



GANNAWARRA

Shire Council

Wednesday, 15 February 2017

7:00pm

Kerang Council Chambers

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

15 February 2017

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**MINUTES OF GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KERANG
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7:00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Brian Gibson, Cr Lorraine Learmonth, Cr Mark Arians, Cr Steven Tasker, Cr Jodie Basile, Cr Sonia Wright, Cr Charlie Gillingham

IN ATTENDANCE: Eric Braslis – Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Rollinson – Director Infrastructure and Development, Tom O'Reilly - Director Corporate Services, Mandy Hutchinson – Director Community Wellbeing, and Lisa Clue – Manager Governance

Gallery: 1

Media: 1

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land, and paid his respect to elders both past and present.

2 OPENING PRAYER

The Deputy Mayor read the Opening Declaration

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sonia Wright

Seconded: Cr Lorraine Learmonth

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 December 2016 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Charlie Gillingham declared an indirect interest in relation to item 8.5, due to his membership on the Northern District Community Health board.

6 QUESTION TIME

Mr Max Fehring of Cohuna asked a number of questions in relation to the issuance of building permits and the Councillor Code of Conduct of which were directly responded to by the Mayor, the third related to the current EPA review asking if Council will be making a submission. The Mayor advised that we would get back to Mr Fehring on this matter.

7 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

7.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS DECEMBER 22, 2016 TO FEBRUARY 15, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present to Council the Assembly of Councillors Record Forms – Thursday 12 January 2017, Friday 3 February and Tuesday 7 February 2017, Kerang Council Chambers.

Note: Cr Arians was not an apology at the 3 February 2016 Briefing.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Jodie Basile

That Council notes the records of Assembly of Councillors from Thursday 22 December, 2016 to Wednesday 15 February, 2017.

CARRIED

8 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

8.1 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its November 2016 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to give notice of its intention to fix the Councillor allowance at \$19,350 per annum and the Mayoral allowance at \$57,812 (exclusive of annual indexation), and apply an amount equivalent to the 9.5% superannuation guarantee to each. Council also resolved to consult with the community by giving 28 days' notice of its intention to set Councillor Allowances and consider, and if requested hear, any submission received at a future meeting of Council.

Public Notice was given in the Gannawarra News, published 22 November 2016 and submissions invited until 20 December 2016. No submissions were received.

Having complied with relevant sections of the *Local Government Act* 1989, Council may now adopt Mayoral and Councillor allowances as detailed in the Public Notice, for the term of the current Council (2016 – 2020).

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lorraine Learmonth

Seconded: Cr Mark Arians

That Council fix the level of allowance, as per the banding levels set by the Minister for Local Government under section 73B of the *Local Government Act* 1989 at:

- 1. Councillor Allowance - \$19,350 per annum and an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee of 9.5 per cent of the relevant allowance, equating to \$21,188 (exclusive of annual indexation).**
- 2. Mayoral Allowance - \$57,812 per annum and an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee of 9.5 per cent of the relevant allowance, equating to \$63,304 (exclusive of annual indexation).**

CARRIED

8.2 2016 VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION COUNCIL ELECTION REPORT**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 requires that a Returning Officer must prepare a report to the Chief Executive Officer on the conduct of an election within the period of three months after an Election Day and that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that the report is submitted to Council at the earliest practicable meeting of the Council held after the report is received.

On Friday, 20 January 2017 the VEC Electoral Commissioner, on behalf of Mardi Messer – the Returning Officer, submitted a report on the conduct of the Gannawarra Shire Council General Election 2016.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lorraine Learmonth

Seconded: Cr Sonia Wright

That Council receive and note the Victorian Electoral Commission Election Report on the Gannawarra Shire Council General Election 2016 as attached to this report.

CARRIED

8.3 CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER - QUARTERLY REPORT**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Customer Service Charter is an important element of the development of a customer focused approach to service delivery and is reported against quarterly to ensure staff are maintaining a high standard of service and implementing new processes to ensure standards are continually achieved.

The report details the 41 standards which make up the Charter with results showing 38 standards having been met for the October to December quarter.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jodie Basile

Seconded: Cr Lorraine Learmonth

That Council;

- 1. Receive and note the Customer Service Charter Quarterly report, October to December 2016.**
- 2. Change the standard of responding to routine domestic animals complaints from one business day to 5 business days.**

CARRIED

8.4 FINANCIAL REPORT QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At 31 December 2016 Council is showing an operating surplus of \$6.497 million which is lower than the budgeted surplus for the same period by \$0.053 million. Operating income has a favourable variance of \$426k, expenditure an unfavourable variance of \$516k and a favourable variance on capital grants received to date of \$57k.

