MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015

AT

6.07 PM

Council Chambers Civic Centre
Stuart Highway, Katherine

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015 AT 6.07PM

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1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PRESENT

Mayor Fay Miller
Deputy Mayor Donald Higgins
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Peter Gazey
Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Rob Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Claire Johansson – Director Corporate & Community Services
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager
Ms Rosemary Jennings – Community Support Officer (Minute Taker)

5 x members of the Katherine Community
1 x member of the Media

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Please accept the apologies of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Works & Services, Neroli Dickens.

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Clarke / Tapp-Coutts

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 24 November 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 7/0

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 – Progress of the Lease and Other Associated Matters for the Katherine Civil Airport

Further to 24 November 2015 Ordinary Meeting of Council, the following update item is provided on the airport for Elected Member note:

1. Under the *Progress of the Lease and Other Associated Matters for the Katherine Civil Airport - Item 14.2*, Alderman Clark enquired during the meeting as to the timing of the response from the Department of Defence as a result of items during the meeting on 30 October 2015. A response was received on 30 November 2015 which included the following:

a. Whilst there is no single person who has the authority to make decisions on most matters, Neal McDonald (Base Support Manager), Angeline Samara (Acting Assistant Director Estate Management) or Justine Nordin (Manager Estate and Facilities Services) can take carriage and coordinate any required answers should the authority to make the decision not rest locally. This is in addition to the much reduced three (3) month maximum time frame suggested in the draft lease for decisions.
b. Advice on the value of insurance is being confirmed with Canberra.
c. Agreement was reached to discuss movement of gates (etc) on the perimeter fence to allow greater commercial viability of the airport. The Department of Defence are seeking a quote / estimate to move the gates to the vicinity of the water infrastructure.
d. Variation on Clause 4.3 was granted with a conditional appraisal to be undertaken, and the wording of the clause amended as necessary so that the handover condition of the lease facility would not need to be in excellent condition.
e. The Department of Defence are confirming whether maintenance of the Tarakan Road is included in their current maintenance regime.
f. Advice on the variation of Clause 15.3 with respect to an interim facility Masterplan is being confirmed with Canberra.
g. Confirmation in principle was given that any works to the aprons could utilise external contractors either after or before RAAF works so as to reduce mobilisation costs. The Department of Defence are happy to pass on contacts of contractors delivering apron works on base to Council to make direct contact with them for synergies.
h. Advice is being sought on whether the additional rent provision could be calculated off net revenue.

A full report on Airport matters will be presented to Council in either January or February 2016. On other matters, as a result of the timing of the December 2015 Council Meeting, the standard monthly reports will be presented to Council in January 2016, with the December 2015 and January 2016 financial reports to be adopted separately.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the updated information on the Katherine Civil Airport.

MOVED: Tapp- Coutts/Phillips

CARRIED: 7/0

6. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Nil

7. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

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

Her Worship the Mayor attended the following meetings for the month of November 2015:

- Meeting with Cancer Council
- Katherine North Community Forum
- Development Consent Authority
- Meeting with Vista Gold
- Meeting with Katherine Transport Working Group
- Meeting with Julie Wilson
- Katherine Local Tourism Advisory Committee
- Meeting with RAAF Tindal
- ALGWA Executive Meeting
- Megan Rowe Farewell
- Target Christmas Appeal
- Market Stall
- Meet with Bridgette Bellenger
- LGANT Annual General Meeting
- Tourism Top End Meeting
- Northern Territory Disability Awards
- ABC Grass Roots
- NT NRN Awards and NT Land Care Awards
- Meet with CEO Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation
- Katherine Museum Master Planning
- Tourism Manager Welcome / Operator Morning Tea
- Girl Guides Cabana Party
- St Joseph's Year 12 Graduation
- KRAG Meeting
- The Australia Institute - Fracking
- Meeting with member of the public x 3
- Brolga Awards
- Elected Members Workshop
- Open Forum
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Ordinary Council Meeting
- NT News Interview
- Women in Leadership Conference
- Meet with Decmil Contracting
- Minister Higgins
- ABC Darwin
- Meet with Origin Energy
- Meeting with Sharon Innes
- Meeting with Ted & Nerys Evans

Mayoral Business for November

- In November I had the opportunity to travel to Alice Springs for the 2015 Brolga Tourism Awards, accompanied by Katherine Visitor Centre employee Tiffany Brown – and it was an absolute pleasure to fly return from Tindal/Alice Springs.

- The last of Katherine Town Council community forums for 2015 was held at Clyde Fenton Primary School (Katherine North) on 2nd November. While few people attended, issues of concern raised were addressed. The planned installation a round-about at the intersection of Giles/Rapide Street attracted a good debate, and will be out for community consultation in the new year.

- During the past few weeks I have received updates of activities in the region from Vista Gold relating to Mt Todd, and Origin Energy about exploration in general across the Northern Territory.

- Katherine Town Council Elected Members had a healthy debate at the November Council meeting in relation to the markets in Ryan Park. Detailed studies about both Ryan Park and Lindsay Street were helpful for the Elected Members to come to an informed decision – and that was to support the markets to be located at the Lindsay Street complex. The markets are a very emotive topic for some people, and there will be those who don't support them being moved. However as responsible Elected Members having to

maintain an appropriate market location well into the future, the majority voted to not support the continuation of the Ryan Park location.

- I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) in Darwin from 10th November. The AGM was preceded by a Mayors and Presidents forum (where we share issues, ideas, concerns) while the CEO's forum was run concurrently in another area. At the general meeting one of the subjects discussed at length was Street Lighting charges, which Power and Water are attempting to diverse to local government across the Northern Territory. LGANT has sought legal advice regarding the transfer, and LGANT has also sought a meeting with the Chief Minister early in 2016 to further the discussion. It would appear to be quite a lengthy protracted negotiation still ahead.

