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**MINUTES OF THE 185<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd MAY 2024 AT 9.00 AM**

- PRESENT:           Acting Governor, Mr. Perin Bradley
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, Economic  
                          Development & Investment and Health, Dr. Ellis Webster
- Acting Deputy Governor, Mr. Karim Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs,  
                          Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services AND  
                          Acting Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing  
                          and Tourism, Ms. Dee-Ann Kentish- Rogers
- The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour,  
                          Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting,  
                          Lands and Physical Planning, Mr. Kenneth Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Sustainability, Innovation and  
                          Environment, Mrs. Quincia Gumbs-Marie
- The Honourable Attorney General, Mr. Dwight Horsford
- Clerk to Executive Council, Ms. Dumisa Webster
- IN ATTENDANCE: The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Merrick Richardson
- Financial Advisor, Mr. Evarist Mwesigye
- Head of Governor's Office, Mr. Orlando Ames-Lewis
- ABSENT:           Her Excellency the Governor, Ms. Julia Crouch
- The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications,  
                          Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr. Haydn Hughes

**EX MIN 24/126**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Financial Adviser and Head of Governor's Office remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Council held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, with amendment to Ex Min 24/ 119.

**EX MIN 24/127**

**EX MEMO 24/88 Waiver of Temporary Food Premises Permit for the Annual Welches Village Fest**

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Financial Adviser and Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Premier and Minister for Health and Finance briefed Council. The Welches Community hosts a 'Village Fest' annually and this year's festival took place on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Fredrick Harrigan Playing Field in Welches from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The festival provides attendees with an authentic experience of life through showcasing traditional food, music implements and more.

Food vendors for this festival typically require a Food Handlers Permit to sell food. The fee charged for this permit, including in a temporary form, has been set at EC\$60.00 pursuant to Ex Memo 03/01. A historical precedent exists where exemptions are granted to participants in such festivities. The food vendors for the annual Welches Village Fest have therefore requested a waiver of the fees for the Temporary Premises Permit to allow them to operate on that day. As such, it is proposed that the fees for temporary food premises permits for that day be granted in accordance Section 16 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act R.S.A. Ch. F027.

The granting of the Temporary Food Premises Permit waiver may result in tax loss of approximately EC\$600.00 for a total of 10 vendors.

Executive Council considered and approved the proposed waiver from Temporary Food Premises Permit associated with the annual Village Fest which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**ACTION: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON PREM.**

**EX MIN 24/128**

**EX MEMO 24/89 Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission- Commencement Date**

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Financial Adviser and Head of Governor's Office remained.

PAS, Finance, Ms. Marisa Harding-Hodge and Director, FSC, Ms. Tina Bryan joined the meeting.

PAS, Finance and Director, FSC briefed Council. On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the Bill for Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2024 was given its third and final reading at the House of assembly. This Act allowed for the proposed integration of the Commercial Registry ("Registry") within the Anguilla Financial Services Commission ("AFSC") to support the Registry's fulfilment of its mandate with regards to the required regulatory activities necessary to meet compliance with international standards on tax transparency.

Executive Council has approved:

- 1) The report of the project team regarding the proposed integration of the Registry within AFSC;
- 2) The combined budget for the AFSC and Registry; and
- 3) The Draft Integration of Registry into the Financial Services Commission (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2024.

Some adjustments were made to the Draft Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2024 to address issues, including, the transfer of staff to the Commission and transfer of funds collected by the Commercial Registry for services not yet rendered to company/registered agents.

Revisions have been made to the combined budget of the Commercial Registry and Financial Services Commission due to the integration date being pushed back to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. The proposed integration framework for the transition of the Registry takes into consideration the proposed revenue sharing arrangement between the AFSC and Government of Anguilla. Combined revenues from the Registry and the AFSC will cover all expenditure of the Registry and the AFSC. It is additionally requested that funds be set aside annually for reserves. It is contemplated that the revenue will be

shared with Government quarterly based on management accounts with any adjustments made after the audited accounts. The reserve amount will be determined on audited financial statements. The AFSC's annual budget will continue to be approved by Governor in Council, in accordance with Section 15 of the AFSC Act.

The AFSC's projected budget deficit for 2024 is approximately EC\$2.7M including capital expenditure. The forecast anticipates a balanced budget because of the retained amount of EC\$3.5M. This is exclusive of the 10 percent reserves and the government's revenues. The proposal to revenue share with the AFSC does not impact the government's medium term fiscal forecasts (MTFF). Per the forecast in the combined budget, a total of \$4.494 million is anticipated to be transferred to government for the 7 month period in 2024 which is in accordance with forecasts in the MTFF.

Pursuant to section 10 of the Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2024, the prescribed date will be set out in Regulations made under section 57 of the Financial Services Commission Act. Section 18 (3) of the Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act requires publication of a notice in the Gazette of certain provisions of the Act to allow them to come into effect.

Council approved:

- 1) Draft Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission (Prescribed Date) Regulations 2024;
- 2) Notice of Commencement Date- Integration of Registry into Financial Services Commission (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2024;
- 3) Revised combined budget of the AFSC and the Registry

ACTION: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON. PREM.

**EX MIN 24/129**

**EX MEMO 24/90 Signing of the Agreement with Music City Events**

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Financial Adviser and Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Minister of Social Development and Education briefed Council. Anguilla has won the bid to host next year's Music Tourism Convention (MTC). MTC is one of the largest and most extensive conferences that explores the value of music to tourism and destination branding in the world. This conference brings together the top global minds from tourism boards, festival and events, cities, brands and the music industry to explore the ability of music to impact, benefit and improve tourism. The MTC offers branding, investment and economic development and allows for the establishment of best practices for connecting music to destination marketing and branding.

Music City Events was first introduced to the Ministry of Social Development and Education (MDSE) through Sound Diplomacy, a leading global advisor on music strategies and market development. Sound Diplomacy has worked with the Ministry and Department of Youth and Culture to develop an assessment of Anguilla's cultural ecosystem and make several recommendations for its further development. Sound Diplomacy invited Anguilla to bid to host the prestigious MTC for 2025.

Hosting the MTC poses several benefits to Anguilla which include, but are not limited to, a boost in Anguilla's tourism product, global positioning as a leading music city and music tourism destination, extensive media reach, promotion to a network of 40,000 leaders around the world, and an increase in local business revenue profits and taxes paid through visitors' use of car rentals, taxis, expenditure at restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, and payment of departure tax and GST.

The signing of the agreement with Music City Events is proposed. The signing of the agreement will require Government of Anguilla expenditure in 2025 totaling EC\$432,300, with the first half of that total being expended in late January/early February.

Executive Council:

- 1) Considered and approved the signing of the agreement with Music City Events to host the 2025 Music Tourism Convention in Anguilla next November.
- 2) Noted that the Honourable Minister for Social Development and Education is to provide, at a next Executive Council Meeting, a memorandum which details the full economic impact of hosting the Music Tourism Convention on Anguilla.

ACTION: PS, MSDE; HON. MIN., MSDE.

**EX MIN 24/130**

**EX MEMO 22/252 Application for Issue of Licence Under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act- Diane Marie Frame and Robert Edward Frame- Registration Section: East End, Block 99315 b, Parcel 91 Being 0.51 of an Acre**  
Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Financial Adviser and Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs and Lands briefed Council. In 1991, the former owner of the property executed a RL Transfer Form as the applicants were unsure of their intentions for development. Ex Min 22/347 notes:

“Council deferred the paper and the Ministry shall review and revert. Noting that the Ministry shall review certain matters, including, Government's policy on the ability of aliens to hold land where there is no plan to develop it, whether there is any legal requirement for land owned by an alien to be developed and whether land which is owned by an alien may be kept for use as open space. The Ministry shall review the conditions for the grant of an ALHL and whether any conditions were put in place in relation to this transaction, particularly as this is formalising a historic land transaction that has already taken place. The Ministry shall also consider whether the application meets the requirements for an ALHL, as there is no intention to develop the land. Typically, an applicant would be required to have outline planning permission in place before an application for an ALHL is made.”

The Ministry in response to Ex Min 22/347 notes that on occasions Executive Council has granted Alien Land Holding Licences (ALHL) under exceptional conditions where there is no plan to develop it,

and the land may be kept for use as open space. Furthermore, no conditions were in place as it relates to this transaction, as the Ministry would not have been aware of such beforehand, considering that it is a private transaction, which took place many years ago and the parties have now decided to register their interest.

The Ministry supports the request that the prospective purchasers be allowed to purchase the property for the reasons stated above.

Executive Council approved the granting of an Aliens Land Holding Licence to Diane Marie Frame and Robert Edward Frame to hold on a freehold basis, property situated in Registration Section: East End, Block 99315 B, described as Parcel 91 being 0.52 of an acre located at Sea Feather, Anguilla for residential purposes, subject to the following:

(a) Payment of the following Stamp Duties

(i) under the Stamp Act- 5% of EC\$107,528.00	EC\$ 5,376.40
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(ii) under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act- 6.25% of EC\$107,528.00	EC\$ 6,720.50
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(iii) Refundable Deposit- 10% EC \$107,528.00	EC\$10,752.80
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>EC\$22,849.70</u></b>
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(b) The property must be used for residential purposes;

(c) The Applicant be granted exemption on an exceptional basis on Government Policy restricting Aliens to purchase no more than half an acre of land and the requirement to obtaining planning permission, on the grounds that the Applicants had originally purchased the property in 1991;

(d) The License shall fully comply with the laws of Anguilla in forced from time to time including the Land Development Control Act, the Property Tax Act, the Building Regulations, the Labour Relations Act 2018 and Work Permit Regulations, the Social Security Act, the Immigration and Passport Regulations and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and any rules or regulations made there under.

ACTION: PS, HA; DLS; HON MIN, HA.

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