



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**Tuesday 27 March 2018
Ordinary Meeting 6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Stuart Highway, Katherine

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD
AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018**

1. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

I am honoured to be on the ancestral lands of Katherine's Aboriginal peoples. I acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of the continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history. I pay respect to the Elders of the community and extend my recognition to their descendants who are present.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

3. PRESENT

Mayor Fay Miller
Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey
Alderman Jon Raynor
Alderman John Zelle
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts
Alderman Matt Hurley

In attendance

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Claire Johansson – Chief Operating Officer
Ms Sue Crammond – Executive Assistant to CEO
(Minute Taker)

4 x members of the Katherine Community
0 x members of the Media

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Alderman Raynor – Reminder on leave of absence submitted at February Council Meeting. Away 13 April to 1 May

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 27 February 2018 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

MOVED: Gazey / Clark

That the Confidential Minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting held on the 27 February 2018 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NIL

7. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Member Disclosure of Interest and Declared Interest

NIL

8. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Mayoral Business to be considered.

Meeting with Minister Lauren Moss and Chairman of Tourism NT
- Michael Bridge

School Holiday Program Morning Tea – Thank You

Turbocharging Tourism presentation – Knotts Crossing

Pulse of Tourism in Katherine meeting

Meeting with Chief Ministers office x 4

ABC radio interview – re Municipal Boundary

Meeting with Minister Wakefield

Meeting with Territory Families and Children officers

Interview re Resident magazine

Meeting with DLPE Claire Brown

Meeting with community member x 9

AMPControl meeting – presentation of Big Rivers Master Plan

Supplier Readiness breakfast

ABC Country Hour – re Emungalan Road bridge

Weekend Australian magazine interview

ABC radio interview re Katherine Dump Shop

Tourism video interview – students from Rise Workshop

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Katherine Floods through Community Arts

KWILS Cinema evening – Lindsay Street

International Women's Day – Morning Melodies

International Women's Day – Circle of Women and International Food night

ABC radio interview – re supplier ready program and tourism

Katherine South Primary School – presentation of leadership badges

Power Projects 30th Anniversary Dinner

Elected Members Information Session x 2

Katherine Emergency Committee meeting – teleconference

Meeting with Travel North

Meeting with Senator Scullion
GYRACC panel forum – re Australia Day
Budget Workshop – Katherine Town Council
Meeting with Gorge Health
Purple Hat Day – Kintore Street School
Meeting with CEO Jamie Chalker
Big Rivers Region Economic Development meeting
76th Anniversary of the Bombing of Katherine commemoration
Funeral in Darwin – John Underwood
Meeting with Defence – Vice Marshall Staid, Jason Schoolmeester and David Boustead
Elected Members tour of Visitor Information Centre
Defence and Health Department presentation – re PFAS
LGANT Executive meeting - teleconference

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

NIL

10. PETITIONS

NIL

11. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

11.1 With Notice

NIL

11.2 Without Notice

NIL

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

NIL

13. REPORT OF OFFICERS

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - FEBRUARY 2018

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Chief Executive Officer Report

MOVED: Clark / Hurley

Alderman Tapp-Coutts - Appreciating the new layout of this report which provides information on progress of tasks. It has made it easier to read and note what has been done.

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- Page 5 – DM Gazey – Staff statistics are for the month and not YTD as stated at the top of the table. Statistics alteration required.

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of February 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**13.2 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Corporate and Community Services Reports

MOVED: Hurley / Zelle

DM Gazey – Page 9 – In celebration of Library Lovers months – a “sponsored” \$150 gift voucher from Barrel and Cruz was the \$150 sponsored as there is a corresponding payment in this report?

CEO – Will take on notice

DM Gazey – Page 12 - The figures on the VIC don't appear to be correct. Can we get some clarification?

COO – The figures will be investigated and corrections, if required will be reflected in next month's graph.

Alderman Tapp Coutts –Visitor numbers for the year - January was up and February numbers are down. Mayor Miller, you attended the QANTAS Tourism Awards recently, what was the feeling on Katherine and how do you see Katherine as a tourism destination this year?

Mayor Miller – No negative comments or queries were made around Katherine's issues with PFAS. It is my opinion that tourist usually have their mind made up to come here as part of their itinerary and water quality doesn't appear to impact their decision. I am excited about the prospects for tourism this year.

