of 2025. Resolution No. 68 pertains to the transfer of custodianship of the Belize City Council's Sinking Fund from the Central Bank of Belize to Heritage Financial Services Ltd., while Resolution No. 69 authorizes the redirection of the head tax and municipal subvention to Heritage Financial Services Ltd. These resolutions were previously approved via round robin consideration. The motion was seconded by Councillor Usher. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.3 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Belize City Council to ratify Resolution No. 67 of 2025 which granted approval to a request from residents of the Home Park Neighborhood to restrict vehicular access to the seafront. The resolution was previously approved via round robin consideration. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Miller. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.4 Mayor Wagner made a motion for the Council to approve the write-off of outstanding trade license fees and interest for eighty-one (81) businesses that have not been in operation for over one year. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.5 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve the renewal of an employment contract between the Council and Mr. Michael Pollard, who has reached the age of retirement, for a period of two (2) years. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.6 Mayor Wagner moved a motion for the Council to approve, the paving of Harrison Lawrence Street (435 feet Chip & Seal), Stewart Khron Crescent (920 feet Chip & Seal), Iguana Street (2,065 feet Chip & Seal), Pelican Street (940 feet Chip & Seal), Antelope Street (940 feet Chip & Seal), Seagull Street (1,000 feet Chip & Seal), Arlington Drive (2,100 feet), Mercy Lane (1,135 feet), Beltex Crescent (585 feet Concrete), Dean Street (650 feet raised and resurfaced with concrete) and Berkley Street (550 feet raised and resurfaced with concrete). The motion was seconded by Councillor Cattouse. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.7 Councillor Cattouse moved a motion for the Council to approve a one-year employment contract between the Council and Maintenance Worker, Mr. Winston Gabourel who has reached the age of retirement. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Miller. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.8 Councillor Cattouse moved a motion for the Council to approve a one-year employment contract between the Council and Maintenance Worker, Mr. Martin Lemus who has reached the age of retirement. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.9 Councillor Cattouse moved a motion for the Council to approve the allocation of financial and human resources for the Belize City Half Marathon scheduled for September 28th, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councillor Castellanos.

12.10 Deputy Mayor Miller thanked Councillor Cattouse for leading the initiative and offered his support. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.11 Councillor Castellanos moved a motion for the Council to approve the renewal of an employment contract between the Council and Mr. Alrick Flores, who has been serving in the capacity of Technical Manager in the Belize City Building Unit. The motion was seconded by Councillor Usher. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.12 Councillor Pollard moved a motion for the Council to approve the proposed expansion of the Works Department. The motion was seconded by Councillor Kwan.

12.13 During deliberations, Mayor Wagner inquired whether structural provisions had been made for an additional floor and whether the building could bear the added weight.

12.14 Councillor Kwan noted that the proposed flooring already exists and suggested that the estimated cost of \$454,022.10 may be negotiable. He generally expressed support for the initiative.

12.15 Councillor Cattouse queried whether the project would be subject to a public tendering process.

12.16 Deputy Mayor Miller endorsed the design.

12.17 Mayor Wagner also endorsed the design, stating that it effectively addresses longstanding spatial constraints. He recommended integrating the Traffic Department into the expanded facility and emphasized the importance of creating adequate space.

12.18 Regarding funding, the Mayor proposed a reprofiling exercise to assess budget allocations and also suggested refinancing the existing Commercial Center Loan to preserve cash flow. He noted that the current loan carries a monthly repayment of \$71,000 and emphasized the need to maintain manageable debt-service ratios while capturing expansion costs.

12.19 The City Administrator supported the project and highlighted the need to address storage limitations, noting that the existing wooden structure is overcrowded. He recommended complementing the new facility with dedicated storage space and stressed the importance of Councillor involvement in the upcoming budget exercise.

12.20 Councillor Pollard confirmed that elements of the expansion had been considered during the initial budget planning and are reflected in the budget for the current fiscal year.

12.21 Mayor Wagner concluded by underscoring the importance of aligning initiatives with budgetary provisions, noting that items are often introduced outside the approved budget. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12.22 Deputy Mayor Miller moved a motion for the Council to approve the purchase and installation of a 30-foot Smart City Bus Stop from Akwaaba Imports and Exports Ltd, to be placed on Albert Street. The motion was seconded by Councillor Garcia.

