

MINUTES OF THE **ORDINARY** MEETING OF THE THIRTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 JUNE 2021 AT 5:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER 93 TODD STREET, ALICE SPRINGS

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Opening of the Meeting by Councillor Paterson (Acting Chair)

Councillor Paterson declared the meeting open at **5.31pm** and welcomed all present to the meeting.

Alice Springs News and ABC Alice Springs were present.

Councillor Paterson acknowledged the Central Arrente people who are the traditional owners and custodians of Alice Springs.

PRESENT

Mayor D. Ryan (via Zoom)
Councillor G. Auricht
Councillor M. Banks
Councillor J. de Brenni
Councillor E. Melky
Councillor M. Paterson (Acting Chair)
Councillor C. Satour

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R. Jennings – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mr D. Nellikat – Acting Director Technical Services
Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services and Community Development
Ms B. Lang – Executive Assistant (Minutes)

2. PRAYER

The prayer was read by Pastor Ben Teefy, Desert Life Church.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillor Jimmy Cocking

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Auricht

That the apology be accepted.

CARRIED (21695)

Deputy Mayor Price

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Seconded – Councillor Auricht

That the apology be accepted.

CARRIED (21696)

4. WELCOME

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1. Minutes of the Ordinary Open Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 May 2021

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Auricht

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held Tuesday 25 May 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of those meetings.

CARRIED (21697)

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

7.2.1 Councillor Auricht – Skate Park update

An update on the skatepark was requested. The CEO advised that the Skate park group went to Western Australia last week and there is a meeting with this group on Friday 11th June to start the process.

Councillor Auricht asked if the windows of ASALC could be better protected from rock throwing occurring within the skate park. The Director of Corporate Services stated that Officers are working with security advisers on solutions.

7.2.2 Councillor Banks – Electronic signage

The Acting Director of Technical Services has contacted the Centrepont building management in regards to the sign. They have advised that they will reduce the brightness to 40% from 5.30pm - 8pm, 30% from 8pm – 9pm, 20% from 9pm - 10pm, 0% from 10pm - 7am.

7.2.3 Councillor Banks – Traditional Owner Community Safety Pilot Program

Councillor Banks asked when Elected Members can expect the report on the Traditional Owner Community Safety Program.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that a report is being presented in the confidential section of the meeting.

Councillor Melky enquired if this report could be discussed in the open. The Director of Corporate Services stated that it is in confidential due to some information being commercial in confidence.

7.2.4 Councillor Banks – Alice Plaza

Councillor Banks brought up the motion she presented in regards to joint stakeholder engagement. It was requested that a meeting with the Chief Ministers Officer be convened to formalise a joint position on the Kwatja Play park.

8. ORDERS OF THE DAY

8.1. That Elected Members and Officers provide notification of matters to be raised in General Business.

8.1.1 Councillor Satour – National NAIDOC Awards Night

8.1.2 Councillor Satour – NAIDOC Night Markets

8.1.3 Councillor Banks – Alice Plaza

8.1.4 Councillor Banks – FOGO

8.1.5 Councillor Melky – Municipal Plan

8.1.6 Councillor Melky – LGANT

9. DEPUTATIONS

9.1. Mr Morris Stuart, Central Australian Singing Incorporated

Mr Morris Stuart provided an overview of the Desert Song festival. The festival has grown from 4 events and 1800 attendees in 2013 to 40 events and 12,500 attendees in 2019.

Due to COVID-19 in 2020, the festival ran virtually through YouTube. The festival contributes a considerable amount of money to the local economy and exhibits the cultural life of Central Australia.

In 2021 the festival will take place in Alice Springs over 10 days commencing 10th September. Mr Stuart thanked Council for their support and looks forward to their continued support for future events.

Concern was raised around the availability of accommodation at that time. Mr Stuart confirmed that accommodation has been booked in advance.

10. PETITIONS

Nil

11. MEMORIALS

Nil

12. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Nil

13. REPORTS OF CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1. Application for new Liquor Licence – SGRD PTY LTD
Report No. 379 / 21 cncl

Moved – Councillor de Brenni
Seconded –Councillor Auricht

That Council resolve to not object to the liquor licence application.

CARRIED (21698)

13.2 Protect Alice Update Report
Report No. 380/21 cncl

Moved – Mayor Ryan
Seconded – Councillor Melky

That it be a recommendation that Council note this report.

CARRIED (21699)

The CEO believes that a response has been received from the Minister but that he would confirm and advise.

The program will proceed with expenditure of \$200k from COVID-19 reserve despite not receiving a response to date from Ministers regarding co-contribution.

13.3 Traditional Owner Community Safety Patrol Pilot Program

Report 384/21 cncI

Resolution transferred from Confidential (agenda item 27.4)

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Second – Councillor Melky

That Council approve the Traditional Owner Community Support Patrol Program to continue until 27 July 2021.

CARRIED (21718)

14. REPORTS OF OTHER DIRECTORATES

14.1 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Seniors Coordinating Committee - 21 April 2021

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That the minutes from the Seniors Coordinating Committee meeting held on the 21 February 2021 be received.

CARRIED (21700)

Discussion ensued regarding the Library consultation. A survey was open to the public with the results presented to Elected Members when available.

14.2 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Tourism, Events and Promotions Committee - 22 April 2021

Moved – Councillor Satour

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That the minutes from the Tourism, Events and Promotions Committee meeting held on the 22 April 2021 be received.

CARRIED (21701)

Discussion ensued regarding what will happen to the remaining committee's budget when the new financial year rolls over. This discussion will continue in General Business.

14.3 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Tourism, Events and Promotions Committee – 20 May 2021

That the minutes from the Tourism, Events and Promotions Committee meeting held on the 20 May 2021 be received.

(DEFERRED)

As there was no quorum at this meeting, the question was asked as to whether the meeting should still have occurred and if these minutes can be endorsed. The minutes will be deferred until the CEO investigates and provide an answer to Elected Members.

14.4 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Cemeteries Advisory Committee - 1 June 2021

Moved – Mayor Ryan

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That the minutes from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting held on the 1 June 2021 be received.

CARRIED (21702)

It has been suggested that the recommendations remain under the same agenda item as the minutes.

14.4.1 Recommendations from Technical Services Advisory Committees

14.4.1.1 Funeral notices - Website Placement (Agenda Item 5.1.1)

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That a new “Public Notices” tab be added to the ASTC website that specifically includes funeral notices and other events that require public notices similar to the classified section of the newspaper.

CARRIED (21703)

14.4.1.2 Burial details - Page Development (Agenda Item 5.1.2)

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That Council approve the development of a searchable burial details database online with mapping and GPS capability to be integrated appropriately through Council’s website.

CARRIED (21704)

14.4.1.3 Outdoor TV Screens - Garden Cemetery Chapel (Agenda Item 5.3)

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Mayor Ryan

That Council purchase two large television screens and appropriate trolleys for the use at large funeral services to the value of \$12,000.

CARRIED (21705)

Councillor Banks asked if the screens would be available for use by other venues for funerals. The Acting Director Technical Services said they are only for the use of the cemetery chapel.

The question was asked as to which budget line the outdoor screens for the cemetery is to be used. The Acting Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

14.4.1.4 Alice Springs Garden Cemetery - Niche Wall (Agenda Item 5.5)

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor de Brenni

That a project in regard to the design and construction of a Niche Wall at the Alice Springs Garden Cemetery be developed as a shovel ready project.

CARRIED (21706)

14.4.1.5 Committee Memberships (Agenda Item 5.7)

Moved – Mayor Ryan

Seconded – Councillor Auricht

That all external memberships for the Cemeteries Advisory Committee be extended through until August 2022.

CARRIED (21707)

14.5 Todd Mall Revitalisation Project
Report 379/21 cncl

Item transferred from Confidential (Agenda item 28.1)

Moved – Mayor Ryan

Second – Councillor de Brenni

- 1. That Council approve officers to proceed with the urban planning objectives associated with stage one of the Todd Mall revitalisation project and,**
- 2. The project be funded through the *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Agreement*.**

CARRIED (21721)

15. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

15.1 Councillor Melky – Confidential Reports

Councillor Melky questioned why agenda items 27.1, 27.2, 27.4 and 27.6 were not able to be discussed in open.

The Director Corporate Services advised as per part 4 of the Local Government Act the reports have content that are of a confidential nature.

- Agenda Item 27.1, Council Media Relations Review – contains information that is commercial in confidence
- Agenda Item 27.2, Human Resources Report – contains employment details of individuals
- Agenda Item 27.4, Traditional Owner Community Safety Pilot Program – contains information that is commercial in confidence
- Agenda Item 27.6, Youth Empowerment Program Report – contains photos and a video clip of the youth that attended the program.

Councillor Melky has requested that an open version of the reports be produced at some point.

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 Councillor Satour – National NAIDOC Awards Night

Councillor Satour advised that due to the current outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria, the NAIDOC Awards Ceremony have been cancelled. It was noted that this is not only a loss economically, but also socially. She also announced that NAIDOC Night Markets will no longer take place.

Councillor Satour was commended on her hard work with the Awards and as her position as chair on NAIDOC Committee.

16.2 Councillor Banks – Kwatja Play Park

Moved – Councillor Banks

Second – Councillor Melky

That Alice Springs Town Council convenes a meeting with the Chief Minister Department to formalise a joint position on the \$4M project funding towards the Kwatja play park.

CARRIED (21708)

16.3 Councillor Banks – FOGO

A discussion was had around a confidential matter.

16.4 Councillor Melky – Tourism, Events and Promotions funds

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Second – Councillor Melky

That the \$12263.20 for the Tourism, Events and Promotions advisory Committee for the purpose of Bannerconda flags be reserved until authorised by Council.

CARRIED (21709)

16.5 Councillor Melky – Municipal Plan

Councillor Melky presented questions on the draft budget. Question's 1 to 4 and questions 6 and 7 were discussed in open. Question 5 was presented in confidential.

Q1. The total of Capital expenditure as listed in the municipal plan, page 40, is less than the capital expenses listed in the operating budget page 35 by \$12,000. I am assuming the amount in the operational budget listed under capital expenses is referring to the same capital expenditure as listed on page 40 of the Municipal Plan.

A. *Capital expenditure – as per page 40 on the Municipal Plan is only a snapshot of key items. An email was distributed at the last Finance Ordinary Meeting with the capital budget attachment listing the items which provided the breakdown to a total expenditure of \$3,780,500. Then to subtract an amount of \$373,000, which is best estimation for Plant & Equipment trade in value (income) gives = \$3,780,500 – \$373,000 = \$3,407,500. This balances to the transfer from reserves figure on the Municipal Plan. Please refer to the same attachment for GL codes.*

Q2. The amount of \$3,407,500.00 has previously been explained that includes some capital spend, if so how much is capital expenditure and which budget line is this coming from? And why is not listed under capital expenditure on page 40 and included within the capital expense line within the operational budget?

A. *As per Question 1.*

Q.3 If no to question 2, then what area are we spending this money on?

A. *No answer required.*

Councillor Banks left the Chamber at 7.12pm

Councillor Banks returned to the Chamber at 7.14pm

Q4. Notwithstanding previous questions need to be answered, as the budget is currently presented I am still coming up with a deficit of \$420,985.00, where we are going to find the money?

A. *The budget is not in a deficit position as confirmed by the Department of Local Government. As per page 35 of the Municipal Plan the bottom line figure is a \$0 balance. The operating income is less than operating expenses which gives a deficit. Then the capital expenses need to be added to the deficit and added back non-cash expenses. The amount from reserves for capital expenditure added to the balance gives the total zero balance, which has been advertised.*

Councillor Melky established that \$3,407,500.00 minus unrestricted funds produces a short fall of \$420,985.00. Now that Officers are aware of how Councillor Melky derived this figure, it will be taken on notice.

Q6. Media budget increases, I would like to discuss the priority of this increase spending.

A. *Media and communications have been centralised - there is limited net effect. Budget/ Actual 2019/20 259,432.00 / 281,236.14 2020/21 306,913.00 / 269,019.70 2021/22 532,855.00 / No actual yet. All advertising streamlined into media and marketing*

Q.7 Transfer from reserves (0712) \$842,168.00 – this has been identified as transferred within the 20/21 financial year. When was this approved? Which budget line did this come from? Was it made up of different smaller numbers across Corporate Services? What legal issues does this relate to? Why is it identified as not spent? Why do you not project any budget line in 2021/2022?

A. *Transfer from Reserves in 712 largely relates to Financial Assistance General purpose and roads Grant Income. The government typically provides a payment of grant income received in advanced in June which relates to the following financial year. Plus, there is an amount for approved for purchase order carry forward funds.*

There was further discussion on areas where the budget could be reduced. It was suggested reducing the budget for Employee Costs and Material and Labour. It was suggested that this was a good time to look at a restructure of the organisation.

CEO took the question on notice, but noted that it will take some time to complete.

17. MATTERS FOR MEDIA ATTENTION

Nil

18. NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 22 June 2021 at 5.30 pm (Finance)

19. ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING

Councillor Paterson declared the meeting adjourned at **7.49 pm**

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Satour

The Council stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

CARRIED (21710)

14 -- CNCL 08/06/2021

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____