Mayor Miller - The tour of the VIC we did prior to tonight's meeting was excellent. I thank Maria Helou, our VIC Manager, for the excellent working going on down there. The changes made have been for the better. I suggest we all revisit prior to the onset of the new tourist season to get a better understanding of how the centre runs.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I would like to suggest the public go and see the interactive web screen at the VIC – it's very good. New signage is expected soon which will increase the usage of this new resource. The new mobile sales systems which allows staff to complete sales without having to go back to the sales desk is a great innovation and is improving our customer experience.

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Corporate and Community Services Division for the months of February 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.3 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY 2018

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works and Services Division Reports

MOVED: Hurley / Tapp Coutts

Mayor Miller – An increase of 7000kg in litter collection. Why is that?
COO – Depot staff have done extra work around Katherine East. More residents have moved into the new development and there have been more clean ups.

Alderman Clark – We are still recording an increase in impounded dogs?

CEO – We have a full complement of Rangers working at Council at present. We also have an increase of people coming into town throughout the wet season, with unrestrained animals.

DM Gazey – Page 16 – Hook Bins – Increased in litter coming out of the hook bins at Binjari. I note the contractor working there. Apart from landfill question, are we getting any income from commercial waste?

COO – Will take on notice.

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Works and Services Division Report for the month of February 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Financial Report

MOVED: Gazey / Clark

DM Gazey – 22 and page 23 duplicated.

Alderman Clark – Page 29 – RelianSys -Delegations for \$1000. What is this?

COO – LGANT brought Councils within the NT together to review Local Govt Act. Payment for the review was shared between the Councils.

Alderman Clark – Page 30 - Patow -Transport costs of \$240?

COO – The Baroness mower required transportation to other sites.

Alderman Clark - Page 30 & 31 - Costs of belts vary greatly.

COO – The first belt was an interim measure. The second belt was the correct part. It was noted the price of the belt in Katherine was more expensive than in Darwin.

Alderman Clark - Spray grass at Hot Springs – This seems a very high costs for such a small area?

CEO – We are in a contract with the supplier. High cost is due to an incorrect procedure being followed.

DM Gazey – Page 30 – Remote Civil – Patching on Airport Road. Were the repairs carried out only on sections of the road that are a Council responsibility?

COO – Yes

Alderman Raynor – Costs of transporting a staff member from the Library to the hospital?

COO – This was a medical reason. A staff member fell ill and Council made the call to bring in an Ambulance.

Alderman Zellely – Page 22 – Sundry debtors. Are the 60 and 90 day numbers minus figures?

COO – Yes, brought about by a timing of payment vs invoicing dates.

Alderman Clark – Where a Weighbridge debtor is 90 day overdue paying their bill, do we still allow them to dump?

COO – No. They are not allowed access until their outstanding bill is resolved.

Alderman Gazey – Page 21 – Long term financial planning identifies a short fall of \$10M for WMF. Can we have further information around this, i.e. how are Council planning to address this?

CEO – Core services are identified in the long term financial plan as being the biggest area of concern for Council over the next 5 yrs. We have some cash reserves but we are looking at combination of ways to bridge the gap, i.e. working on Council's fee structure. We are considering options which include loans, recycling charges, how to move to a new facility with minimal costs. \$10M is not a confirmed figure and a feasibility studies will assist us resolve the correct figure.

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of February 2018.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.5 DRAFTING OF BY-LAW FOR THE DUMPING OF WASTE AND RUBBISH ON PUBLIC LAND

File: Legal Documents / Administration / Katherine Town Council By-Laws

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Zellely

DM Gazey – In considering the above we definitely require a By-Law.

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council approve the drafting of a By-Law(s) to address the dumping of waste and rubbish on public land.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (LGANT) – GENERAL MEETING APRIL 2018

File: Government / Council Meetings / Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Hurley / Raynor

DM Gazey - Is available to attend and accepts his nomination

Alderman Tapp-Coutts - Is available to attend and accepts her nomination.

MOVED: Clark / Zellely

That it be recommended to Council to:

1. The nominated delegate(s) attend the LGANT General Meeting as Katherine Town Council's representative group.
2. Registration form be completed and sent to LGANT by 29 March 2018.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Deputy Mayor Gazey

EMIS x 2
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Budget Meeting
Clean Up Australia Day
Hot Date – Panel Discussion

Alderman Clark

EMIS x 2
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Rise Ventures - meeting with Laura
Defence Expo
Showground Advisory Committee
Budget Meeting
Clean Up Australia Day
Travelling Film Festival
Rise Ventures Meeting

Alderman Raynor

EMIS x 2
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Budget Meeting
Clean Up Australia Day
Bombing of Katherine Service

