



**SINT EUSTATIUS
CARIBISCH NEDERLANDS**

**List of decisions and commitments – Island Council meeting, July 13th, 2023, at V.A. Lopes
Legislative Hall Government Guest House**

Commissioners present:

Chairlady Island Council: Ms. M.A.U Francis

Island Commissioner (s) Mr. Reuben Merkman / Mrs. Arlene Spanner- Schmidt

Island Council members present:

Councilman G. Schmidt

Council lady M. Lopes- Spanner

Council lady R. Spanner- Carty

Councilman C. van Putten

Councilman R. Leerdam

Commissioners Present:

- Mr. R. Merkman

- Mrs. A. Spanner-Schmidt

Registrar office present: Deputy Registrar- M. Humphreys

	Agenda point	Decisions & Commitments
1.	Opening Meeting commenced at 9:42am	
2.	Announcements Chairlady Francis: Changes made the to agenda to be handled by agenda point 3.	
3.	Setting of agenda Chairlady Francis: stated that a mistake was made by agenda Point 4 – Strategic Development plan – this should have been Spatial Development Plan Chairlady Francis: Agenda point 4 was not sent to the Island Council based on yesterday's Central Committee meeting yesterday July 12 th .	Chairlady Francis: The Council has agreed and decided to remove agenda point 4 from the agenda for todays Island Council meeting. Chairlady Francis: The Council has approved the new proposed agenda as it has been adjusted.



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	<p>Chairlady Francis: In accordance with the Rules of Order Article subsection 4 the Island Council can remove or add subjects from the agenda. Looks for the approval of the Council to remove agenda point 4 Spatial Development Plan</p> <p>Councilman Schmidt: Stated that he will present a motion with regards to the agenda point 4 Annual Account 2022.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Annual Account 2022</u></p> <p>Chairlady Francis: Gave a brief elaboration of the Annual Account 2022. The chairlady stated that this is the first time since the intervention that the Island Council will have the opportunity to approve the report of Annual account 2022. On July 12th the central committee received a presentation by the finance department.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: Requested 15 min recess to speak with his faction & commissioners pertaining to the 1.4 million positives as there are concerns from his faction.</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: The island Council has a motion to present. It was agreed that the first speaker Councilman Glenville Schmidt will present this Motion & address the topic.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: elaborated on the Annual Account 2022</p> <p>Councilman Schmidt: Gave elaboration of the surplus on the annual account & will question the concerns he has and will like more clarification on the process he has pertaining to this.</p>	<p>Chairlady Francis: With the agreement of the council the meeting will be adjourned for 15 minutes.</p>



