

MINUTES OF THE **SPECIAL** MEETING OF THE THIRTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4 MAY 2020 IN ALICE SPRINGS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this special meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Opening of the Meeting by the Mayor (Chair)

The Mayor Damien Ryan declared the meeting open at **3.32pm** and welcomed all present to the meeting.

Welcome to the Advocate and Alice Springs News.

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

PRESENT

Mayor D. Ryan (Chair)

Deputy Mayor M. Paterson

Councillor G. Auricht

Councillor M. Banks

Councillor J. Cocking

Councillor E. Melky

Councillor J. Price

Councillor C. Satour

Councillor J. de Brenni

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R. Jennings – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Mr S. Allen – Director Technical Services

Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services

Ms C. Ashard – Media and Communications

Mrs E. Williams – Executive Assistant (Minutes)

2. APOLOGIES

Councillor J. Price

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Auricht

That the apology be accepted.

CARRIED (20944)

Councillor Price attended the meeting at 3.41pm

That the apology be rescinded.

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Auricht

CARRIED (20945)

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

5.1. Alice Springs Town Council Elected Member COVID-19 Community Support Measures Analysis

Report No. 85/20 cncI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 11 March 2020 World Health Organisation declared Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. This has led to unprecedented worldwide responses such as physical distancing, limits to public gatherings and self-isolation in an attempt to slow the outbreak.

Whilst these responses were intended to stem subsequent contagion of COVID-19; there has been economic consequences. The restriction to the movement of people and supply chains has financially stressed businesses (particularly those with inadequate liquidity), within the Alice Springs municipality forcing many to close their doors to the public.

Officers have conducted analysis and validation of the proposed Community support measures submitted by Councillors. Each of these proposed measures were considered by officers and the best interests of the Community as a key priority in deferring a recommendation.

The main considerations listed under 'Discussion' limit our ability to correctly anticipate or adequately understand who in our community might be vulnerable or how further disruption will impact a wholesale support measure. Our analysis and validation is limited to current information and as more complete evidence emerges we will refine our assumptions and predictions accordingly.

To move too early on any of the notice of motions would bring inappropriate risk to the organisation as a result of too many unqualified variables. Please refer to the notices of motion that are duly referenced in the 27 April 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

MOTION

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Seconded – Councillor Cocking

That it be a recommendation to Council that:

5.1 Due to uncertainty created by the Pandemic, Council note the Community support measures submitted by Councillor's and

- 1. Council identify a \$5M COVID-19 reserve to provide for the future economic, social and well-being support of the community and the organisation with the following aims and scope:**
 - a. Details of the appropriate package will be considered over the coming weeks as part of the Council 2020/21 budget deliberations with a possible announcement of confirmed measures in June or July 2020.**
 - b. At a high level the break down of the \$5M COVID-19 Reserve will be**
 - i. \$1M for operational requirements as determined by the CEO to allow for the safe, effective and legislative function of the organisation during the COVID-19 Pandemic as discussed in the April 2020 Standing Committee.**
 - ii. \$1.2M to provide Council with a suitable non-commercial COVID-19 package to the Alice Springs community as part of the budget deliberations and any COVID-19 related response**
 - iii. Alternate community support measures, with consideration of:**
 - 1. \$2.8M for CBD revitalisation, subject to the NT Government commencing all aspects of the CBD revitalisation project on site and confirmed co-funding of \$20M.**
 - 2. Other measures as determined by Elected Members.**
- 2. That Council adopt the Public Benefit Concessions Policy for Commercial Ratepayers.**
- 3. Write to the Northern Territory Government and thank them for their leadership.**

1. BACKGROUND

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) 11 March 2020.

On 26 March 2020 Council approved measures to support the community and rate payers which included a suspension of all outstanding rates interest from 27 March 2020 until 30 June 2020. These are detailed in the Chief Executive Officer – Robert Jennings report to the Special Meeting of Council on Thursday 26 March 2020.