12.23 Councillor Pollard expressed support for the motion, noting his enthusiasm that the project had reached the procurement and installation phase.

12.24 He inquired whether the original plan to reopen the street adjacent to Brodies, and designate it as a staging area for taxis, would still be implemented.

12.25 Mayor Wagner confirmed that the technical team had indicated sufficient space for taxi staging, with vehicles to be parked in sequence. He also voiced support for the design, stating that it addresses spatial challenges and enhances the downtown aesthetic.

12.26 Councillor Castellanos added that bus stops are a vital component of urban infrastructure and make commuting more comfortable for residents. **MOTION APPROVED.**

13.0 New Business

13.1 No matters were tabled.

14.0 Submissions from the Building Unit

14.1 A request for a Letter of no-objection from Ms. Shermaine Farber to enclose and acquire a portion of the street reserve adjacent to Parcels No. 1432 & 1443, Junesville Area, Saint Martin's Deporres. **MOTION DENIED.**

14.2 A request for a Letter of no-objection from Mrs. Shemalone Middleton for the usage of a portion of the reserve adjacent to Parcel No. 1699 Lake Independence Boulevard, Belize City, for the sale of body sprays, lotions, and shoes from Tuesday to Saturday. **MOTION DENIED.**

14.3 A request for a letter of no-objection from Mr. Emmanuel Williams to occupy a portion of the canal reserve located on Juliet Soberanis Street, Belama Phase 1. **MOTION DENIED.**

14.4 A request for a letter of no-objection from Ms. Kasandra Garcia to construct a timber structure in front of Cleopatra White Polyclinic on the Freetown Road Reserve. **MOTION DENIED.**

14.5 A request for a letter of no-objection from Mr. Joshua Williamson for the use of a portion of the reserve near the corner of St. Thomas St. and Lottie Waight Street, for the sale of BBQ from Monday to Friday. **MOTION DENIED.**

14.6 A request for a letter of no-objection to the Central Building Authority, from Mr. Armis Hernandez Jr., on behalf of Uno Gas Station, to place a fuel service station located at the Corner of George Price Highway and Lake Independence Boulevard, Belize City. **MOTION APPROVED.**

14.7 A request for a letter of no-objection from Ms. Afeni Pollard, on behalf of Appeal Advertising Agency Ltd., for the use of a portion of the street reserve on Freetown Road to install a billboard framing structure measuring 20 feet in height, with a display face of 10 feet by 20 feet, intended for advertising purposes. **MOTION APPROVED.**

14.8 A request for a letter of no-objection to the Central Building Authority, from Mr. Vinod Chawla, for the construction of a warehouse located at Parcel No. 2435, Philip Goldson Highway. **MOTION APPROVED**, provided that measures are taken to address the issue of obstruction of the free flow of traffic when container trucks are maneuvered onto the property.

14.9 A request for a letter of no-objection for RF&G Insurance to proceed with the redesign of the roundabout located on Princess Margaret Drive, which has been formally adopted by RF&G Insurance. **MOTION APPROVED.**

14.10 A request for a letter of no-objection from the Belize Tourism Board for the relocation of a timber booth from Regent Street near the foot of the Swing Bridge to Albert Street Reserve adjacent to the Belize Bank. **MOTION APPROVED.**

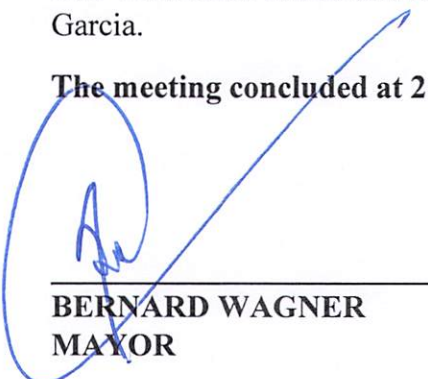
15.0 Any Other Business

15.1 No matters were tabled.

16.0 Adjournment

16.1 Councillor Kwan moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by Councillor Garcia.

The meeting concluded at 2:36 pm.



BERNARD WAGNER
MAYOR



ALBERT VAUGHAN
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