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<p>Councilman Schmidt: Read the Motion as presented.</p> <p>Council lady Spanner – Carty: elaborated her concerns pertaining to the Annual budget 2022. Stated her concerns that even though progress was made that we have covered 5 of the 8 requirements that are needed, the 3 that are missing are still very important for the return of democracy.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: elaborated his concerns. Stated he will not support the annual account but support the motion.</p> <p>Council lady Leerdam: elaborated her concerns & would like to know what the real situation pertaining to the budget as she has been asking for it and never received it.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: Proposed a recess of the meeting to gain answers to questions posed by the Council.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: would like to receive answers from the commissioners today pertaining to the annual account and stated that a suspension will be necessary for this to happen.</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: this meeting was suspended for 1 hours for the commissioners to get answers to the questions posed by the council.</p> <p>Meeting resumed at 12:32pm</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: the commissioner of Finance will answer the questions of the Island Council &, if necessary, the director customer service & of business operations and will assist the commissioner with answering.</p>	<p>Commissioner Merkman: stated that the questions asked are being worked on. and the questions pertaining to the current overview of the state of affairs relating to the financial management that is now being worked on within the second quarterly report where the income and the realization of the income and the expense of the OLE will be given.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: answered the questions of the council. also shared a document of the overview of the expense request for the 1st quarter and by the end of July a 2nd quarter of expenses will be shared.</p>
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<p>Commissioner Merkman: stated that in 2023 we are looking to clean up 3 points which were. They are working on those right now. The AO/IC is one of the biggest and it's a lengthy process. For a positive accountant's declaration that process will have to go on for a complete year. We are not expecting 2023 to have an approved statement but a tighter status.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: Provided document pertaining to the perspective of the year of the different projects.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: requested that the director of customer service and business operations come to give some insight on the first quarter with regards to the 3 processes "normen kader".</p> <p>Mrs. Lisette Bor: stated that the Normen kader has been determined it is permanent and elaborates on the process of AO/IC & the consultants role.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: would like to know what the task of the consultancy would be and how much is it costing the taxpayers and for how long will they be here.</p> <p>Mrs. Lisette Bor: a few of the consultants will be working on specific subjects and by the end of this year most of the tasks will be accomplished. The money from financial management is where we are paying the consultants from. The effect is positive.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: would like more clarification on how much money it would cost for the consultancy.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: one of the questions from Councilman van Putten asked if the monies are coming from our budget, we have a money project from BZK to deal with that so no its not coming</p>	<p>Mrs. Lisette Bor: will share the task what the consultants are coming to do. Regarding the cost in the quarterly 2 report budget vs realization, we can provide that information.</p>
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<p>from our budget its coming from special funds from BZK.</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: state that one of the questions council lady Leerdam has always asked is when the budget right has return what if. In the agreement with the state secretary on Budget right I believe there is a 1.4 million for the verbetertraject on the finance so to answer the question it is a bijzondere beschikking that is not out of the normal budget.</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: a copy of the motion has been given to us and is signed by all 5 members of the Island Council. The motion will be read by the Deputy Registrar.</p> <p>Councilman Schmidt: stated that finance will remain a challenge from some time to come but we see positive steps are being taken with regards to the AO/IC. Feels there will be better reporting from finance based on the new process.</p> <p>Council lady Lopes: stated that a better job must be done to control spending at all levels. There is not much movement on local income which means our economy is not growing. The question we must consider is what the plans from government are to make change in these developments.</p> <p>Council lady Spanner- Carty: Asked a question to the council. there was motion presented this morning by our colleague Mr. Schmidt & if my other colleagues feel their reservations to vote on the jaarrekening will the motion be able to stand as is without the approval of the jaarrekening (annual account)</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: read Articles 29 & 32 FIN-BES</p>	<p>Councilman van Putten: request that the commissioner provide an overview from 2018 to present from holland or regular budget the amount of money that government locally or nationally would have paid for these consultancies.</p>
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<p>Councilman Schmidt: The approval of the jaarrekening and the passing of the motion are to complete separate actions. Even we don't accept the jaarrekening the Minister will determine it anyway on the advice of the CFT. The issue of the Motion is simply saying that if the Minister agrees there is surplus, we would like to have the motion in place to reserve those funds as we suggested. We are taking proactive action.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: has a document that contradicts the motion and this I believe was put in place by the unit manager of finance which states to add the positive result of 2022 of 1.4 million by 2023 to the general reserves. I will support the motion in the event the monies are there that we want to be used for the bestemmings reserve. If not, then it's just not there.</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: is requesting on the commissioners to provide what they will be doing long term short term or medium term addressing all the concerns from the council.</p> <p>Council lady Leerdam: stated that the document she received gave a bit of an answer. The situation does not look bright I will not be supporting the annual account 2022.</p> <p>Commissioner Merkman: Elaborated on the economic growth possibilities on the island. Regarding the short term and longer-term last year, the council has come up with a short term and long-term goal for Statia.</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: we will now go over to the voting of the annual account.</p> <p>Councilman Schmidt: I vote for the year account.</p> <p>Council lady Lopes- Spanner: I vote for</p>	<p>Commissioner Spanner: stated that she would like to indicate that the information in this year report is still new information, and these are figures from 2022 currently the second quarterly report for 2023 is being worked on and will be finalized within the next two (2) weeks. To make long term and short-term goals we need to know what we have available and how much we have and how we can plan. I would like to ask, with the permission of the Island Council members, to please give us some time. So, when we get these figures, we can sit down and brainstorm and put proper planning in place & then we can present it to the island Council.</p>
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	<p>Council lady Spanner- Carty: I vote for</p> <p>Councilman van Putten: Motivated his vote and voted against.</p> <p>Council lady Leerdam: against</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: The Annual Account report 2022 is carried 3 for 2 against.</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: The motion has been adopted by acclamation and signed by all 5 members of the Island Council.</p>	
5.	<p>Announcements executive Council and Gov. Com (Art. 49/50 RVO IC)</p> <p>Chairlady Francis: The Executive Council & Island Council will be in recess from 18 July until 15 August.</p>	
7.	<p>Closing</p>	13:53pm

Adopted on2023.

2nd Deputy Registrar,

Ms. M. Robins-Spanner

The Chairlady of the Island Council,

Ms. M.A.U Francis