



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING

OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2015

AT

5.50 pm

Council Chambers Civic Centre
Stuart Highway, Katherine

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT
THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2015 AT 5.50 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

2.

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs Neroli Dickens – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Claire Johansson – Director Corporate & Community
Services
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager

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

Mrs Heather Kirk – Minute Taker

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Members Leave of Absence
and Apologies

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Phillips/Tapp-Coutts

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 25 November 2014 be
confirmed as a true and accurate record.

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 14 July 2014 be confirmed
as a true and accurate record.

That the Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 July 2014
be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 7/0

5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Nil

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Business Arising from Previous Minutes

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 2014:

- Katherine Times Mayors Message x 5
 - Liquor Accord Meeting
 - Tourism Top End Meeting
 - LGANT Conference and General Meeting – Darwin
 - CEO Interviews
 - Teleconference with CEO Tourism
 - Remembrance Day
 - Meeting with Vista Gold Representatives
 - Special Council Meeting
 - Local Government Leadership Summit – Melbourne
 - Meeting with Minister Westra van Holthe – Darwin
 - Engagement Essentials Workshop - Darwin
 - Conflict in Engagement Workshop - Darwin
 - 2014 NT NRM Awards Gala Dinner – Darwin
 - Teleconference with NT Australia Day Council
 - Tourism Top End Executive Meeting
 - Weekly Meeting with Police
 - Meeting with Editor, Katherine Times
 - Elected Members Workshop
 - MacFarlane Primary School – End of Year Concert
 - Katherine Cancer Working Group
 - Meeting with Lions Club
 - ABC Radio – Country Hour
 - Meeting with Dr Michele Lobo
 - Meeting with Community Member
 - Meeting with CEO, Mimi Arts
 - Meeting with Chief Minister's Office
 - Open Forum
 - Council Meeting
 - Meeting with CEO, Department of Local Government
 - Community Radio Interview
 - KRAG Meeting
 - Meeting with Chamber of Commerce x 2
 - Meeting with Alderman Phillips
 - Photo with Editor, Katherine Times
 - Annual Toy Run
 - Under 16 Grand Final – Welcomed Players and Crowd
- Alderman Phillips queried the meeting with Dr Michelle Lobo. Mayor Miller advised it was concerning community spaces, but she would get further detail on this meeting.

Her Worship the Mayor attended the following meetings for the month of December 2014:

Katherine Times Mayors Message x 3
Meeting with Chamber of Commerce
Meeting with Katherine RSL-Sub Branch
LGANT Executive Teleconference
CHAIN Christmas Function and Meeting
St Joseph's Thanksgiving Liturgy & Prize Giving Evening
40th Anniversary of Cyclone Tracey x 2 – Darwin
Katherine Street Party
Casuarina Street Primary School End of Year Awards
Weekly Meeting with Police
Monthly DLPE Meeting
Launch of Free Wi-Fi – Katherine Terrace
Carols by Candlelight
ABC Radio Interview
Victoria Daly Regional Council Audit and Risk Management Committee
Chief Minister's 2014 Christmas Reception
Water Safety Initiative – Laurie Lawrence – Katherine Aquatic Centre

Mayor Miller advised of the following:

- It is unfortunate but historically at this time of the year the incidence of vandalism increases in Katherine. This year has been no different. There have been several businesses who have had broken windows, some more than once. This has caused a great deal of frustration and expense to those affected. As a result of the outcry across the community the YMCA, the Police and Neighbourhood Watch have coordinated a community Youth Issue Forum to be held in Katherine on 4 February. This will be a moderated forum providing information in addition to a question and answer session. I encourage all Elected Members to attend as observers in support of this community drive forum.
- On behalf of the Elected Members I wish to take this opportunity to publicly THANK Neroli Dickens for her leadership while in the position of Chief Executive Officer. Following the departure of David Laughler from Katherine Town Council we had no hesitation in appointing Neroli to the position during the recruitment process to fill the position. Neroli was tasked with rebuilding a slightly fractured relationship between the community and Katherine Town Council – which she succeeded in doing well. I speak on behalf of all Elected Members of Katherine Town Council in thanking Neroli for a job very well done. I am looking forward to a strong team effort continuing to work for the betterment of Katherine when our new CEO, Robert Jennings, joins us in February.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Correspondence and Documents Tabled

- 8.1** Letter to Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment – Katherine Bridge Gauge.
- 8.2** Letter from Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment – Katherine Bridge Gauge.
- 8.3** Letter from the Department of Local Government and Community Services Regarding the Special Purpose Grants Round One 2014-15 and Email Correspondence

- Alderman Phillips commented that it is good to see issues being followed up.

9. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

9.1 With Notice

Nil

9.2 Without Notice

Nil

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORT OF OFFICERS

11.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014

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

MOVED: Clark/Rose

That the report of the Chief Executive Officer for the months of November and December 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014

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

MOVED: Phillips/Clark

That the report of the Works and Services Division for the months of November and December 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Phillips is pleased with the effort concerning the weed problem in the community.
- Alderman Rose mentioned the LED light trial at the Tennis Club. Several companies are trialling LED lights to see which one would be the most suitable. Encouraged everyone to have a look.
- Mayor Miller asked who is monitoring this to see which one is the best value. The CEO advised that this is being done in conjunction with Katherine Town Council staff, electricians and the companies involved.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of November 2014.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Gazey/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of December 2014.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Rose asked about page 42 – animal infringements – queried the figure, as he thought it was high. Asked how we go about collecting monies in arrears. The CEO responded that arrears are forwarded to the Fines Recovery Unit after a certain amount of time. Compared to parking, litter and camping infringements the figure may be larger but number of instances may be fewer, as fines are generally higher.

11.5 JOINT MINUTES OF THE KATHERINE SHOWGROUNDS AND SPORTSGROUNDS PRECINCT ADVISORY COMMITTEES MEETING – 16 DECEMBER 2014

File: Community Relations / Committees / Katherine Showgrounds Advisory Committee/2014 Showgrounds Precinct Advisory Committee Meetings

MOVED: Phillips/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

That the joint Minutes of the Katherine Showgrounds and Sportsgrounds Precinct Advisory Committees meeting held on 16 December 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts asked about toilets. Has some information about cheaper toilet options than the silver bullet.
- Alderman Phillips assured everyone Elected Members will be looking for multi-range toilets which are suitable for the number of people and the cost.
- Alderman Higgins raised a point in the minutes. At 4.1 it states “David Moore advised that the first layer of tyres was down. A second layer will be assessed in the dry season.” However, in the Sportsgrounds minutes at 6.it states “Tennis Road Signage – “David Moore advised that the first layer of tyres was down. A second layer will be assessed in the dry season.” The CEO advised the amendment was noted for further dissemination.

- Alderman Rose asked about the lighting in Oval 2 – are we considering any long term options which are cheaper to maintain and run.
- Alderman Gazey commented that at the December meeting the minutes at 5.2 mention a new shed and he asked where it was going? There was no map attached. Alderman Phillips advised that it will go at the end of the arena where the poultry shed is to allow access to the arena. The CEO advised the minutes are to advise Council that this is a project which may take place, there is no final or confirmed detail. In principle it has been agreed.
- Alderman Gazey asked about the caretaker and her dogs. The CEO advised that the items have been taken to the caretaker for her action and compliance.

11.6 NOMINATIONS FOR THE NT WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

File: Government Relations / Committees / NT Weeds Advisory Committee

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council endorse the nomination of Alderman Rose as a member of the Northern Territory Weeds Advisory Committee.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.7 USE OF COUNCIL SEAL – DEVELOPMENT OF LOT 2796, DEED OF AGREEMENT

File: Lot 2796 / 22 Casuarina Street

MOVED: Higgins/Phillips

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council approves the use of the Common Seal for this purpose.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.8 USE OF COUNCIL SEAL – EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT RATIFICATION

File: Personnel / Recruitment of Officers / Chief Executive Officer

MOVED: Phillips/Rose

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council approves the use of the Common Seal for this purpose.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.9 GRANT ALLOCATION OF LAND – RELOCATION OF CENOTAPH

Mayor Miller advised of the process which has to happen prior to the allocation of land.

File: Property Management / Maintenance / O'Shea Park

MOVED: Rose/Gazey

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council grants an allocation of land within O'Shea Park for the purpose of establishing a new Cenotaph.

NOT CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Gazey asked if there had been discussion about the size of the parcel of land. The CEO confirmed there had not.

11.10 2015/2016 BUDGET TIMETABLE

File: Finance / Budgeting / Budget 2015-16

The CEO advised the dates relating to April Monday 12 and 19 should be 13 and 20 April.

