

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE 2015 COUNCIL ON 18th NOVEMBER 2015, GOVERNORS SQUARE CONFERENCE ROOM, GOVERNOR'S SQUARE, WEST BAY, GRAND CAYMAN, CAYMAN ISLANDS

ATTENDING:

- Mr. Barry Bodden, President and Chairman
- Mr. Paul Pearson, President-Elect
- Mr. Kyle Broadhurst, Vice President
- Mr. Wayne Cowan, Treasurer
- Mr. Colin Reid, Secretary
- Mr. Johann Moxam, Immediate Past President
- Mr. Paul Byles, Councilor, 2nd Year
- Mr. Steve McIntosh, Councilor, 2nd Year
- Mr. Gary Rutty, Councilor, 1st Year
- Mr. Christopher Kirkconnell, 1st Year
- Mr. Wil Pineau, CCE, Chief Executive Officer

1. Welcome/Call to order/Confirmation of required five Councilors for quorum

President Bodden chaired the meeting, welcomed Councilors and called proceedings to order at 3:06 p.m. He confirmed the required quorum of five councilors as mandated by the Chamber's Memorandum and Articles of Association. CEO Wil Pineau, CCE, recorded the minutes.

2. Apologies

- Derrington Miller, 1st Year Councilor (off island)
- Mrs. Lucy Tibbetts, Councilor, 2nd Year

3. Review/Approval of draft minutes from the 21st October 2015 Council meeting

Draft minutes for the meeting of the 21st October 2015 meeting was circulated to the Council for review prior to the meeting. A motion to accept the draft minutes without amendment was moved by PE Paul, seconded by Secretary Colin and accepted unanimously.

4. Action items arising from the Minutes

a. Economic Growth advocacy campaign

Request for proposal to develop a sponsorship package was distributed to all member marketing agencies. Responses were due by 16th November. The Council approved the appointment of Fountainhead.

ACTION ITEM: Meet with Fountainhead to develop the sponsorship package.

b. Council development/Strategic Planning session

The Executive Committee agreed to hold this session on a Friday and half day on Saturday in February depending on the availability of the facilitator. The proposed date is Friday, 19th and Saturday, 20th February. The CEO asked Councilors to confirm if these dates would work for them. The following confirmed attendance: President Barry, PE Paul, VP Kyle, Councilors Chris, Paul and Steve. Councilor Gary will check his diary and confirm.

ACTION ITEM: The CEO will confirm the proposed dates with the facilitator and begin making arrangements.

c. Membership engagement

The Executive Committee discussed several ways to increase member staff involvement particularly among voters. A Chamber festival was as a way to celebrate the Chamber's 50th anniversary which is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th. Various concepts will be explored which will include local food, drink, music and some activities. The main thrust of the event would be to increase involvement from the employees of Chamber members.

Secretary Colin recommended a different approach when dealing with key advocacy matters. He believes the Council should develop its positions on the key issues and then release it publicly in various formats. The messages would be pro-business in nature. He said funds would need to be set aside for these campaigns and he recommended forming a small group which he agreed to chair to develop the concept. Councilor Steve has been approached and has agreed to serve on the working group. The Council supported the idea and looked forward to receiving further information at future meetings.

ACTION ITEM: The CEO will prepare a list of ideas for consideration. Secretary Colin will organise a meeting to develop ideas for the pro-business campaign.

5. CEO Report (17th October – 13th November 2015) – Submitted to Council prior to the meeting.

There were no matters raised by Council from the report.

6. Presentation of 2014 draft audited financials & membership dues schedule for 2016

Treasurer Wayne Cowan tabled the 2014 draft audited financials. The financials showed that members' equity had increased from CI\$309,173 in 2013 to CI\$330,912 in 2014. Total income decreased to CI\$734,505 in 2014 from CI\$841,731 in 2013 due to the elimination of a couple of programmes. This resulted in a decrease in expenditure to CI\$712,766 in 2014 compared to CI\$861,685 in 2013. As a result the Chamber finished 2014 with a net surplus of CI\$21,739 compared to a loss of CI\$20,933 in 2013. A motion to accept the draft financials was moved by Councilor Paul, seconded by VP Kyle and approved.

The Executive Committee had agreed to keep the membership dues at 2014 levels since the last increase took place in 2013. A general discussion among Councilors recommended increasing dues to keep pace with inflation or adjusting some categories while keeping the dues affordable for



small businesses. A review of the dues schedule will be carried out by the CEO and Treasurer with a goal of confirming a schedule for invoices to be released on 15th December.

ACTION ITEM: The CEO and Treasurer will review the dues schedule and propose amendments to be considered by the Executive Committee before being issued to members on 15th December.

7. Advocacy Agenda Progress Report (17th October – 13th November 2015)

The CEO updated the Council on each of the action items in the advocacy report.

8. New Business

a. Chamber Calendar of Events for 2016 (draft)

A proposed Chamber calendar of events has been prepared by the CEO and presented and reviewed by the Executive Committee. The calendar includes several regular activities and some new activities including the 50th anniversary celebration event on 19th March.

b. Unemployment response

President Barry, PE Paul and the CEO met with the Premier, Deputy Premier and Senior Political Advisor for lunch on 30th October. The CEO circulated a summary of the meeting discussion which dealt primarily with unemployment. Councilors responded to the summary report with some recommended approaches. The Executive Committee reviewed the responses and have agreed that the Chamber should not proceed to assist in any way with finding or registering persons who are seeking employment and that a letter should be written to the Premier with the following points:

- i. A comprehensive list of unemployed persons needs to be confirmed by the National Workforce Development Agency (NWDA);
- ii. If the NWDA does not have an accurate list then this needs to be addressed as the first priority;
- iii. Once the list is produced, then the NWDA and other government assistance agencies should compare lists to confirm if any of the unemployed are receiving some form of Government assistance;
- iv. Mandate that anyone receiving social assistance should be registered with the NWDA.
- v. Each person listed as unemployed should be assessed to determine their actual cause for their inability to find employment (skills, attitude, unreasonable expectations etc.)

Councilor Steve recommended that the Council should consider adding the need to reform the immigration system to the response. VP Kyle insisted that the Council should focus on framing the discussion about the unemployment response and then follow up with another letter. There was scope, however, to add some points raised by Councilor Steve regarding the need to hire an independent audit firm to assist with the cross referencing of the databases.

ACTION ITEM: The CEO will draft a letter for Council's review summarising the points identified.

c. Nominations Committee

President Barry will appoint a committee to develop a list of nominees to file with the Secretary to serve on the 2016



Council. Vacancies to be filed include Vice President and three Councilor positions. The nominations committee will include PE Paul, VP Kyle and another representative appointed by President Barry.

ACTION ITEM: An email is to be drafted and distributed to the membership seeking nominees to fill the four vacancies on the Council for 2016. The list of interested persons will be shared with the Nominations Committee to confirm a slate of candidates for the Chamber's Annual General Meeting in January.

9. Any other business

10. Upcoming meetings:

- *Chamber Council: Wednesday, 9th December*, Chamber conference room, Governors Square, 3:00 p.m. (holiday social)
- *Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, 13th January*, 3 p.m.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved by the Council on _____

President Barry Bodden _____

Secretary Colin Reid _____

