

MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17
AUGUST 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting was held via Zoom

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor J. de Brenni
Councillor G. Auricht (Chair)
Deputy Mayor J. Cocking
Councillor E. Melky
Councillor J. Price

OFFICERS: Mr R. Jennings - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services
Mr S. Allen - Director Technical Services
Mrs T. Ociones - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

The meeting was declared open at 5.45pm

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes - Corporate Services – 13 July 2020

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to the Corporate Services Committee

That the minutes of the Open Section of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 13 July 2020 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of those meetings.

(52cs)
CARRIED

2.2 Business Arising

Nil

5. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Identification of items for discussion

The following items were withdrawn for discussion:

9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5

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

- Deputy Mayor Cocking – Update on MyAlice stimulus initiative
- Deputy Mayor Cocking – Committees and Quorum

6. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

7. PETITIONS

Nil

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 Corporate Services Directorate Update
Report No. 182/20cs (DCS)

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

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council:

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

(53 cs)

Deputy Mayor Cocking noticed the increase in insurance premiums for the year and asked what is the percentage increase Council had from this year as compared to last year.

ACTION

Director Corporate Services took the question on notice. The increase was due to Council's ageing asset base as well as workers compensation and other insurance policies.

9.2 Acquittal of NT Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Grant
Report No. 181/20cs (GO)

On 17 June 2020 Council received the Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development to install photovoltaic (PV) solar systems at four of Council's new change room facilities that are currently under construction at the ovals of Jim McConville, Flynn Drive, Albrecht and Ross Park.

This report is provided, as required, for Council to formally authorise the CEO to sign the acquittals.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That Council authorise the CEO to sign the following acquittals on behalf of Council:

An acquittal for the Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Grant of \$118,642 with expenditure of \$14,732 provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development to install photovoltaic (PV) solar systems at four of Council's new change room facilities that are currently under constructions at the ovals of Jim McConville, Flynn Drive, Albrecht and Ross Park. This is the 30 June 2020 acquittal as required by the funding agreement. The remaining grant funding of \$103,910 has been carried forward to be expended in 2020/21 financial year.

(54 cs)

9.3 Hardship Policy Review
Report No: 183/20cs

This is a report on the scheduled review of the Pandemic Financial Hardship Policy and Public Benefit Concessions Policy for Commercial and Residential Ratepayers.

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That Council note this report.

(55 cs)

Councillor Melky noted that this report is 'to be noted'. Does this require a formal action because the content of the report recommends that the policy remain in place in its current or modified state beyond 30 September 2020?

The Chief Executive Officer advised the report is for noting purposes as no changes are recommended. Subject to the uptake of the scheme and any further announcements on how the NT Government would like to proceed, there may be a further recommendation in the future.

9.4 Tertiary Education Bursary Policy
Report No: 184/20cs

This report provides Council with a draft Tertiary Education Bursary policy for approval.

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

- A. That Council note the new Tertiary Education Bursary Policy at Attachment A.**
- B. That Council approves the \$10,000 allocation from cash reserves for tertiary education bursaries to commence in FY21.**

(56 cs)

Councillor Melky enquired if Elected Members would have the opportunity to contribute to the policy and provide comments.

ACTION:

Elected Members to send comments to the proposed policy as soon as possible, so that Council officers can incorporate them as part of the process.

9.5 Council Meeting Structure
Report No: 188/20 cs

As part of the ongoing consideration being given to the Council meeting structure, this report provides a proposed, updated structure, aiming to strike a balance between providing Elected Members with an effective means of fulfilling their role, whilst also providing for a more efficient reporting schedule. This will further serve to reduce safety concerns that have been noted by Elected Members and Council Officers.

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council to:

- A. Cease conducting Standing Committee Meetings, and adopt twice a month Ordinary Meetings of Council with a 5:30pm start and no later than 8:30pm finish, on the second and fourth Monday of each month, commencing on 14 September 2020.**
- B. Adopt a twelve-week cycle of directorate reports, major projects and strategy updates, commencing on 28 September 2020.**

(57 cs)

Discussion ensued that the proposed meeting structure requires discussion in more detail and whether there should be a trial and review period to see how this process is performing.

ACTION

Elected Members and Executives to workshop the committee meeting structure in a future Council forum.

10. REPORTS OF ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Nil

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Update of MyAlice Platform – Deputy Mayor Cocking

Deputy Mayor Cocking enquired on how MyAlice platform is proceeding.

Director Corporate Services advised that Council have received an agreement from the Northern Territory Government. Council officers are in the process of reviewing and finalising the agreement. The website is being tested and Council is looking at recruiting a staff member to process the applications. Information on the start date and website live date will be provided at the next Council forum.

11.2 Committees and Quorum – Deputy Mayor Cocking

Deputy Mayor Cocking enquired whether Committee meetings will continue its normal process, considering the number of committees and the potential to reduce the number of Councillors for the next twelve months; there is also a challenge to get quorum with the current setting.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council officers are conducting a review of committee structure for Council to achieve best-practice and align with its strategic objectives. There will be an opportunity for a more wholistic connection with the community in terms of Advisory Committees, potentially working on meeting the community and seeing areas as a group rather than dividing into sections.

ACTION

CEO to schedule a specific Council Forum to explore this matter.

12. NEXT MEETING: **Monday, 14 September 2020**

The meeting stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____