

MINUTES OF THE **ORDINARY** MEETING OF THE FOURTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2022 IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

14. RESUMPTION OF MEETING IN OPEN

15. Opening of the Open Meeting by the Mayor (Chair) and Acknowledgement of Country

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting open at **11.01am** and welcomed all present to the meeting.

Mayor Matt Paterson acknowledged the Central Arrernte people who are the traditional owners and custodians of Alice Springs.

Mayor Matt Paterson reminded that this meeting is being recorded and will be placed on Council's website. By speaking at a Council meeting, you agree to being recorded. Alice Springs Town Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of this Council meeting.

Media present – ABC Alice Springs

PRESENT

Mayor M. Paterson (Chair)
Deputy Mayor E. Melky
Councillor M. Banks (via Zoom)
Councillor A. Bitar
Councillor S. Brown
Councillor M. Coffey
Councillor K. Hopper
Councillor M. Liddle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R. Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services
Ms N. Battle – Director Community Development
Mr J. Andrew – Director Technical Services
Mrs E. Williams – Executive Assistant (Minutes)
Mrs D. Chapa – Acting Manager Finance
Ms L. Sebastiani – Finance

16. PRAYER

Malcolm Willcocks, Lutheran Church Alice Springs

17. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

18. WELCOME

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

19.1 Nikki McCoy asked regarding services for youth in Alice Springs. What consideration has been given for therapeutic care and addressing their trauma. Director Community Development responded that she has been working with groups working in this space. It's not a service that Council offers but that they work with other agencies in town.

19.2 Glenn Dooley asked re. the proposed usage of dog patrols in town
The Mayor responded that it will be discussed further within the Motion presented by Deputy Mayor Melky.

Council continued onto Notices of Motion and then returned to Public Question Time

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky
Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That question time be extended.

CARRIED (22362)

19.3 Elaine Peckham asked that as a born and bred local, why aren't the community coming together to form a solution rather than the town dividing. What can Council do in the space of trauma care for young people.
The Mayor thanked Ms. Peckham for the work of the Grandmother's Group.

19.4 Nic Carson asked for evidence and research that Council can base the ongoing consideration of 'tough on crime', punitive policing approaches and measures. Also, documentation to provide plans to avoid and mitigate the violence and racial discrimination that will come with increased policing, private security and dog squads.
Council will provide a written response to Nic's questions.

- 19.5 Chloe asked if the Motion had been passed, what would have been Council's role if something went wrong with Council acting as an administrative body.
Deputy Mayor Melky responded that with the Motion being withdrawn, that question can't be answered. If the Motion is presented to Council again then these questions will be considered.
- 19.6 Aia Newport asked about the proposals and who are the local Arrernte community members that have been consulted around this.
The Mayor responded that the CEO of Lhere Artepe sits on SORIC.
- 19.7 Sharon Schofield asked that the questions be answered with consideration.
The Mayor responded that so as to give a suitable response with the correct information, a response will be given before the next Council meeting to the question giver with that information recorded.
Ms Schofield went on to ask what community members are represented on the SORIC.
The Mayor responded that each representative of the SORIC lives and works in Alice Springs. A new process is about to be launched for the community around Village Consultations. Residents will be advised via letterbox drops, social media and local media.
Discussion ensued.
- 19.8 Joseph Gale asked if the golf course can be utilized with the installation of a flying fox for kids to use their adrenaline in a good way instead of throwing rocks.
- 19.9 Mark Anthony asked what does it mean if documents are called living and breathing.
The Mayor responded that even though it's been endorsed, changes can be made and the document be adaptable.
Discussion ensued.

20. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Nil

21. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

21.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Open Meeting held on 27 September, 2022

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Bitar

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 27 September, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED (22363)

21.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

21.2.1 Councillor Hopper – Statue Update

Councillor Hopper asked that the language used the same as the original Motion, that it be a series of monuments rather than statues.

21.2.2 Councillor Hopper – Cattle Tick Collars

Councillor Hopper asked for an update on the tick collars for dogs.

Director Community Development responded that consultation has been had with the collars potentially being made available for those that have dogs registered.

22 MAYORAL REPORT

22.1 Mayor's Report
Report No. 156 / 22 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That the Mayor's report be received.

CARRIED (22364)

22.2 Business Arising from the Report

22.2.1 Councillor Coffey – Social Order Response Plan committee

Councillor Coffey asked for an update on the SORIC.

The Mayor gave an overview of the members of the committee and will provide a more specific update within the Confidential portion of the meeting. If there is anything operational then it is passed onto the CEO and/or ratified in the Chamber with the Terms of Reference outlining the specifics.

Discussion ensued.

22.2.2 Councillor Hopper – Neptune Holdings

Councillor Hopper asked about this meeting.

The Mayor responded that it was a meet and greet and information sharing exercise.

23. ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

23.1.1 Mayor Paterson – Netball Facility

23.1.2 Councillor Hopper – Illegal Dumping

23.1.3 Councillor Liddle – Continuation of Community Football in Alice Springs

24. MEMORIALS

Nil

25. PETITIONS

Nil

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

26.1 Deputy Mayor Eli Melky – Declaration of the Increased Level of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour a Hazard to the Community

Elected members may be reminded from time to time of our legislated obligations as per the local Government Act 2019, in particular the following Sections that can act as a guide to support our actions:

Principal Role of Council

Section 21 (d), To encourage and develop initiatives for improving quality of life;
and

Functions of Council

Section 22 (b), To provide services and facilities for the benefit of its area its residents and visitors

Section 22 (e), To provide for the interests and wellbeing of individuals and groups within its area

Section 22 (f), To carry out measures to protect its area from natural and other hazards and to mitigate the effects of such Hazards

Objections of Council

Section 24 (h), generally to act at all times in the best interests of the community as a whole

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Elected Member

Alice Spring Town Council declare the increased level of crime and anti-social behaviour a hazard to our community;
and

In accordance with the local Government Act 2019, Section 22 (e) Functions of Council, the Alice Springs Town council carry out measures to protect its area and mitigate the effect of such Hazards, by:

- A. Alice Springs Town Council to write to the NTG and reinforce the existing motion and all its points, as moved at a special Ordinary Council meeting dated the 17th of May 'Community Safety (attached)**
- B. Create and administer an account for the purpose of holding publicly donated funds provided for the use of a publicly appointed private security firm which may include a dog patrol, as part of mitigating such hazards.**
- C. Invite the following organisations to discuss with Council their concerns and solutions to mitigate such hazards.**
- D. That 5 members of Public (by invite) - Chamber of Commerce, Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Organisation, Tangentyere Council, Todd Mall Traders, Congress, Tourism Central Australia.**

WITHDRAWN

26.2 Councillor Allison Bitar – Night Markets

There has been much talk about ideas to activate the CBD to create a safe place. In looking at ideas of activating the space, we should be looking to what the Council does well and building on that. Night Markets are one of the many events that the Council does well.

Night Markets are usually associated with bigger community events such as Finke, Parrtjima and the Desert Festival. There are many other significant events in the cultural calendar. This motion is to offer a number of additional night markets per year that interested Cultural groups can cohost with the Council.

This is not intended to replace the Big Day Out in Harmony, but rather be an addition to encourage the celebration of significant cultural events beyond the mainstream.

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the Alice Springs Town Council explores different options of activating the CBD including holding night markets, or similar activities, more frequently in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government and other community groups.

CARRIED (22365)

Discussion ensued.

An update will be presented to Elected Members on the work so far in the space of CBD activation.

The Mayor asked if the stall holders on the Night Markets are charged. Director Battle believes that yes, they do but it's a nominal amount.

Director Technical Services left the Chamber at 12.07pm

Director Technical Services left the Chamber at 12.11pm

The CEO suggested that Officers provide Elected Member's any activation projects.

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the amendment to the Motion be accepted

CARRIED (22366)

26.3 Councillor Allison Bitar – Christmas Giving

Christmas is a time for giving and for helping those less fortunate. With such a high population turnover, Alice Springs residents can be unsure of where to donate or how to donate.

The Town Council can assist by offering a space to charities such as the Salvation Army or the Women's Shelter for donations of specified goods.

By offering a donation space, this allows charities to continue uninterrupted service delivery in the lead up to Christmas.

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

~~The Alice Springs Town Council offer space in the foyer to charities who wish to collect donations of Christmas Gifts and other necessary items in the lead up to Christmas.~~

CARRIED (22367)

Discussion ensued.

Deputy Mayor Melky asked for a report be presented with further details around roles and responsibilities. The CEO responded that work has commenced in the background but further needs to be done.

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the Motion be amended to that Council Officers explore opportunities to facilitate community giving in the lead up to Christmas and present this at a future meeting of Council.

CARRIED (22368)

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That Council Officers explore opportunities to facilitate community giving in the lead up to Christmas and present this at a future meeting of Council.

CARRIED (22369)

Council recessed for lunch at 12.25pm and resumed at 12.55pm

27. FINANCE

27.1 Finance Report
Report No. 150 / 22 cncl

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22370)

27.2 Business Arising from the Report

27.2.1 The Mayor praised the Finance Team on the presentation of the Expense Statement. Councillor Coffey reiterated this.

Deputy Mayor Melky entered the meeting at 12.56pm

27.2.2 Councillor Bitar – Community Lighting Grant

The CEO responded that an update will be given in the General Business portion of the Confidential meeting.

27.2.3 Councillor Hopper – Reserves Movement

Councillor Hopper asked about the movement of funds in/out of Reserves.

Finance advised they are roll-overs pending further instruction.

27.2.4 Councillor Hopper – Developer Contributions

Councillor Hopper asked if these are fees charged for development applications.

The Director Corporate Services responded that these are application fees from developers.

27.2.5 Councillor Hopper – Investments

Councillor Hopper asked for an update on the Investment Policy.

The Mayor responded it will be presented at the next Forum.

27.2.6 Councillor Coffey – Insurance Payments

Councillor Coffey asked about the variances, number of instalments and what are the costs of insurance.

Ms Sebastiani responded that there are four throughout the year and gave the figures to be paid.

This is for Public Liability, Fleet and Workers Compensation.

27.2.7 Councillor Coffey – Elected Members Payments

Councillor Coffey asked why the Elected Member allowances are low for this time of year.

Ms Sebastiani responded it is due to the lack of applications from Elected Member's for travel, training etc.

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor responded that he feels that this will rise.

27.2.8 Councillor Coffey – Cash Analysis Reconciliation

Councillor Coffey asked about the cash analysis reconciliation.

Ms Sebastiani gave an overview of these funds.

28. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

28.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

28.1.1 CEO Report

Report No. 157 / 22 cncl

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Liddle

That this report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22371)

28.1.2 Business Arising from the Report

28.1.2.1 Councillor Hopper – Meeting with Jeevan Deut

Councillor Hopper asked for an update following the meeting with Mr Deut.

The CEO responded that due to the nature of the meeting, an update will be given in Confidential.

28.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

28.2.1 Annual Report
Report No. 159 / 22 cncI

Moved –

Seconded –

- A. That Council adopt and publish the Alice Springs Town Council Annual Report 2021/2022 as per Attachment A.**
- B. That Council note that in accordance with Section 290 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the adopted Alice Springs Town Council 2021/2022 Annual Report will be provided to the Minister for Local Government no later than 15 November 2022.**
- C. That Council note that in accordance with Regulation 16 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, the audited financial statements will be provided to the NT Grants Commission no later than 15 November 2022.**

DEFERRED

28.2.2 Business Arising from the Report

Nil

28.2.3 Christmas Closure
Report No. 160 / 22 cncI

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That the following be approved by Council:

- A. That the December Ordinary Council meeting be held, and scheduled for Tuesday 13 December 2022.**
- B. That the Civic Centre be closed to the public after 12:00pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023.**
- C. That the Depot be closed to the public after 3:30pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023.**
- D. That the Alice Springs Public Library be closed to the public on Saturday 24 December and reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023.**

- E. **That the Aquatic and Leisure Centre be closed on Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December 2022, and Christmas Day Sunday 25 December 2022.**
- F. **That the Regional Waste Management Facility be closed Christmas Day Sunday 25 December 2022, Monday 26 December 2022 and New Year's Day Sunday 1 January 2023; with the Rediscovery Centre being closed from Christmas Day Sunday 25 December 2022 and reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2023.**

CARRIED (22372)

28.2.3.1 Business Arising from the Report

Mayor Paterson asked for the information to be circulated to the public through the usual channels.

28.2.3.2 Corporate Business Plan

Report No. 164/ 22 cncI

(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.2.12)

Moved – Mayor Paterson

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That Council endorses the draft Alice Springs Town Council 3-year Business Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 as provided in Attachment A.

CARRIED (22382)

28.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

28.3.1 Community Development Report to Council
Report No. 162 / 22 cncI

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Bitar

That this report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22373)

28.3.2 Business Arising from the Report

28.3.2.1 Councillor Hopper – Pop Up Parks

Councillor Hopper asked if the attendance figure was for just the Ross Park event or all events.

Director Community Development responded that it was for just Ross Park

28.3.2.2 Councillor Hopper – Aboriginal Statues

Councillor Hopper asked that the language be changed from statues to monuments.

28.3.2.3 Councillor Coffey – Report Distribution

Councillor Coffey asked if the information contained in the report can be circulated to members of the public. This may assist with some of the questions received from the public gallery during the meeting.

28.3.2.4 Councillor Brown – Shopping Trolleys

Councillor Brown asked about the fining of retailers around abandoned shopping trolleys.

Director Community Development responded that discussions have been had with the Ranger Unit around the payment of fines. Historically these have not been paid but fines will be produced with the trolleys crushed if timely payment isn't received.

28.3.3 Response to Liquor Licence Applications
Report No. 166 / 22 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That Council resolve to:

- A. Have all liquor licence applications for Special Events, Major Events and to change or vary existing licence conditions assessed by officers upon receipt.**
- B. Authorise officers to provide feedback to Licensing NT on those applications that are deemed as having no grounds for objection pursuant to section 61(2) of the *Liquor Act 2019*.**
- C. Where such grounds do exist, authorise officers to request a time extension from Licensing NT and to bring forward a report to be considered at a meeting of Council, inclusive of:
 - i. Major Events – A large event expecting more than 1500 attendees, such as a music festival.**
 - ii. New applications – New applications for the various licence types, such as restaurants, bars and takeaway liquor outlets.**
 - iii. Change or Vary Licence Conditions – An application to change the conditions on an existing licence.****

CARRIED (22374)

Councillor Hopper left the Chamber at 1.12pm

Councillor Hopper returned to the Chamber at 1.13pm

28.3.4 Business Arising from the Report

Discussion ensued.

28.3.5 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – SFAC – 11 August 2022

Moved – Mayor Paterson

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That the minutes of the SFAC meeting held on Thursday 11 August, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED (22375)

28.3.6 Business Arising from the Minutes

28.3.6.1 Mayor Paterson – Sports Master Plan

Mayor Paterson asked if the Action Item – Sports Master Plan has been progressed.

The Director Community Development responded that its progressing.

28.3.6.2 Councillor Coffey – Next SFAC Meeting

Councillor Coffey asked for the date of the next meeting.

The Director Community Development took the question on notice.

28.3.7 Response to Petition – No New Pokies in Mparntwe
Report No. 158 / 22 cncI

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the Mayor of Alice Springs Town Council meet with both the Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing and the Director-General of Licensing to ensure that the health and wellbeing of Alice Springs' residents is prioritised when assessing any existing and/or future applications to increase the number of Electronic Gaming Machines in Alice Springs.

CARRIED (22376)

28.3.8 Business Arising from the Report

28.3.8.1 Councillor Hopper – Gaming Machine Spend

Councillor Hopper asked where the figures presented in the report were sourced from.

The Director Community Development took the question on notice.

28.3.8.2 Councillor Hopper – Meeting with the Attorney General

Councillor Hopper asked about the meeting with the Attorney General – when will this take place.

Mayor responded that it is in progress.

Discussion ensued.

28.4 TECHNICAL SERVICES

28.4.8 Technical Services Report to Council
Report No. 161 / 22 cncI

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the Technical Services Report to Council be received and noted.

CARRIED (22377)

28.4.9 Business Arising from the Report

28.4.9.1 Mayor Paterson – Skate Park tender

Mayor Paterson gave an update on the Skate Park tender with there being 8 responses.

28.4.9.2 Councillor Bitar – Lyndavale Park

Councillor Bitar asked for a more specific timeframe on the re-opening of Lyndavale Park.

The Director Technical Services responded that the park is due to open in December with final completion early in 2023.

28.4.9.3 Councillor Hopper – Hartley Street Toilet Replacement

Councillor Hopper asked if consideration can be made for temporary options especially around the recent public health concerns.

Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

28.4.10 Teague Park Upgrades
Report No. 163 / 22 cncl

Moved – Elected Member

Seconded – Elected Member

It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Seek approval from NT Government to upgrade the park and continue discussion on the future ownership of the park**
- 2. Endorse the Teague Park upgrade to the value of \$168,000.00.**

WITHDRAWN

28.4.11 Business Arising from the Report

28.4.11.1 Councillor Hopper – Equipment Requirements

Councillor Hopper asked around equipment requirements and upgrades for older kids.

The Director Technical Services that this has been a common request lately and that a focus will now be put on equipment for older children.

Discussion ensued.

28.4.11.2 Deputy Mayor Melky – Park Ownership

Deputy Mayor Melky asked around the upkeep vs. ownership of the park with the NT Government owning the park and Council maintaining it.

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Coffey asked around community consultation.

Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

Deputy Mayor Melky asked around traffic control and park fencing.

Director Technical Services responded that this will be considered as part of the planning process.

Councillor Hopper left the Chamber at 1.51pm

Councillor Hopper returned to the Chamber at 1.53pm

Councillor Liddle left the Chamber at 1.52pm

Councillor Liddle returned to the Chamber at 1.55pm

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the Motion be amended to:

- 1. That the CEO commence negotiations with DIPL around the transferring of ownership of Teague Park to Alice Springs Town Council.**
- 2. That a report be provided to Council on an alternate use of funding for a park in another location**

CARRIED (22378)

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Brown

- 1. That the CEO commence negotiations with DIPL around the transferring of ownership of Teague Park to Alice Springs Town Council.**
- 2. That a report be provided to Council on an alternate use of funding for a park in another location**

CARRIED (22379)

28.4.12 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Parks Advisory Committee – 30 August 2022

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the minutes from the Parks Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 30 August, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED (22380)

28.4.13 Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

28.4.14 Proposed CBD Revitalisation Master Plan Report
Report No. 165 / 22 cncl

(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.4.1)

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Bitar

That Council fund for the concept design of the CBD Revitalisation from the Elected Member Projects budget.

CARRIED (22383)

29 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Councillor Hopper praised the Depot Team on their flood preparation work around town and asked for an update be given at the next Council meeting.

The Director Technical Services took this on notice.

30 GENERAL BUSINESS

30.4 Mayor Paterson – Netball Facility

Mayor Paterson gave an update on the netball facility and the recent withdraw of funding. He will be extending an invitation to Gina Hancock to discuss potential funding.

30.5 Councillor Hopper – Illegal Dumping

Councillor Hopper has been receiving requests around illegal dumping reporting. She has been advising them to go through Neatstreets and wanted to confirm that this is correct platform.

The CEO responded that he believed so but took the question on notice.

30.6 Councillor Liddle – Continuation of Community Football in Alice Springs

Councillor Liddle asked for the community football for the next season be considered to allow for the greatest amount of preparation possible.

Councillor Liddle asked for Sam Gibson from AFLNT be invited back to present to Council and give an update on what is being done on remote communities etc. Also, what is being done with the players that are now residing in Alice Springs and not returning to community following games. How is community football benefit Alice Springs?

The Mayor will request that Mr Gibson attend a future Forum with Elected Members. It is also part of the Social Order Response Implementation Council (SORIC).

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor suggested that this item be part of the next Centreroc meeting.

Discussion ensued.

30.7 Councillor Coffey – Behaviour of Member of the Public Gallery

Councillor Coffey raised his concerns regarding the behaviour of Glen Dooley both when in the public gallery and after being asked to leave. This is the type of behaviour Council and the community are trying to remove.

Councillor Coffey asked if as a Council, can anything be done to send a clear message to show that this is unacceptable.

The CEO responded that this can be looked at with a response provided to Council.

Concerns were also raised around security within the Chamber and its layout.

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Hopper asked about communicating the expectations of behaviour within the Chamber to the public and educating the public on how to ask questions at meetings.

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Bitar left the Chamber at 2.21pm

Councillor Bitar returned to the Chamber at 2.23pm

Director Community Development left the Chamber at 2.30pm

Director Community Development returned to the Chamber at 2.34pm

31 MATTERS FOR MEDIA ATTENTION

Media matters will be covered via the media attendance at this meeting.

32 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 November, 2022 at 8.30am

33 ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting closed at **2.50pm**

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Brown

The Council stands adjourned to continue in Confidential.

CARRIED (22381)

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____