- Earlier this year the Executive of LGANT (of which I am a member) endorsed the implementation of local government service awards based on nominations – with awards given for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service as a local government elected member in the Northern Territory. It is with pleasure that Katherine Town Council have nominated the following who were acknowledged at the AGM. Jim Forscutt (20 years) and for 10 years service, Mark Gage, Brian Lambert, Robbie Phillips, Anne Shepherd and Toni Tapp Coutts. I offer my congratulations to these long serving people in the Katherine community.

- While in Darwin for the LGANT AGM I attended the Disability Awards Ceremony at Sky City at which Jim Bitossi was acknowledged through a Highly Commended Award. I also attended the annual awards ceremony for Natural Resource Management at the Convention Centre at which there was record attendance of over 350.

- The last week in November I had the privilege of presenting at the Women in Leadership Conference held in Darwin at DoubleTree Hilton. Approximately 100 women of all ages attended with some very interesting topics discussed. My topic was "Challenges and Opportunities".

- After a break of some 20 years and for the second year in succession last Thursday night Katherine began its festive celebrations with the Katherine Street Party. This was the first year that Katherine Town Council had participated with a float. It was great fun and I thank all the staff and elected members who participated – with special thanks to Eva Vosta for organising the float and encouraging us all to dress up. Special thanks also go to Andrew (Grinch) Wilson and his 4 legged Ruptreck who attracted much interest. It is with much pleasure that I add Katherine Town Council won the best float for the parade. Well done everyone. Thank you to the organiser of the street party, Sue Jones, and her many helpers who ensured the success of the event. A special thank you to Katherine Town Council Works staff for the work they carried out closing roads and monitoring pedestrian and vehicle traffic to ensure the safety of everyone.

- Saturday night Community Carols were celebrated at the Lindsay Street complex with Deputy Mayor Higgins as the MC. Thank you to Rosemary Jennings for organising the evening and the staff and elected members who assisted. Another very good community event.

- Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Katherine Hospital Medical Daystay Unit. This facility is supported by the Alan Walker Cancer Centre in Darwin. The advantage of having this facility in Katherine is to assist residents requiring treatment for cancer to access their treatment close to home where they have family support. Yesterday there were several people appropriately acknowledged at the opening. However there was quite a significant oversight with two prime people overlooked in the conversations. My recollection of events is that prior to the last Federal election, Katherine electorate officer Pat Witte, on behalf of the Local Members office contacted Senator Nigel Scullion's office with suggestions of BIG TICKET ITEMS for Katherine for the Federal Government's election campaign. All suggestions offered would have been welcome in this community but the one Senator Scullion chose was the Chemotherapy Unit. Following the announcement by Senator Nigel Scullion, the territory Minister for Health agreed to operational funding. I take this opportunity to personally thank electorate officer Pat Witte for her very wise suggestions forwarded – and Senator Nigel Scullion for providing the much needed money to make the Day Care Unit a reality for Katherine.

- As this is our last Council meeting for the year, I take this opportunity to THANK CEO Robert Jennings and his leadership team for the positive direction that Katherine Town Council has taken this year. I feel we are in a very good position and will see some good outcomes for our town in the coming year. I thank all the staff and elected members for their commitment to our community. In closing I wish Robert, Anisa and Arya a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas with your family and friends and look forward to working together in 2016.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

Nil

9. PETITIONS

Nil

10. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

10.1 With Notice

Nil

10.2 Without Notice

Nil

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

NIL

12. REPORT OF OFFICERS

12.1 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015

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

MOVED: Clark/Gazey

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of November 2015 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Rose enquired regarding the cost to Council of rubbish collection at Binjari.
- Operations Manager David Moore advised that it is under contract with Cleanway for kerbside rubbish and hook bins on an as needed basis by Council Staff. Council receives funding for Binjari and all costs for such work are costed to this cost code.
- Alderman Gazey enquired about the reset switch at the automated toilet at the VIC.
- Operations Manager David Moore advised that the switch resets the whole system.

13. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

File: Community Relations / Committees / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

The following meetings/activities were attended by the Elected Members in October:

Alderman Peter Gazey
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Katherine North Community Forum
White Ribbon Day March
Target Christmas Appeal
Clontarf graduation
The Australia Institute - Fracking
Origin Energy

Alderman Steven Rose
Open Forum
Elected Members Workshop

Ordinary Council Meeting
Development Consent Authority
Katherine North Community Forum
CCNT Meeting
Fracking – The Australia Institute – Mark Ogge
White Ribbon Day March

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Katherine North Community Forum
Chamber of Commerce - Business at Sunset
Katherine Museum Meeting
Museum Master Planning Workshop
Origin Energy

Alderman Rob Phillips
Open Forum
Elected Members Workshops
Ordinary Council Meeting
The Australia Institute - Fracking
Origin Energy
Katherine Historical Society Meeting – Museum

Deputy Mayor Donald Higgins
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Remembrance Day service
The Australia Institute - Fracking
Origin Energy

Alderman Lis Clark
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Katherine North Community Forum
Alderman Market Stall
Remembrance Day Service
CDU Graduation Presentation
Museum Mast Planning Workshop
White Ribbon Day March
Council Staff Christmas Party

LC would like to congratulate the RSL for the increase in attendees on Remembrance Day

14. LATE AGENDA

Nil

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mayor Miller advised that as a result of financial staff being on leave, the November 2015 financial report be received at the January 2016 Council Meeting.

  MOVED: Miller/Higgins

  CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Gazey would like to note the accreditation the Northern Territory Police and airforce have achieved in regards to White Ribbon and is this something that Council would like to be involved in.

16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 6.17pm

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE