

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST [21ST] STATUTORY MEETING [2006-2008 TERM] HELD ON APRIL 29, 2008 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL, 218 S.S. ERIN ROAD, DEBE.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: -

Alderman	Dr. Allen Sammy	Chairman of Council
Councillor	Premchand Sookoo	Debe East/Barrackpore West
Councillor	Roy Kissoon	La Fortune/Hermitage
Councillor	Rampersad Hardial	Rochard/Barrackpore East
Councillor	Willvan Ramlakhan	Penal
Councillor	Carl Dabideen	Debe West
Councillor	Premnath Boodoosingh	Palmiste
Councillor	Diptee Ramnath	Quinam/Morne Diablo
Alderman	Roland A. Hall	

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL EXCUSED:-

Councillor	Sonnylal B. Manwah	Union Hall/Bronte
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MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:-

Mr.	L. Espinoza	Chief Executive Officer
Ms.	A. Adimoolah Ramjohn	Corporate Secretary
Ms.	T. Deodath	Administrative Officer II
Mr.	S. Heru	County Superintendent
Ms.	P. Cain	Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer
Ms.	L. Lalgee	Financial Officer
Mr.	C. Maharaj	Building Inspector
Mr.	R. Mahadeo	Accountant
Ms.	C. Gunness	Public Health Inspector Section
Mr.	K. King	Inspector- Municipal Police
Mr.	R. Loknath	Planning Officer
Ms.	R. Ganga Persad	Clerk IV
Ms.	K. Ramlogan	Clerk II
Ms.	N. Ragbir	Clerk I

1170. The meeting commenced at 9:10 am with a prayer by Councillor Premchand Sookoo.

1171. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS: -**

[i] The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

[ii] The activities of the upcoming Heritage Week of activities seemed to be heading for a success. Mr. B. Lewis, Head Curator of the museum agreed to assist with part funding for the museum which is the only form of governmental assistance. Petrotrin agreed to donate a sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).

Republic Bank and Scotiabank were also written to, however Republic Bank, Penal refused saying that their sponsorship of Tassa Taal is free to the public. He pointed out that greater consideration should be given to the Corporation especially since the Corporation has one of its accounts at this Bank.

In spite of those setbacks Council continues to demonstrate good management which is a reflection of the responsibility of Councillors over the years, especially at a time when other Corporations are described as 'run away horses' with respect to spending. He thanked Councillors for their hard work especially since some are responsible for multiple events; and look forward to a good Heritage Week starting as early as next Thursday (8th May, 2008).

[iii] The Prime Minister made a public announcement that the number of Corporations would be reduced from fourteen (14) to twelve (12) and the Chairman found this strange because the number of constituencies were recently expanded from thirty-six (36) to forty-one (41) and the constitution says there is a limit to the number of person to each constituency. If Penal/Debe becomes a victim it would mean that Councillors will be scattered and will have to represent a larger number of people. It is Council's view that Local Government remains the single most important organization, because Councillors know the issues of the people and could help shape programmes and policies for the people's benefit.

The Chairman reminded members that Act 21 of 1990 identified sixteen (16) municipalities, it was reduced to fourteen (14) and now will be further reduced to twelve (12). This is all part of the emasculation of Local Government and is taking away from the rights of people in the community.

1172. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:-**

[i] Councillor Premchand Sookoo announced that on April 27, 2008 the house of Mr. Roopnarine Manick which housed three (3) families was completely destroyed by fire. They were visited by the ODPM Officer and were given relief supplies from the Corporation, of which Mr. Manick expressed his appreciation. The various hardwares in the vicinity (Lalls, Seebalack and Trinshine) expressed their willingness to assist in materials, and a contractor, Mr. Sankar Persad was clearing the space and would build a temporary structure.

[ii] Councillor Roy Kissoon announced that Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah asked to be excused.

[iii] The Chief Executive Officer announced that he and four (4) monthly paid officers would be attending a meeting on Local Government Reform at PSA's Head Office, Port of Spain.

1173. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH [20TH] STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Statutory Meeting held on March 27, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings subject to the undermentioned amendments:-

Page 11: Item 1165: Line 2: to delete 'upsurge' and insert 'usurping'.

Page 11: Item 1165: Line 5: to delete 'carried out' and insert 'implemented'.

1174. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MUNITES OF THE SPECIAL STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON APRIL 17, 2008 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #218 SS ERIN ROAD, DEBE.**

Resolved: Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on April 17, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

1175. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH LAND DEVELOPER BILLY RAMDEEN AND THE COUNCIL HELD ON MARCH 27TH, 2008.**

Resolved: Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the minutes of the Special Meeting with Land Developer Billy Ramdeen and Council be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings subject to the undermentioned inclusions:-

To include Recommendation # 6: Box drains and earthen drains are to be kept cleared of earthfill and damaged ones are to be repaired.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

1176. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 04, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 04, 2008 be adopted.

1177. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-38 of the Twenty-First [21st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008 be accepted.

1178. **Adoption of the Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-38 of the Twenty-First [21st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008 be adopted.

[ii] **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

1179. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008 be adopted.

1180. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of the Twenty-First [21st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be accepted.

1181. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of Twenty-First [21st] the Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be adopted.

[iii] **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

1182. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED:-Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2008 be adopted.

1183. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-24 of the Twenty-First [21st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008 be accepted.

1184. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-24 of the Twenty-First [21st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008 be adopted.

[iv] **FINANCE, PLANNING AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

1185. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 04, 2008.**

RESOLVED:-Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 04, 2008 be adopted.

1186. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Finance, Planning, & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-22 of the Twenty-First [21st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be accepted with the under-mentioned inclusions:

[ii] *Special Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on 08/04/08,17/04/08, 22/04/08 & 24/04/08.*

[ii] *List of Vouchers dated 24-28 April, 2008.*

1187. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-22 of the Twenty-First [21st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be adopted with the above mentioned inclusions.

[v] **FESTIVALS COMMITTEE**

1188. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2008 be adopted.

1189. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendation of the Twenty-First [21st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-7 of the Twenty-First [21st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008 be accepted.

1190. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-7 of the Twenty-First [21st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2008 be adopted.

[vi] **HERITAGE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE.**

1191. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2008 be adopted.

1192. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Twenty-First [21st] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008 be accepted.

1193. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Twenty-First [21st] Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Twenty-First [21st] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008 be adopted.

[vii] YOUTH, CITIZEN LIAISON & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1194. **Adoption of the Minutes the Twentieth [20th] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008 be adopted.

1195. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports & Recommendations Nos.1-6 of the Twenty-First [21st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be accepted.

1196. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Twenty-First [21st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports & Recommendations Nos.1-6 of the Twenty-First [21st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be adopted.

[viii] COMMUNICATION, SECURITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE.

1197. **Adoption of Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2008 be adopted.

1198. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-5 of the Twenty-First [21st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008 be accepted.

1199. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-5 of the Twenty-First [21st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 08, 2008 be adopted.

[ix] SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:-

1200. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2008 be adopted.

1201. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Twenty-First [21st] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008 be accepted.

1202. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Twenty-First [21st] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008 be adopted.

[x] PLANNING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

1203. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2008 be adopted.

1204. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008.**

RESOLVED: -Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-15 of the Twenty-First [21st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008 be accepted.

1205. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008.**

RESOLVED: -Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-15 of the Twenty-First [21st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2008 be adopted.

[xi] GENDER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

1206. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2008 be adopted.

1207. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-4 of the Twenty-First [21st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008 be accepted.

1208. **Adoption of the Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-4 of the Twenty-First [21st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2008 be adopted.

[xii] BUILDING COMMITTEE:

1209. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Building Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twentieth [20th] Building Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008 be adopted.

1210. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Development Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-10 of the Twenty-First [21st] Building Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be accepted with the under mentioned inclusions:-

[i] Building plan Application Nos. 1-6 in favor of Margaret Assiu and others.

[ii] Building layout Application Nos. 12/08 in favor of Dr. Stephen Ramroop.

1211. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-First [21st] Building Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-10 of the Twenty-First [21st] Building Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2008 be adopted with the above mentioned inclusions.

1212. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (i) Letter from R.I.C inviting the Corporation to a Seminar on 6th May, 2008 from 3.00 – 5.00 p.m. at Lion's Civic Centre, Siparia.

RESOLVED:- Planning Officer to attend.

- (ii) Letter from La Romain Government School requesting speed humps.

1213. **MATTERS REFERRED: -** NIL

1214. **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS: -** NIL

1215. **REPORTS AND REPLIES: -** NIL

1216. **PETITIONS: -** NIL

1217. **QUESTIONS:**

- (i) Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan enquired about road marking paint that the Corporation bought. The Chief Executive Officer informed that the Corporation bought the paint, but Traffic Management would do the road markings.
- (ii) Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh enquired when Mr. Mahadeo Bissoon will be paid. The Chief Executive Officer said this issue was between his Attorney and the Ministry's Attorney.
- (iii) Councillor Premchand Sookoo enquired about the Mid-Year Review. The Chief Executive Officer replied that the Ministry would only entertain the request for wages and rent.
- (iv) Councillor Premchand Sookoo also enquired about the request for additional funds for extension of Truck Borne Water. The Chief Executive Officer replied that the Permanent Secretary said that no additional funding would be available for water.
- (v) Councillor Premchand Sookoo also asked if the virement for Heritage Festival Week was approved. The Accountant said the virement was approved.
- (vi) Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh enquired how soon the Hillpiece Recreation Ground Pavilion would get electricity connection. Ms. Sharla Ramkissoon said she was awaiting Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) to make the connection.
- (vii) Councillor Rampersad Hardial stated that a contract was awarded for Clarke Rochard Recreation Ground Jogging Track and materials were dropped, however no work has started and Councillor Premchand Sookoo also stated that a contract was awarded for Congo Village Turf Wicket but no work started.

Ms. Sharla Ramkissoon indicated that those contracts should be terminated since, despite several attempts made to get the Contractor to start, work has not yet started.

- (viii) Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh enquired in what capacity Ms. Sharla Ramkissoon was advising the Council. It was already discussed at meetings with respect to a Regular Worker acting above a Permanent Worker with its legal implications, and Council would not be held responsible for any legal action.
- (ix) Councillor Diptee Ramnath enquired about electricity supply for Kay Trace Recreation Ground, Coora Road Recreation Ground and Mendez Trace Hard Surface Court.

1218. **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS:** - NIL

1219 **MOTION:-** NIL

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS

1220 **Councillor Roy Kissoon made the undermentioned comments / requests.**

- (i) The Contractor who did work at Jacksingh Street continues to say they would start paving the roads but were just not starting. With this new Contractor he hoped the Corporation put things in place to avoid the same issues.
- (ii) Pipes were received twice from Petrotrin and, although he continuously pleaded, his Electoral District received none.
- (iii) He requested the two [2] poles that were condemned at Woodland Recreation Ground be used at La Fortune Recreation Ground for perimeter lighting.
- (iv) Thanked the Municipal Police for work done in La Romain where gangs couldn't work because of harassment by residents.

1221 **Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan made the undermentioned comments / requests.**

- (i) Requested the backhoe to do work at Rajin's Grocery where that cookout is to be held. Also requested sixteen [16] stage forms for his cookout.
- (ii) Required trucks to transport earthfill to Apollo Recreation Ground.
- (iii) Requested Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for refreshments for meeting with Digits Trace Community Council.
- (iv) The depression at the Junction of Lahoo's Road and Oliverie Drive, Penal needed to be filled.
- (v) The Principal of Picton Presbyterian School told him that he attended a meeting with Ministry of Education with respect to relocation. His school would no longer fall under the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation but in St. Patrick. Councillor Ramlakhan indicated that this Corporation is doing a good job and has brought the region to a high standard.

1222 **Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan made the undermentioned comments / requests.**

- (i) There is a shortage of pipe borne water supply in areas such as Lower Clarke Road and Upper Old Clarke Road, amongst other areas in his Electoral District, but the residents continue to receive W.A.S.A bills. The residents plan to visit W.A.S.A, Penal and if no positive action then they would have to strike.
- (ii) Thanked the Transport Foreman for providing transport for earthfill, and requested the backhoe to work at Razack Ali Street, Lengua.
- (iii) Requested Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for refreshments for a meeting on 5th May, 2008 with the new Sunrise Cultural Group at 5.30 p.m.

1223 **Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh made the undermentioned comments / requests.**

- (i) Expressed disappointment with the business community's non-contribution towards the Heritage Festival.
- (ii) Expressed disappointment that the Ministry of Local Government did not accede to the requests in the Mid-Year Review, nor for additional funds for Truck Borne Water. Also in the length of time they take in virement approvals.
- (iii) The newly formed State Companies were to assist the Penal/Debe Corporation in areas that were taken away from the Corporation. So far we have not benefited from any services either from PURE, RDC, PSAEL, or Sportt Company. The Roads continue to deteriorate, no sporting facility by Sportt Company and, although requests were made over three (3) years for paving of streets, nothing has been done to date and the Corporation continues to spot patch.
- (iv) Although he made several request to agencies to ease the heavy traffic congestion at Debe Intersection nothing has been done.
- (v) The Palmiste Park falls under the Corporation now and we must ensure that the vendors are identified and rental fee for the booths are paid to the Corporation.
- (vi) Disappointed that Mr. Mahadeo Bissoon has not been paid yet for his consultancy and that the matter had to reach to the Courts. Every Member of Council was satisfied with his work and if the Corporation had implemented the recommendations it would be far advanced in agriculture.
- (vii) Public Health continues to be a major issue without a Public Health Inspector, leaving the Corporation open to legal action both by workers in the Health Section and members of the public and Council would not be held responsible.
- (viii) The poverty rate is at its lowest in Penal/Debe where people depend mostly on agriculture since the closure of Caroni (1975) Ltd. The services of NEDCO and HOPE in offering small loans would benefit the people and we should embrace their services which would uplift the status of the people. The Council already gave approval for them to use Penal Office but was told that there are legal implications.
- (ix) He was informed that work would start on the Palmiste Sewer System and hoped the Ministry keeps their commitment.

- (x) Requested a garbage bin for the Palmiste Park.

1224 **Councillor Diptee Ramnath made the undermentioned comments / requests.**

- (i) Complimented the efforts of the Chairman, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer, however, there are a lot of short comings with regards to the level/standard of work because sometimes the jobs require expert skills, and we should look at consultancy services to ensure professional work.
- (ii) Wooden bridges in the Corporation continue to deteriorate. The Ministry of Agriculture is doing a project in the Poodai Lagoon and requested the Corporation's approval to construct a bridge which would greatly abate some flooding and improve irrigation for farmlands.
- (iii) Requested the Surveyor identify the roadway off LP #272 Rock Road, Penal.
- (iv) Requested the Rock Road Cemetery and Batchyia Cemetery be maintained more regularly and the road verges be cleared.
- (v) Wished everyone the best for the upcoming Heritage Week.

1225 **Councillor Premchand Sookoo made the undermentioned comments / requests.**

- (i) The Minister of Local Government, Mrs. Hazel Manning was scheduled to visit the Corporation on 5th March, 2008, on 12th March, 2008, and on 9th April, 2008, however each date was postponed without explanations.
- (ii) He requested at the Public Health meeting the start and end point for scavenging Area #5. There is a garbage truck working in Ramai Trace and environs without the Area # written.
- (iii) It is alledged that a contract was awarded for the complete washing of the Penal Market and requested a complete investigation.
- (iv) Requested the Police to investigate ten - wheeler trucks transporting earthfill along newly paved Boodoo Trace, Jamoonie Trace etc.
- (v) The various Companies such as RDC, PURE, CEPEP, URP, PSAEL are treating this Corporation with utter contempt and disregarding all requests for dialogue, especially since many of the Corporation services were given to these companies.
- (vi) Enquired into the position with the IRIAD jobs of \$1.6 million. These jobs were already inspected and approved but haven't started.

1226. **There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and terminated the meeting at 11.05 a.m.**

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Chairman
Statutory Meeting