The budgeted underlying deficit of \$231k for the 2016/17 year is estimated to increase by \$361k giving a forecast underlying deficit of \$592k by year end. There are a number of reasons for this change and these are detailed in the attachment as a 'Summary of Permanent Adjustments'. Officers will be reviewing all income and expenditure over the balance of the financial year to identify any potential savings to minimise this change.

Council's Capital Works program is progressing as scheduled. The capital budget for 2016/17 is \$10.433m - this includes budgeted new works and budgeted carried forward works. At the end of December an amount of \$3.523 million had been spent on budgeted works with an additional amount of \$254k on carried forward works and new projects, giving a total spend of \$3.777 million.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Sonia Wright

That Council receive the report outlining the 2016/2017 quarterly budget review as at 31 December 2016.

CARRIED

8.5 COUNCIL POLICY NO. 104 - RATES SUBSIDY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council Officers undertake regular reviews of Council policies to ensure they are up to date and reflective of current practices. This report deals with Policy No. 104 – Rates Subsidy which has been reviewed and slightly changed to provide clarity as to eligibility and also the application process.

BACKGROUND

Given the process of preparing the annual budget and associated rating strategy is currently underway, the review of Policy No. 104 – Rates Subsidy is both timely and relevant.

POLICY CONTEXT

Council Plan 2013 – 2017 - Effective Leadership and Management: Council maximises its financial capability whilst paying close attention to risk factors and statutory requirements.

DISCUSSION

The following amendments to the Policy have been made:

Additional wording has been included in the Policy Statement to ensure that staff employed by an organisation are operating on a voluntary basis. The effect of this additional wording results in an organisation which remunerates staff in the carrying out of its functions will no longer be eligible for the subsidy i.e. Northern District Community Health Service.

Section 3. Approved Organisations has been added, to remove the requirement for organisations that have previously been approved for the subsidy, from having to reapply each year. Approved organisations will need to confirm their continued entitlement following any review of this Policy.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charlie Gillingham

Seconded: Cr Steven Tasker

That Council endorse the reviewed Council Policy No. 104 - Rates Subsidy as attached to this report.

CARRIED

8.6 CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide Council with an update on the progress of the 2016/17 Capital Works Program.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Mark Arians

Seconded: Cr Lorraine Learmonth

That Council;

- 1. Receive and note the Capital Works Program Update; and**
- 2. Receive and note the significant project variations contained with the report being**
 - a. Quambatook Flood Mitigation Project**
 - b. Closed Landfill Rehabilitation**
 - c. Wells Bridge Contract Variation to increase the height of the bridge.**

CARRIED

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

10 URGENT ITEMS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 DELEGATES REPORTS

12.1 DELEGATES REPORT - THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER TO WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Cr Brian Gibson

Councillor Gibson has nominated to be on the 2017 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel, representing Small Rural Councils.

22 Dec	GSC Staff Christmas Party
26 Dec	Kerang Races

31 Dec	NYE Celebrations at Koondrook, Cohuna & Kerang
9 Jan	Meeting with CEO re Ministers Visit
10 Jan	Meeting with Minister Pulford – Koondrook
12 Jan	Radio Interview Building Better Regions Fund Meeting – Kerang
19 Jan	Australia Day Luncheon – Melbourne
20 Jan	Radio Interview
23 Jan	Australia Day Awards Civic Reception – Kerang
24 Jan	Meeting with CEO Meeting with solar company Acciona
25 Jan	Breakfast meeting with Kerang Progress members Meeting with Taskforce manager re tender Australia Day Ambassador Dinner – Koondrook
26 Jan	Australia Day Celebrations – Kerang
31 Jan	Meeting with CEO Meet the Principal at Kerang Christian College Taskforce afternoon tea and thankyou Presentation from David Wolfe, Local Government Inspector – Kerang
2 Feb	Radio Interview – MixxFM
3 Feb	Meeting re Project Moo Moo – Kerang World Bra Unclipping Theatre Night – Cohuna
5 Feb	Breakfast with the Birds with NCCMA
7 Feb	Councillor Induction Training with Susan Benedyka Councillor Briefing – Kerang
8 Feb	Project Launch of LGHSEN Health Needs Analysis – Dingee Murrabit Community Meeting
10 Feb	MAV Emergency Management Committee Meeting – Melbourne Zootopia Movie Night at Kerang Swimming Pool
13 Feb	Reception for Richmond Football Club Players and Officials
14 Feb	Meeting with CEO Ordinary Council Meeting - Kerang