Alderman Tapp Coutts

EMIS x 2
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Budget Meeting
KTC Arts Meeting re Flood Public Art Project
Briefing – Save The Children
International Women's Day Celebrations
GYRACC Board meetings x 2
Hill Billy Horrors Play at MacFarlane School
Katherine Region of Writers at the Library
John Underwood Funeral
Come and Try Sports Day
Hot Date – panel discussion at GYRRACC
Tour of the Visitor Information Centre
Briefing with Defence/NT Govt re PFAS

Alderman Zelle
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
EMIS x 2
Budget Meeting

Alderman Matthew Hurley
Ordinary Meeting of Council
EMIS
Open Forum

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Local Govt. Disciplinary Committee. LGANT would like another 10 nominees. This will provide a pool of twenty (20) persons who can be called upon to decide a matter. It will alleviate possible conflicts of interests and allow for quick decision making.
 - Mayor Miller self-nominated and would like interest from other nominees.
 - Alderman Clark self-nominated.

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Zelle

Recommendation:

That Council resolve to:

To notify LGANT by 29 March of the additional nominees (as above) on the Local Government Disciplinary Committee, so nominees can be selected at the LGANT General Meeting in April.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

Mayor Miller submission

"I would like to place on record my THANKS to the Northern Territory Government for their recent announcement of "Comprehensive Plan to Stop Alcohol-Fuelled Violence" through the introduction of an addition 97 member strong unit within the Northern Territory Police Force. This was a result of the extensive consultation and recommendation that was undertaken by the Riley Review.

For many years our community has been severely impacted by alcohol fuelled violence. Over the years so many ideas have been put forward to try to make a difference. It was not until the previous Government introduced the TBL's (temporary beat locations) in December 2014 that we saw any improvement in our community. That one very significant introduction changed Katherine for the better, and almost overnight. It was an absolute pleasure to be able to at long last concentrate on positive activities in our community rather than always dealing with the negative impact of antisocial behaviour in all forms. Over time the TBL's were changed to POSI's (Point of Sale Intervention). The impact of having Police on bottle shops cannot be underestimated – and was proven just how effective they are when there was an obvious increase in alcohol fuelled violence towards the end of last year. After enquiring as to what could be the cause of this I found that Police had been removed from some bottle shop locations – and the direct result was a very quick slide back to those dark old days.

I am very appreciative of the Northern Territory Government introducing this plan – with 22 police auxiliaries being stationed in Katherine. I am not certain of the number of additional operational staff and prosecutors that will be stationed here – but it is a very good start.

My fervent hope is the during the recruitment and training of this new 97 members strong unit within the NT Police Force, that the police numbers will not be reduced from outside bottle shops. We cannot slide back any further to what was a horrendous time in Katherine. It would not be fair to our community in any way shape or form.”

- Acknowledgement and notice of the funeral on Thursday, 10.00am at the Katherine Showgrounds for a respected Jawoyn Elder who sadly passed away from renal failure at a far too young an age.
- Alderman Clark – Library are launching the Seed Library again this year. If you join the Seed Library you can get free seeds.
- Alderman Clark Deputy Mayor Gazey an I noticed a lot of plastic wine bottles and cans in Railway Tce. Obviously, people are using that area for drinking. Suspect this is a sign of the negative impact removing TBLs is causing.
- Alderman Tapp Coutts – Cleaning of Sabu Singh statue. Issue has been raised again. The surface is deteriorating rapidly due to our harsh climate. I contact the sculpture who said he had provided a cleaning schedule at handover, but the condition indicates that schedule hasn't been carried out. His advice is, it requires the surface taken right back and then redone. This is a costly exercise and we may need to be considered in the 2018-19 Budget discussions.
- Aboriginal Advisory Committee – Developing a policy that is inclusive and that may hopefully lead to Aboriginal people standing for Council positions in the future.
- Alderman Tapp Coutts – Acknowledge the passing of Mr John Underwood, an amazing Katherine resident. John was awarded an Order of Australia Medal a number of years ago. He was a president of the Australian Cattleman's Association, his children attended Katherine School of the Air, his wife was responsible for raising the \$180K for Sabu Singh statue. The Mayor and I attended John's funeral in Darwin, though Katherine was the family's home town.
- Alderman Tapp Coutts – Geoffrey Beere awarded NT Cattleman's Association's Life Medal for contributions to NT pastoral activities.
Mayor Miller – It was lovely to have the “76th Bombing of Katherine” ceremony at the new cenotaph. It was good to have a clean and quiet location for these important memorial events. My thanks to the RSL.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

NIL

18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The fourth Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 24 April 2018.

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.03 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fay Miller', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE