

MINUTES OF THE **ORDINARY** MEETING OF THE FOURTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2022 IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

13. RESUMPTION OF MEETING IN OPEN

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

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting open at **11:10am** 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 S. Brown

Councillor J Cocking

Councillor M. Coffey

Councillor K. Hopper (11.14am)

Councillor M. Liddle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R. Jennings – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services

Mrs N. Battle – Director Community Development

Mr M. Goode – Acting Director Technical Services

Mrs E. Williams – Executive Assistant (Minutes)

Ms A. Chin – Executive Assistant

15. PRAYER

Topher Hallyburton from the Anglican Church, Alice Springs.

16. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor M. Banks

Moved – Councillor Cocking

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the apology be accepted

CARRIED (22257)

Councillor A. Bitar

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That the apology be accepted

CARRIED (22258)

17. WELCOME

The CEO welcomed the new Community Development Director, Nicole Battle with the Mayor also welcoming Ms Battle on behalf of the Elected Members.

The Mayor thanked the team responsible in cleaning up the Chamber following the vandalism attack overnight on Monday and for the additional work required following the postponement of the meeting from yesterday until today. The Mayor read the following statement:

“Unfortunately, we are seeing this behaviour become far too frequent in Alice Springs. We have hundreds of kids every day causing mayhem and breaking the good people of our town. As I said on radio yesterday, the fact Council has been broken into is nothing but disappointing but the story of this event is not the Council being broken into, the story of the events is of the single mother that has had to find an alternate method to take her kids to school because her car has been smashed. It’s the small business owners who are struggling to keep their heads above water who have to keep dealing with this every single day. I know, and I know that you know, that the powers that we have in this Chamber is advocacy and demanding change. Recently spending the week at ALGA, we were constantly told that Local Government is the closest government to the people and we are at the coal-face and its time that we demand that the government’s above us listen to what we have to say.”

I am sick of political correctness which has got us into this mess. I am sick of the southern governments and eastern states telling Central Australian people how we need to live because it's not working. I have had calls this week from a group of business owners, and its now on social media, demanding that we send the AFL game on July 18 away. This is because there is a fear for safety of our residents and a fear of it being 24 hours after the sunset clause lapses. I want to make the point clear, its not a sentiment I share because I don't want the 99% of the residents that do the right thing, to miss out. I do want to acknowledge though, that people are frightened about anxious about more people coming into our community for events. Yesterday, I reached out and spoke to the Attorney General to share my frustrations on behalf of the community and the Elected Members and to also share my frustrations on the legislation that is clearly not working. I am meeting with the Attorney General tomorrow to have further discussions and advocate for change within Alice Springs. I want to finish by thanking everyone for yesterday and I want to thank the Elected Members because I know as Councillors you sit on the coalface of this and you wear unnecessary criticism on behalf of the Territory Government which isn't fair. So, thank you and I'm sure during the meeting today we will come up with productive resolutions that address these issues. Anything further to this can be discussed in general business".

18. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

18.1 Amelia Missen – Local Resident

Ms Missen presented a letter requesting big kid play equipment in Alice Springs. The Mayor responded that Council have recently passed a motion around a Regional Skate Park which will include play equipment for youth and disabilities etc. Also, in the recently passed Liveability and Sustainability 2030 which contains the development of a Parks Masterplan and the increase of disability friendly recreation.

18.2 John Croft – Local Resident

Mr Croft spoke about the vandalism of ASALC and asked if the security had been increased.

The Director Corporate Services responded that security is being upgraded accordingly.

Mr Croft and the Director Corporate Services will make a time to meet following their initial discussion.

18.3 Sandy Taylor – Local Resident

Ms Taylor asked for clarification around the Notice of Motion from Councillor Liddle being presented on indigenous statues being built in Alice Springs.

Councillor Liddle responded that the statues wouldn't be from dreamtime but rather those that have contributed to the town such as Mr Sid Ross and Mr Charlie Perkins. It would be in consultation with Lhere Artepe and the community.

Discussion ensued.

Ms Taylor went on to request that Council review the mowing / weed issues at Ilparpa.

Acting Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

19. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Nil

20. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

20.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Open Meeting held on 17 May, 2022

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 17 May, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED (22259)

20.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

20.2.1 Councillor Brown

Councillor Brown asked around any further discussions with NTG.

The Mayor responded that there have been discussions with the Chief Minister and that they will be in town tomorrow (Thursday) to announce funding.

20.3 Minutes of the Ordinary Open Meeting held on 24 May, 2022

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 24 May, 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED (22260)

20.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

20.4.1 Councillor Hopper - Item 20.2.1 – Street Light Power Account.

Councillor Hopper asked for clarification regarding this item.

Director Corporate Services advised that it was two individual payments made in the same period and not a double up.

20.4.2 Councillor Coffey – Various

Councillor Coffey requested various title and incorrect name corrections be made to the minutes.

The EA will action and make the relevant changes.

21. MAYORAL REPORT

21.1 Mayor's Report
Report No. 86 / 22 cncl

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Melky

That the Mayor's report be received.

CARRIED (22261)

21.2 Business Arising from the Report

Nil

22. ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

22.1.1 Councillor Hopper – Removal of Dead Trees

22.1.2 Deputy Mayor Melky – Core Business of Council and Community Safety

22.1.3 Deputy Mayor Melky – Removal of Abandoned Cars

22.1.4 Deputy Mayor Melky – Funding for Traffic Management Plans (TMP's)

22.1.5 Councillor Cocking – Cycling

22.1.6 Councillor Cocking – Peace Process

22.1.7 Councillor Cocking – Personal Statement.

23. MEMORIALS

23.1 Mr Bob Kennedy, AM

Bob was born in England in 1939 and his family moved to Australia when he was very young. He grew up in Broken Hill where his father worked as an engineer. On leaving school, Bob joined the Bank of NSW where he worked throughout New South Wales and South Australia. In 1974 he was transferred to the Alice Springs branch as an accountant and at the end of his contract, he decided to stay in Central Australia.

He began a career in real estate and through his exceptional organisational and managerial skills, was ultimately involved in establishing the very successful L.J. Hooker franchise.

As a young adult, Bob began his community service as an expedition leader for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in South Australia. His contributions to the Central Australian community included many formal and informal roles. He was a board member of APEX, Hamilton Downs Youth Camp, YMCA, Alice Springs Pony Club, Anzac Hill and Sadadeen High Schools, Tourism Central Australia, Central Australian Camel Industry Association, Araluen Arts Centre and as Alderman and Deputy Mayor for Alice Springs Town Council.

Bob was elected as Alderman in 1984. He served three consecutive terms (5th, 6th and 7th councils) and was Deputy Mayor from 1992-1996. His fellow Aldermen recall this period as a time of many achievements and a lot of fun. Bob was recognised as being a very clever man with an ability to negotiate outcomes so that all parties felt like a winner. Bob was passionate about the role of local government. He served as President of the Northern Territory Local Government Association and as Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association.

One of Bob's greatest professional achievements was his involvement with the establishment and operation of Centrecorp. Centrecorp grew out of a desire for Aboriginal people to become more involved with the economy of the Northern Territory and make a beneficial difference to Aboriginal people in Central Australia. Today, the Centrecorp Foundation provides significant support in the areas of health, welfare and education.

In 2017, Bob was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the Indigenous community of Central Australia, to economic development and tourism promotion, and to local government.

Bob was an accomplished pianist with a great love of classical music. He was also a very practical man with a keen interest in mechanics. He was a bushwalker, adventurer and Crows supporter. He flew gliders at Bond Springs Airstrip and held a pilot's license. For Bob, there wasn't much better than camping out bush in the Outback that he loved so very much.

Bob is remembered as a talented, generous and compassionate man; a true gentleman. Bob's family and friends are very proud of the legacy he has left in Central Australia.

Thank you to Bob's daughter, Alison Kain for providing this memorial.

24. PETITIONS

Nil

25. NOTICES OF MOTION

25.1 Councillor Liddle – Aboriginal Statues

Moved – Councillor Liddle

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Melky

For Council to design, consult on and then construct a series of monuments that commemorate the Aboriginal history of the area upon which Alice Springs now sits. Funding for this project is to be sourced from either the Capital (Infrastructure) or CBD Revitalisation Reserves.

CARRIED (22262)

Apmere Mparntwe has a history which was born in the Altyerre (dreamtime). Athereyurre (Telegraph Station) was where the Central Arrente people survived for 1000's of years because of the source of water reliability. Athereyurre provided this necessity to the Central Arrente people.

Landmarks such as Ntaripe (Heavitree Gap), Akeyellerre (Billy Goat Hill), Untyeyetwelye (Anzac Hill), Athereyurre (Telegraph Station) and surrounding hill lines all have an Aboriginal presence when looking through Central Arrente eyes. They are hidden but not invisible and are very present in the moment about a past history that was created from the Altyerre (dreamtime). Beetles, caterpillars and dogs fighting all travelling in all directions leaving these monumental landmarks in the wake for all to view.

Today, Alice Springs is a home to people from many countries and cultures, with an Aboriginal population of 18.1% and almost 20% of residents speaking a language other than English at home.

Whilst statues commemorating the history of settlers into Alice Springs from around 1800 are commonplace, there are as yet no statues commemorating the history of Aboriginal Peoples.

This notice of motion has been conceived to address the lack of Aboriginal statue representation in the Township of Alice Springs.

A series of statues (starting with one) is proposed of Aboriginal people relevant to the area to be designed, consulted on and then constructed in appropriate places in the township. The selection of the appropriate people by Lhere Artepe, the communication of the process and the final forms in their place are seen to be significant elements of the overall process. A process to achieve these goals will be mapped out by officers and Elected Members kept informed of progress with appropriate decision gates.

Funding for this project is proposed to be sourced from either the Capital (Infrastructure) or CBD Revitalisation Reserves.

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky
Seconded –

Move out of standing orders

CARRIED (22263)

Discussion ensued.

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky
Seconded – Councillor Coffey

Move into standing orders

CARRIED (22264)

*The CEO left the Chamber at 12.11pm
The CEO returned to the Chamber at 12.13pm*

26. FINANCE

26.1 Finance Report
Report No. 77 / 22 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky
Seconded – Councillor Cocking

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22265)

26.2 Business Arising from the Report

26.2.1 Councillor Cocking, Page 267 – Depreciation

Councillor Cocking has noticed that depreciation is lower and asked if this is an ongoing issue?

Director Corporate Services took the question on notice. She believes there was an error in Civica with the error now being rectified.

26.2.2 Councillor Hopper – Grant Payments

Councillor Hopper asked how it's possible to overspend a grant?

The Mayor responded that funds for the next financial year are brought into this financial year and that the YTD budget will never to completely accurate.

Discussion ensued.

26.2.3 Councillor Coffey – EFT Payment Summary

Councillor Coffey asked for an update on the manual process around finance reporting.

The Director Corporate Services responded that Council are still transitioning to the Civica program which will be completed August / September.

26.2.4 Councillor Hopper – Contractor Payments

Councillor Hopper raised that some local suppliers have been placed in the interstate column.

Director Corporate Services will have this reviewed and rectified.

26.2.5 Councillor Hopper – Araluen Art Centre

Councillor Hopper asked about the payment made to Territory Families, Housing and Communities for the Araluen Art Centre.

The CEO responded that he believes it is for the curating of the Council art stored at Araluen which comes under Territory Families, Housing and Communities.

26.2.6 Councillor Hopper – Payment of Contractors

Councillor Hopper asked that if a contractor is paid twice for the same service in the same month and it goes over \$200k will this trigger the requirement for the service to go to tender?

The Mayor responded that this did go out to tender.

The Director Corporate Services responded that Civica will not allow double payment for suppliers.

Discussion ensued.

27. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

27.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

27.1.1 CEO Report
Report No. 88 / 22 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Liddle

That the CEO report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22266)

27.1.2 Business Arising from the Report

27.1.2.1 Deputy Mayor Melky – NTEC recommendations

Deputy Mayor Melky asked is this something Council needs to consider?

The CEO responded that if this moves beyond operational then it will be returned to Council.

Councillor Cocking responded that number of signs allowed for candidates needs to be considered.

27.1.2.2 Councillor Coffey – Corrections MOU

Councillor Coffey asked if following the signing of the Corrections MOU, is this now back to normal operation?

The CEO responded that he believes it is and the Acting Director Technical Services reiterated that he feels that even though Corrections are back working that Council are still behind on where we need to be.

27.1.2.3 Councillor Cocking – Council Updates

Councillor Cocking asked about better engagement with the community around what Council are doing. Not everyone is aware of Council Connects. Are there other options?

The CEO responded that he has been having discussions with the comms. team with budget available to further this work.

27.1.2.4 Draft 2022-2030 Strategic Plan Alice Springs Liveability and Sustainability 2030

Report No. 79 / 22 cncI

Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 8.1.3

Moved – Mayor Paterson

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That Council adopt the Alice Springs Town Council 2022-2030 Strategic Plan Alice Springs Liveability and Sustainability 2030.

CARRIED (22246)

27.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

27.2.1 Rates Declaration 2022-23
Report No. 96 / 22 cncl

Moved – Mayor Paterson
Seconded – Councillor Cocking

- A. To note the Chief Executive Officer’s Certificate of Assessment in accordance with section 29(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, and;**
- B. Approves the Alice Springs Town Council declaration of Rates and Charges for the 2022-2023 financial year in accordance with sections 237 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.**

CARRIED (22267)

27.2.2 Business Arising from the Report

27.2.3 Adoption of the 2022-23 Municipal Plan and Annual Budget
Report No. 78 / 22 cncl

Moved – Mayor Paterson
Seconded – Councillor Brown

- A. That Council adopt the Alice Springs Town Council Municipal Plan 2022-23 as per section 35(1) of the *NT Local Government Act 2019*, and;**
- B. That Council adopt the Annual Budget 2022-23 as per section 203(1) of the *NT Local Government Act 2019*, and;**
- C. That Council adopts the Elected Member allowances for the 2022-23 financial year as outlined in the Draft Municipal Plan and in accordance with section 71 of the *NT Local Government Act 2019*.**

CARRIED (22268)

27.2.4 Busines Arising from the Report

- 27.2.4.1 The Mayor responded that there is a good plan for the year ahead and that the document will be made available online for the community asap.

27.2.4.2 Councillor Hopper – Item 2

Councillor Hopper asked why the figures are different?

The Mayor responded that he believes it was a number transfer error. What is in the plan is correct.

Councillor Hopper went on to ask for a more gender balanced approach with photographs be given to future documents.

Councillor Liddle left the Chamber at 12.25pm

Councillor Liddle returned to the Chamber at 12.27pm

27.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

27.3.1 Community Development Report to Council
Report No. 80 / 22 cncI

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the Community Development Report to Council be received and noted.

CARRIED (22269)

27.3.2 Business Arising from the Report

Nil

27.3.3 Council's Volunteering Program
Report No. 82 / 22 cncI

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22270)

27.3.4 Business Arising from the Report

Councillor Cocking raised that there isn't a lot of information in the report and asked how the role is going around engagement with the community.

Director Corporate Services responded that a report will be presented at the next meeting around engagement numbers etc.

Discussion ensued.

Director Battle offered to further the discussion around volunteering with Deputy Mayor Melky.

Councillor Brown raised that this is a Motion that has been worked on for a period of time.

The CEO responded that the Resolutions tracker assists in this and at the last review was at 95% therefore some will be still outstanding. This information can be provided to Elected Members.

Council recessed for lunch at 12.37 pm and returned at 1.05pm.

27.3.5 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Public Art Advisory Committee – 11 May 2022

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Cocking

That the minutes from the Public Art Advisory Committee held on 11 May, 2022 be received.

CARRIED (22271)

27.3.6 Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

27.3.7 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Seniors Coordinating Committee – 18 May 2022

Moved – Councillor Liddle

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the minutes from the Seniors Coordinating Committee held on 18 May, 2022 be received.

CARRIED (22272)

27.3.8 Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

- 27.3.9 Application for Sponsorship – Rapid Ascent
Report No. 85 / 22 cncI
Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 8.3.1

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky
Seconded – Councillor Brown

That Council support the application from Rapid Ascent to hold Run Larapinta Stage Race from 12 to 15 August 2022 and the Redback Mountain Bike Stage Race from 18 to 21 August 2022, from the Tourism, Events and Promotions budget 2022-2023 to the amount of \$2,500.

CARRIED (22249)

- 27.3.10 Application for Sponsorship – Desert Sports Foundation
Report No. 93 / 22 cncI
Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 8.3.3

Moved – Councillor Cocking
Seconded – Councillor Brown

That Council support the application from Desert Sports Foundation to hold Red Centre Food Festival on 22 – 27 August 2022 from the Tourism, Events and Promotions budget 2022-2023 to the amount of \$2,500.

CARRIED (22250)

27.4 TECHNICAL SERVICES

- 27.4.1 Technical Services Report
Report No. 92 / 22 cncI

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky
Seconded – Councillor Hopper

That this report be received and noted

CARRIED (22273)

27.4.2 Business Arising from the Report

27.4.2.1 Councillor Hopper – Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Plan accuracy – Councillor Hopper asked if this was done prior to the change into the Climate Environment Policy?

The Acting Director Technical Services advised that yes, it was done prior to the change.

27.4.2.2 Councillor Hopper – Recycled Water

Councillor Hopper asked if a response had been received from Power and Water around the use of recycled water, or has that discussion not been had yet?

Acting Director Technical Services responded that its progressing and is being supported in principle by Power and Water.

27.4.2.3 Councillor Hopper – Greening Policy

Councillor Hopper asked that Council will be seeking more than one landscape architect due to it being such an important and long-term piece of work.

Acting Director Technical Services responded that due to the priority that we have only sought information from one but this can be reviewed.

Discussion ensued.

27.4.2.4 Deputy Mayor Melky – Climate Action Plan

Deputy Mayor Melky believed that the Motion passed in the May Ordinary meeting dissolved this?

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor advised that there is no Climate Action Plan.

Discussion ensued.

27.4.2.5 Councillor Coffey – Vergecare

Councillor Coffey asked if there will be a report presented to Council now that Vergecare is complete?

The Director Corporate Services responded that a report will be presented in the July meeting.

27.4.3 Regional Skate Park Consultation Summary
Report No. 90 / 22 cncl

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Cocking

1. **Council resolve that Newland Park is the preferred location for the Regional Skate Park and a commence preliminary design and**
 - a. **commence preliminary design and**
 - b. **undertake further community consultation relating to the preliminary design**
 - c. **continue to seek funding**

CARRIED (22274)

27.4.4 Business Arising from the Report

The Mayor gave an overview of the consultations and that there may be better locations available and to continue the consultation process.

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor thanked the Acting Director Technical Services for the work his department did towards the consultations.

Discussion ensued.

27.4.5 Proposed Blain Street / Larapinta Drive Intersection Safety Improvement
Report No. 91 / 22 cncl

Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 8.4.1

Moved – Councillor Cocking

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That Council provides in principle support for the proposal to improve the Blain Street intersection and propose ongoing engagement between the Alice Springs Town Council and the Northern Territory Government.

CARRIED (22251)

28. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

28.1 Deputy Mayor Melky – Motion around Crime

Deputy Mayor Melky asked if the items from the Motion that was moved at the Special meeting in May had been addressed. Have the contents from the Motion been put in writing to the Chief Minister?

The Mayor responded that since the Motion, Council have met with the Chief Minister, Attorney General and Police Minister. A separate meeting will be held between the Mayor and the Chief Minister and Attorney General.

Regarding putting contents of the Motion in writing and a response being received, the Mayor took the question on notice.

29. GENERAL BUSINESS

29.1 Councillor Hopper – Removal of Dead Trees

Councillor Hopper asked if there was a process around the removal of dead trees is and prioritisation of these removals? Does this need to be outsourced?

The Acting Director TS responded that yes there is a backlog of works and that the Depot are trying to be more proactive rather than being so reactive. The use of contractors has been discussed.

The CEO further added that the question has been raised previously with a tree-crew being established to move through town. A specialist arborist has been engaged to review a group of trees that show the highest risk.

Councillor Hopper asked for a focus be made on the CBD.

Councillor Brown asked for Council to consider a more educated approach around the tree planting in town.

29.2 Deputy Mayor Melky – Core Business of Council and Community Safety

Deputy Mayor Melky raised that he will be bringing this item to Council via a Motion at a future meeting.

29.3 Deputy Mayor Melky – Removal of Abandoned Cars

Deputy Mayor Melky raised that he will be bringing this item to Council via a Motion at a future meeting.

29.4 Deputy Mayor Melky – Funding for Traffic Management Plans (TMP's)

Deputy Mayor Melky advised that he will be bringing this item to Council via a Motion at a future meeting.

29.5 Councillor Cocking – Cycling

Councillor Cocking advised that Alice Springs is the highest cycling town in Australia following the last census and asked for consideration around safe and secure parking / storage for bicycles in town.

Discussion ensued.

29.6 Councillor Cocking – Peace Process

Councillor Cocking asked that as a Council, we need to change the frame on how the issues in town are being viewed – a more peaceful and harmonious approach rather than a criminal justice lens.

The CEO responded that these discussions are proceeding but there are many lenses these issues can be viewed.

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor will request that the Chief Minister come and meet with Council to continue the discussion.

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Liddle asked for the parents of the children and young adults be called out and be held responsible. He went on to explain the painting that he utilises within the workshops he conducts.

Councillor Coffey spoke about expectation setting. What wouldn't be accepted elsewhere is being accepted in Alice Springs. The behaviour needs to be dealt with immediately with Council making a stand around acceptable levels of behaviour.

Councillor Hopper raised that it's important to keep telling the stories and not to become desensitized to what we are seeing and experiencing.

29.7 Deputy Mayor Melky – July 17, 2022 AFL game in Alice Springs

Deputy Mayor Melky asked for guidance around the AFL game in July.

The Mayor spoke with AFLNT and asked the CEO when he would be next presenting to Council which will be around the 5th – 19th July, 2022.

Discussion ensued.

Deputy Mayor Melky asked for the information from ITCG around large events be shared with the community.

The CEO responded that he will try and gain consent from NT Police to share with Elected Members what is discussed in the ITCG meetings.

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Liddle left the Chamber at 2.22pm

Councillor Liddle returned to the Chamber at 2.23pm

29.8 Councillor Cocking – Personal Statement.

Councillor Cocking gave notice of his resignation from Council following his recent appointment as CEO of Desert Knowledge Australia.

“Today I am giving notice of my resignation from the Alice Springs Town Council. I have recently been appointed the position of CEO of Desert Knowledge Australia. A role that will require me to dedicate my time fully and that remaining I seek to spend with my family. The role of CEO at DKA will require me to work with Council in ways that will conflict with my ability to remain an elected member. It will also require me to focus on the needs of the region beyond the town boundaries. I look forward to maintaining a strong working relationship with the Council as we embark on an ambitious program towards building stronger and sustainable Central Australian communities collaboratively.

I have had the honour and privilege to represent the community for the best part of 5 years and I am proud of the impact I have had in that time. I ran for Mayor and Council in the past two elections because it was from my perspective, the best thing I could do with my time to help deliver better outcomes for our community.

Although it hasn't always been fun or easy. It has been a combative space at times but it has also become a collaborative space, where differing views are respected and accepted. It has been a rewarding journey where I have developed friendships and working relationships with all of you throughout this time which I hope to continue well into the future.

I'm not going to list all the motions and business I have brought to Council because Council is a team effort. Once you bring the business, it either gets voted on and becomes Council business or it doesn't carry and you just get keep on going. But I am proud to have been a part of delivering 5 budgets, 5 municipal plans, 2 strategic plans and the Climate Action Plan to help shape the direction and investment of Council for our community and working to develop a more diverse, inclusive and collaborative culture within this organisation. I campaigned for a better Alice and I am happy to see that a lot of that has come through in the upcoming Municipal and Strategic Plans. There are more things I would have liked to have done if circumstances were different, but there are no regrets.

I want to thank my supporters and the people who voted for me. I wouldn't have been here without your support. I hope this doesn't disappoint too many people, but I have to make this decision as the opportunity to lead a regionally focused organisation like DKA is something I have worked towards for a long time and the time is now. My resignation will create a by-election and I encourage anyone who wants to take the opportunity to represent and lead to step up and do it. It is an important role in the community and gives insight into how things work...and sometimes don't work. It provides an opportunity to make a difference and work together with people with a variety of views and values and take calculated risks, make compromises and learn a great deal. I encourage anyone willing to give it a go, to stand up and give it a go. There is a great group of people here to work with and support you.

I am sad to be leaving Council but I know it is in good hands with the people around this chamber. I want to thank all of you here today and I also want to acknowledge Cr Catherine Satour who worked hard in the previous Chamber to ensure the Aboriginal flag flew on Anzac Hill, the artists of this town were supported through COVID and attempted to create a pathway to this Council working better with Arrernte people. I am proud to have been a part of the 13th and 14th Alice Springs Town Council.

It has been an honour to serve and represent this community as an Alice Springs Town Councillor, various Chairing roles and as a caretaker Deputy Mayor. I thank you all for the opportunity to have done so.

Thank you Mayor Paterson and Deputy Mayor Melky for your inclusive approach to leadership over the past year. Cr Banks for the past 5 years through the ups and downs, I have great respect for you and your ability to manage business, Council and family. Cr Hopper - it is great to have you in this

Chamber, alongside Cr Bitar and Cr Liddle who will ensure community voices are heard. Cr Brown and Cr Coffey - it has been a pleasure to share the chamber with you and finding our common purpose through dialogue and debate. Thank you, Mr CEO, Director Taylor and the team for your support and the work you do.

I will continue to work for this community as part of the region that surrounds it. I will be no stranger to Council and Councillors as we all have a responsibility to work towards better outcomes for the people who live here.

I leave this Chamber in a better place than I found it and that is all we can hope to do in this life. I wish you all the best for the term and the times ahead and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Best of luck

Kele mwerre”.

The Mayor responded thanking Councillor Cocking for the contribution he has made throughout his term. The Elected Members went on to further thank Councillor Cocking.

30. MATTERS FOR MEDIA ATTENTION

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

31. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26 July, 2022 at 8.30am

32. ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting closed at **2.30pm**

Moved – Councillor Cocking

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Melky

The Council stands adjourned.

CARRIED (22275)

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____