Cr Mark Arians

Report not provided

Cr Jodie Basile

10 Jan	Meeting with Minister Pulford – Koondrook
12 Jan	Building Better Regions Fund Meeting – Kerang
19 Jan	Australia Day Luncheon - Melbourne
23 Jan	Australia Day Awards Civic Reception – Kerang
25 Jan	Australia Day Ambassador Dinner – Koondrook
26 Jan	Australia Day Celebrations – Quambatook
31 Jan	Presentation from David Wolfe, Local Government Inspector – Kerang
7 Feb	Councillor Induction Training with Susan Benedyka Councillor Briefing Session
8 Feb	Early Years Board Meeting – Kerang
10 Feb	Outdoor Cinema, Zootopia – Kerang Presentation of School Captain Badges at Kerang Primary School
13 Feb	MAV North Central Meeting – Bendigo

15 Feb Loddon Campaspe Meeting - Bendigo
Councillor Only Meeting
February Ordinary Council Meeting – Kerang

Cr Charlie Gillingham

10 Jan Meeting with Minister Pulford – Koondrook
12 Jan Building Better Regions Fund Meeting – Kerang
23 Jan MDA Meeting – Wedderburn
Australia Day Awards Civic Reception
26 Jan Australia Day Celebrations – Kangaroo Lake
Sounds of Meran
29 Jan Quambatook Heritage and Working Machinery Assoc.
30 Jan Meeting w residents re Wells Bridge
3 Feb Meeting re Project Moo Moo – Kerang
7 Feb Council Briefing – Kerang
15 Feb Ordinary Council Meeting - Kerang

Cr Lorraine Learmonth

10 Jan Meeting with Minister Pulford – Koondrook
12 Jan Meeting at Cohuna Pool with CEO and Cr Wright
Building Better Regions Fund Meeting – Kerang
19 Jan Australia Day Luncheon – Melbourne
22 Jan Volunteer at Gateway – Cohuna
23 Jan Australia Day Awards Civic Reception
25 Jan Australia Day Ambassador Dinner – Koondrook
26 Jan Australia Day Breakfast Celebrations – Cohuna
Cohuna Ladies Australia Day Lunch
Australia Day BBQ – Leitchville
31 Jan Presentation from David Wolfe, Local Government Inspector – Kerang
2 Feb Murray Darling Basin Plan Drop in Session – Echuca
Meeting with Cr Wright
3 Feb World Bra Unclipping Theatre Night – Cohuna
CCLM Dairy Project
5 Feb NCMA Breakfast with the Birds – Lake Cullen
6 Feb CCLLEN Meeting – Echuca
7 Feb Councillor Induction Training with Susan Bedyka
Councillor Briefing – Kerang
8 Feb Launch of Loddon Gannawarra Health Needs Analysis – Dingee
Elders Meeting – Kerang
9 Feb Senior Advisory Meeting – Kerang
13 Feb MAV Strategic Planning Session
14 Feb Meeting with Cohuna Flyers Group
15 Feb Ordinary Council Meeting – Kerang

Cr Steve Tasker

Report not provided

Cr Sonia Wright

23 Jan Met with RSL member representative re Civic Memorial Park

9 Jan	Met with RSL and Council staff re Civic Memorial Park
10 Jan	Meeting with Minister Pulford – Koondrook
12 Jan	Meeting at Cohuna Pool with CEO and Cr Learmonth Building Better Regions Fund Meeting – Kerang
19 Jan	Wired in the Warra presentation and afternoon tea - Kerang Met with Cohuna Progress Special Events Committee (Next Gen) Cohuna Leitchville RSL Meeting
31 Jan	CVGA Meeting – Castlemaine Presentation from David Wolfe, Local Government Inspector – Kerang
3 Feb	Met with Yarran Ward Councillor Meeting re Project Moo Moo – Kerang World Bra Unclipping Theatre Night – Cohuna
7 Feb	Councillor Induction Training with Susan Benedyka Councillor Briefing – Kerang
8 Feb	Meeting with Murray Dairy member

13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7:44PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Gannawarra Shire Council held on 15 March 2017.

Mayor – Brian Gibson

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CHAIRPERSON