MOVED: Phillips/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That the 2015/2016 Budget timetable be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Gazey noted that he will not be in Katherine on 7 and 8 March. The CEO commented the statutory requirements for the budget and municipal plan kicked in from 21 April which sets our timeline to get the detail back to the Minister. If first four (4) dates are amended, there are no immediate consequences.

11.11 REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

File: Local Governance / Legislation / Review of Constitutional Arrangements

The CEO advised that there are 4 items with multiple recommendations there are 2 options for voting, either deal with group by exception, or deal with every item as individual vote. It was agreed to vote on each motion separately.

MOVED: Rose/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

1. To receive and note the report presented by C L Rowe & Associates Pty Ltd (dated December 2014) and the nine (9) submissions received in response to the initial public consultation.

CARRIED: 7/0

2. To agree to the following.

2.1 The name of Council not be changed at this time.

CARRIED: 7/0

2.2 The Elected Members (excluding Mayor Miller) continue to have the title of Alderman.

CARRIED: 4/3

Alderman Tapp-Coutts wished it noted her vote against this motion.

2.3 The future Council of the Katherine Town Council continue to comprise the Mayor and six (6) Aldermen.

CARRIED: 7/0

2.4 The council area not be divided into wards (i.e. the existing "no wards" structure be retained).

CARRIED: 6/1

2.5 The external boundaries of the council area not be changed at this time.

CARRIED: 7/0

3. Council not undertake any further public consultation and authorise Council administration to prepare and submit the necessary report to the Minister for Local Government and Community Services.

CARRIED: 7/0

4. Council may undertake further investigations into the benefits of establishing wards, with such investigations and considerations being completed by the end of August 2016.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts does not agree with retaining the name of alderman, would like to be renamed Councillor.

12. 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 November and December:

Alderman Peter Gazez

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Special Council Meeting
Electoral Changes Meeting

Alderman Steven Rose

Open Forum
Ordinary Council Meeting
Special Council Meeting
Development Consent Authority Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Meetings x 3
Remembrance Day
Positioning for Prosperity: Developing the North
Low Aromatic Unleaded Fuel Technical Information Session
Meeting with KTC Operations Manager
Meeting with RLS Sub-Branch re Cenotaph
Department of Local Government and Regions – Local Government Reform Information Session
Katherine Street Party

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

RSL Sub Branch Meeting re Cenotaph
Museum Committee Meeting
Carols by Candlelight
Electoral Reform – LGANT workshop
Workshop

Alderman Rob Phillips

Joint Sports and Showgrounds Advisory Committee Meeting
Museum Meeting
Council Meeting
Special Council Meeting
Workshops

Alderman Donald Higgins

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Special Council Meeting
Remembrance Day
RLS Sub-Branch Meeting
Understanding Asset Management Workshop
Christmas Meeting with Chief Minister

Deputy Mayor Lis Clark

Meeting with Consulate General from Vietnam
CEO Interviews
Remembrance Day
Charles Darwin University – Presentation of Students Achievements
Engagement Essentials Training Course - Darwin
Conflict in Engagement Training Course - Darwin
2014 NRMA Awards Gala Dinner - Darwin
Meeting with Minister Willem Westra van Holthe – Darwin
Special Council Meeting
Workshop
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Meeting with RSL Sub Branch
Understanding Asset Management Workshop
Katherine High School Presentation
Katherine Street Party
Carols by Candlelight
MacFarlane Primary School Concert
Workshop
Proposed Local Government Reforms Workshop

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

15. PETITIONS

Nil

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

MOVED: Clark/ Tapp-Coutts

That standing orders be suspended to allow Council to consider a confidential matter in Committee.

Meeting closed to the public. All members of the public left the Chambers.

CARRIED: 7/0

16.1 SALE OF PROPERTY – FOR UNPAID RATES

MOVED: Higgins/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to arrange the disposal of the properties concerned.

CARRIED: 7/0

16.2 OUTSTANDING RATES - REGISTRATION OF OVERRIDING STATUTORY CHARGE

MOVED: Clark/Phillips

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the Council approve the registration of an Overriding Statutory Charge on the properties concerned.
2. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to affix the common seal on the Registration of Overriding Statutory Charge on each of the properties.
3. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to remove the Overriding Statutory Charge at such time as the arrears for a specific property are paid in full.

CARRIED: 7/0

MOVED: Clark/ Higgins

That Council resume the meeting.

CARRIED: 7/0

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 6.33pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE