

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 16 MARCH 2020, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

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PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor D. Ryan  
Councillor G. Auricht (Chair)  
Councillor J. Cocking  
Councillor E. Melky  
Councillor M. Paterson  
Councillor J. Price (phone-in)  
Councillor C. Satour

OFFICERS: Mr R. Jennings - Chief Executive Officer  
Ms S. Taylor - Director Corporate Services  
Mr S. Allen - Director Technical Services  
Mr S. Duke - Acting Director Community Development  
Ms S. Dominguez - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

The meeting was declared open at 5.35 pm

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor M. Banks - Personal Leave  
Councillor J. de Brenni - Personal Leave

2. WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC VISITORS AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

2.1 Steve Menzies - Resident / Centralian Advocate

Mr Menzies enquired in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, if Council was taking any precautions for meetings. The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council is taking advice from the Department of Health on how to proceed with meetings and is currently reviewing policies in regard to this matter.

Mayor Ryan noted that Officers have provided bottles of hand sanitiser for Elected Members, and members of the public and gallery to use when attending today's meeting.

2.2 Mr Chris Tomlins - Kids on the streets

Mr Tomlins, an Arrernte Elder, addressed the Chamber expressing concern for the welfare of kids on the streets of Alice Springs and that the crimes being committed against them, in retaliation, are as concerning as the crimes they are committing. While acknowledging the kids are behaving badly, he sees it as a failure of the system at a time when compassion needs to be demonstrated and action to correct the root cause be taken rather than all the focus on consequential and punitive measures. The Chief Executive Officer noted that Council is very serious about how it can help its community and offered to meet with Mr Tomlins to discuss the matter further and determine how Council can offer support.

*The Media and Communications Officer took Mr Tomlins details.*

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of Meeting held 10 February 2020

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

**That the minutes of the Open Section of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 10 February 2020 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of those meetings.**

(7 cs)

**CARRIED**

4.2 Business Arising

4.2.1 Mr Carpenters question - Mayor Ryan.

Mayor Ryan enquired if Mr David Carpenter had been responded to in regard to his questions about the breakdown of costs for the Anzac Hill Painting of Cenotaph Handrail and Seat. The Chief Executive Officer agreed to confirm that responses were given to Mr Carpenters questions and provide information for Elected Members.

*Officers confirmed responses were provided via email to Mr Carpenter on Wednesday 12 February 2020 and updated in Smartsheet for Elected Members.*

4.2.2 Power and Water Questions - Mayor Ryan

Mayor Ryan enquired if Councillor Cocking's questions from the previous meeting in regard to increased Power and Water costs for Milner Road, Norris Bell and Trager Avenue were responded to. The Director Technical Services agreed to confirm responses were provided.

*Officers provided responses in Smartsheet for Elected Members on 14 February 2020.*

5. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Identification of items for discussion

The following items were identified for discussion:

9.1, 9.2

5.2 Identification of items to be raised in General Business by Elected Members and Officers

- Budget line for preparedness in regard to potential compulsory acquisition of Council assets - Councillor Melky

6. DEPUTATIONS

*The following agenda item listed on the Community Development Agenda was brought forward and held in the Corporate Services Committee at 5.45 pm. Minutes in regard to this item can be found in the Community Development Committee, Agenda Item 6.1.*

6.1 Alice Springs Running and Walking Club - John Bermingham

*The meeting returned to the Corporate Services agenda at 5.56 pm.*

7. PETITIONS

Nil

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 Corporate Services Directorate Update  
Report No. 47/20 cs (DCS)

This report provides an update of current Corporate Services projects, programs and events.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

**That the March 2020 Corporate Services Directorate Update be received and noted.**

(8 cs)

Councillor Cocking enquired in regard to Report 9.1 – *Attachment 8: Income & Expenditure by Council Objective* in regard to the *184 Road Reseal Program* and the \$600,000 allocation with \$0 expenditure. The Director Technical Services reported this amount will not be expended in this year, explaining that Officers will request this particular budget line is carried over due to the \$70,000 expense incurred for mobilising road crews.

Councillor Cocking enquired in regard to *Attachment 8: Income & Expenditure by Council Objective* in regard to the *181 RWMF - Bulk Recycling* and the \$164,821.35 remaining, with only \$61,974.10 spent to date considering there had been a reasonably high rate of recycling. The Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

Mayor Ryan enquired how much of the \$745,269 Sports Facilities Advisory Committee (SFAC) funds had been committed between now and the end of the Financial Year, and if an SFAC meeting could be called to initiate appropriate spending against this to support local business at this difficult time. The Director Technical Services took the item on notice. Deputy Mayor Paterson noted a report had been requested on sporting “shovel ready projects” and enquired when this could be expected and tabled at SFAC. The Director Technical Services advised the report was expected for the April Technical Services Committee.

Mayor Ryan noted the \$24,945.25 payment to *Mike Ritchie & Associates* in regard to the Household Fogo Trial and enquired if this was funded through the Climate Action Plan. The Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

Mayor Ryan enquired about the two payments to Roger Henshaw Consultancy Services for Library Service Review & Strategy Development: **1.** \$13,750.00 and **2.** \$10,000 on the 20 February 2020 and if these were the final payments for this work. The Acting Director Community Development advised these were the final payments.

Mayor Ryan noted the two payments totalling \$2,200 to Neil Mansell Transport for freight of cardboard and enquired where in the papers he could obtain the information about income from this load. The Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

Deputy Mayor Paterson highlighted the “*Unwanted alarm fee basketball stadium*” of \$1,118 on 6 February 2020 and requested information. The Director Technical Services an unwanted alarm was set off by Basketball personnel and Council is recouping the money from Basketball.

Action:

Director Technical Services to respond to the questions taken on notice.

9.2 Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy  
Report No. 49/20 cs (GM)

This report provides information on a proposed amendment to the Elected Member Allowances and Expenses policy which will improve professional development opportunities for Elected Members.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

**That Council approve the revised Elected Member Allowances and Expenses policy which provides improved professional development opportunities.**

(9 cs)

Councillor Melky noted the changes in the *Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy*, and enquired whether Elected Members could be provided with a calendar of professional development events, courses and training sessions. He additionally requested a forum to discuss this matter further. The Chief Executive Officer noted the request.

Deputy Mayor Paterson highlighted the Local Government workshop available to Elected Members on the 11 and 12 May 2020.

10. REPORTS OF ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Nil

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 COVID-19 and Council’s preparedness – Councillor Cocking

Councillor Cocking requested the Chief Executive Officer update the gallery on the measures Council is taking in regard to COVID-19. The Chief Executive Officer provided an update on actions Council has taken and is taking which has included convening a COVID-19 Steering Group consisting of Council’s Executive team. He reported the following Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery efforts are being made:

- Council is taking guidance from Department of Health
- Council’s initial focus is on staff welfare, to ensure they are safe and able to perform roles
- Evaluation of Council facilities and events including identifying trigger points where certain actions would be taken
- Preparing for business continuity with a focus on essential services such as waste and roads
- Ensuring appropriate supplies have been procured
- Disseminating key community information from appropriate sources including [Department of Health](#) and [Secure NT](#)
- Council Executive is attending NT Government briefings and working with the Northern Territory Government to stay informed

- Council will play a support role in the response phase
- Rebuilding the Community through infrastructure projects
- Continuing to support local businesses through its *Buy Local* policy

Councillor Cocking enquired if there was opportunity to engage with the social services sector to protect communities and suggested advocating to support the tourism and events industry. The Chief Executive Officer responded, noting that work had already begun with Council partnering with Tourism NT on increasing local usage of Tourism. He noted Council had engaged with the social services sector as part of a group and the Northern Territory Government has been proactive in working to safeguard remote communities.

11.2 Budget line for preparedness in regard to potential compulsory acquisition of Council assets - Councillor Melky

Councillor Melky noted “*comments made by the Chief Minister on the 11 March in a NT News Article...talking about the National Aboriginal Art Gallery and Anzac Oval*” and requested a budget line be established to allocate a significant amount to prepare for the potential compulsory acquisition of Council assets. The Chief Executive Officer noted work has already been done in regard to this matter as the request had already been made and information will be appropriately provided to Elected Members.

Discussion ensued in regard to the Chief Ministers comments. Deputy Mayor Paterson noted that Council was unanimous in its decision at the 9 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting, this information had been provided to the Northern Territory Government and “*the ball is in their court*”:

Ordinary Council Meeting – 9 December 2019 (excerpt)

14.1.2 National Aboriginal Art Gallery  
Report No. 223/19 cncI

Moved Councillor Paterson  
Seconded Councillor Melky

**1. Council has determined their National Aboriginal Art Gallery site preference as listed below and seek to proceed into negotiations with NT Government on the chosen site:**

***The southern portion of the Council managed Anzac Oval site (Lot 678) with a linear connection to the former Anzac Hill High School site to the north (owned by the NT Government). This proposal would leave the oval surface, grandstands, Youth Centre, Totem Theatre and 50+ Centre retained. That Alice Springs Town Council negotiate the southern portion of the Council managed ANZAC Oval Site once the Northern Territory Government provide Alice Springs Town Council evidence of custodian support of the location.***

**2. Confirm their strong belief in the formation of a multilateral partnership group of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal representatives that can drive forward the National Aboriginal Art Gallery project in an inclusive, effective and consultative manner for the benefit of the Alice Springs community, the Territory and the organisation.**

CARRIED (20740)  
UNANIMOUS

12. NEXT MEETING: **Monday 14 April 2020**

The meeting stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

The meeting adjourned at 6.19 pm

Confirmed on \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_