2. **DISCUSSION**

The impact of COVID-19 is being felt by communities and businesses worldwide. Council is facing the challenges of keeping employees and our community safe, ensuring essential services are maintained to an adequate level and navigating through complicated and yet to be finalised government stimulus packages.

In deliberations Council should consider the following:

- The initial containment of COVID-19 has not been successful. The substantive outbreak occurred in China; spread to Italy, Iran, Japan, Australia and throughout many countries in the world,
- The longevity of the virus; including the potential of a second and third wave remains uncertain,
- A vaccine has not been discovered or disseminated,
- Infrastructure spending to stimulate the economy is being introduced by the Northern Territory Government and subsequent rounds of support are still evolving,
- The Australian Dollar has depreciated against the US Dollar to levels not seen since the global financial crisis (GFC),
- There have been no new cases of COVID-19 in the Northern Territory since 6 April 2020, however we are not in recovery phase and as a result have not completed planning to estimate when we can return to 'business as usual',
- The effect of the impact of disruption to people's lives even before the economic impact on Alice Springs community; mental health issues, fear, stockpiling of food, medical products and being 'stood down' from their jobs has not been quantified,
- Rates and other charges are a secure and reliable source of revenue that Council utilises in the delivery of services to the community,
- Underlying all considerations, we need to understand the implications of the outcomes of any decision on best positioning Council for future resilience,
- Expenditure impacts on Council services such as Rangers, Regional Waste Management Facility, Human Resources and Media,
- Impacts of project delays,
- Analysis of impacts on current Australian Federal Government and Northern Territory Government support measures on our community and if there are consequent unidentified areas of need and
- Officers analysis of appropriate Community Development and infrastructure recovery programs (future targeted aims) and their likely costs.

COVID-19 Local Government Support Package

On Thursday 23 April, the Minister for Local Government Housing and Community Development released via media details of COVID-19 support for the Local Government sector. Essentially the funding supports job creation in communities, waivers and deferrals of rates for businesses in hardship and a review of unspent grants to support Local Government during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Refer Attachment A and Attachment B)

This information was released at 12.00pm on 27 April 2020, accounting for the lateness of this report.

Preliminary Analysis on Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Banks

For underlying detail please refer to the notices of motion that are duly referenced in the 27 April 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Councillor Banks Notice of Motion				
Motion	Cost to Council	Comments		
Waive all rates for Q1 of 2020/2021 financial year	-\$5,750,000	No detail on how this will be funded' Equitable option as all rates will be waived'		
Officer Analysis and Assumptions				
Assumption	Number	Estimated (\$)	Difference	Comments
Estimated 20/21 Rate Income 0% Increase on 19/20		\$22,874,000		
Rateable Properties	9606			
Average per ratepayer		\$595		
				No detail of how - \$5,750,000 is to be funded
Motion will be funded from Reserves		\$5,718,500	\$22,281,500 Remining in reserves	Currently\$30M in Reserves \$28M internally restricted reserves \$2M Externally restricted
Motion will be funded via reduced services		\$5,718,500	\$29,281,500	19/20 Total expenses \$35,000,000 Further analysis required to identify which services would be reduced and the subsequent impact

Preliminary Analysis on Notice of Motion submitted by Deputy Mayor Paterson

Deputy Mayor Paterson Notice of Motion				
Motion	Cost to Council	Comments		
Provide vouchers to all rateable properties	\$300	Value of each voucher		
	-\$2,880,300	Total value of vouchers		
Fund from 3 reserves	\$949,785	100% of City Deals		
	\$500,000	62% of Town Beautification		
	\$1,430,515	53% Todd Mall Beautification / Redevelopment		
Administration Cost	\$200,000	1 FTE for 12-month period		
Officer Analysis and Assumptions				
Assumption	Number	Estimated (\$)	Difference	Comments
Rateable Properties	9606			
Value of voucher		\$300		
Cost to Council		\$2,881,800	-\$1,500	
Average per ratepayer		\$595		
Estimated Administration Cost		\$200,000		1 FTE for 12month period, including on costs
Motion will be funded from Reserves		\$2,881,800	\$27,118,200 Remaining in reserves	Currently \$30M in Reserves \$28M internally restricted reserves \$2M Externally restricted =10% of total reserves
Percentage of rateable properties with Alice Springs Address	88%			
		\$2,535,984		88% of vouchers would be in Alice Springs
		\$345,816		12% of vouchers not in Alice Springs
				Issues include: Redemption process, tracking and fraud minimisation require further work. How to manage the acquittal of the voucher e.g. what happens if you don't expend the full value and require change
				Further analysis required as to impact on ability to provide essential services to adequate standard.

Preliminary Analysis on Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Melky

Councillor Melky Notice of Motion			Officer preliminary Analysis and Assumptions			
Motion	Estimate (\$)	Comments	Assumption	Estimated (\$)	Difference	Comments
Current Budgeted rates income	\$22,854,000		Current Budgeted rates income	\$22,874,000	\$20,000	Due to changes to V/G changes the valuation. Slight increase (rounded)
	\$14,949,287	Zoned Residential		\$14,972,370	\$23,083	Zoned Residential
	\$7,552,923	Zoned Commercial		\$7,552,923		Zoned Commercial
	\$351,790	Other		\$328,707	\$23,083	Other
Expected Loss of income	\$813,900		Expected Loss of income	\$813,900		15% of 19/20 total user fees income budget
	\$6,900	TENNIS HOUSE				Currently \$566 per month in rent, unless there's a change in commercial rent (i.e. freezes/waivers) should continue to receive rent.
	\$2,000	TOTEM THEATRE				Unsure what this income is from
	\$89,000	TRAEGER PARK				This equals 95% of budgeted income for 20/21
	\$8,000	PUBLIC TOILETS				This equals 100% of budgeted income for 20/21
	\$350,000	WASTE M/MENT FACILITY				If the facility remains open would this be an impact?
	\$20,000	LIBRARY				This equals 70% of budgeted income 20/21
	\$250,000	POOL				This equals 70% of budgeted income 20/21
	\$50,000	PARKING				This equals to 50% of budgeted income 20/21
	\$23,000	HARTLEY SCHOOL				Currently \$1480 per month in rent, unless there's a change in commercial rent (i.e. freezes / waivers) should continue to receive rent.

Councillor Melky Notice of Motion			Officer preliminary Analysis and Assumptions			
Motion	Estimate (\$)	Comments	Assumption	Estimated (\$)	Difference	Comments
Expected Loss of income	\$15,000	NATIONAL TRUST NT McDOUGAL STUART				Currently \$1270 per month in rent, unless there's a change in commercial rent (i.e. freezes/waivers) should continue to receive rent.
Rates Waiver	\$1,142,700	Assumes 20% of eligible rate payers apply for hardship waiver in Q1	Rates Waiver	\$1,143,700	-\$1,000	No data available to support assumption To date no hardship applications have been received How will short fall be funded?
	\$747,464	Residential property 5% RATE REDUCTION - Estimated cost		\$750,000	\$2,536	5% reduction on residential rates 20/21
Actual Rates Income	\$22,106,563		Revised Rates Income	\$22,124,000		
			Expected Residential Rates	\$15,016,600		20% of ratepayers having a quarter of their rates waived: 20% of 15,016,600 = \$3,003,320/4 \$750,830
Estimated cost of 5%rate reduction year one	\$747,464		Estimated cost of 5%rate reduction year one	\$750,000		
Rate freeze on residential properties 21/22	\$22,854,000					Financial impact is difficult to estimate at this stage.
Savings from reduced services	\$3,172,700					Further analysis required
	\$100,000	Review parks redevelopment budget				No contribution to parks - funded by reserve funds 20/21
	\$100,000	Review recycling budget				Further analysis required
	\$250,000	Review Climate action plan				Funded by reserves 19/20
	\$250,000	Road reserve maintenance		\$225,700	\$243,000	86% employee costs
		Move to have owner / occupier maintain own verge				Insurance implications and coverage of this.

Councillor Melky Notice of Motion			Officer preliminary Analysis and Assumptions			
Motion	Estimate (\$)	Comments	Assumption	Estimated (\$)	Difference	Comments
Savings from reduced services	\$80,000	Road reserve development				Further analysis required
	\$100,000	Public toilet refurbish				No funds to refurbish toilet
	\$92,700	Correctional Services Contract Labour				Outsourced labour. This would increase requirements of other staff
	\$100,000	Parks and Reserves				Further analysis required
	\$85,000	Art Collection				Art work housed at Araluen Art Centre - Payment for storage
	\$450,000	Library operational				Further analysis required
	\$800,000	Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre				Further analysis required
	\$500,000	Operational plant and vehicles (1 year of reduced vehicle upgrade and new purchases)		\$337,000		Budgeted for 20/21
	\$50,000	Media relations operational				\$89,000 allocated to materials and contracts budget. Remainder is for employees.
	\$65,000	Human Resource operational				\$5000 budgeted for materials and contracts. The rest is for employees
	\$150,000	Organisational - operational				Further analysis required

Councillor Melky's proposed MOTIONS			
Provide 5% reduction on residential property		Impact \$750,000	
Rate rise freeze on residential property			Financial impact is difficult to estimate at this stage
Support sporting associations with ongoing coaches and sports coordinator survival - costed from SFAC budget	\$100,000		This figure equates to 13% of current SFAC budget.
Expand hardship policy to include businesses and commercial property owners			Further analysis required.
Create a hardship administration team to assess all applications in an efficient and suitable timeframe - including hotline and ASTC website special link/tab		Approx. \$250,000	Financial impacts depend on the number of employees in the admin team. (2x FTE)
Move to have owner/occupier maintain own verge			Insurance implications and coverage of this. Further analysis required.
Assess the need for and budget for a second fortnightly curb side waste pick up - at no additional cost to the rate payer		\$300,000	Costed based on a 6 month contract. To be confirmed by contractor
Assess Value of Art collection and review future of collection			Further analysis required.
Reduce the current penalty interest on late rates from 19% down to 9%, effective 30 June 2020		\$132,500	Financial impact approx. reduction of 47% (19/20 budget is \$250,000 reduced by 47% = \$132,500)
Outsourcing Council services			Further analysis required.

Whilst Elected Members support for the community through their proposals is recognised, in Officer's opinion, with the ongoing uncertainty created by the pandemic and very recent supply of the support package details by NT Government; an alternative officer recommendation which includes the recent NT Government support as well as other measures to provide Officers with the time to properly work through the impacts of all proposals as part of the budget deliberations.

3. **POLICY IMPACTS**

Numerous policies will be impacted by the pandemic and will be amended as required.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

Significant risks are inevitable should any of the current Elected Member proposals be adopted to early and without appropriate consideration. COVID-19 will have a sizeable impact on the 2019/20 and subsequent budgets on both the expenditure and income sides.

5. **SOCIAL IMPACTS**

Social impacts will be documented in future reports.

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Environmental impacts will be documented in future reports.

7. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Council continues to deliver messaging on COVID-19 related matters in alignment with Australian Federal and Northern Territory Government announcements.

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Banks

That standing orders be removed.

LOST

The CEO advised Elected Members that the Motion presented at the Workshop is different to the one that was supplied to the Elected Members as part of the meeting pack.

The Mayor asked that the correct Motion be presented and for the Motion 5.1 be withdrawn and replaced with Motion 5.1(2).

MOTION

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Satour

That it be a recommendation to Council that:

Motion 5.1 be withdrawn and replaced with Motion 5.1(2)

CARRIED (20946)

Moved – Councillor Cocking

Seconded – Nil

That standing orders be removed

CARRIED (20947)

As there was no seconder as otherwise required by by-law 15, Standing Orders 252 and 253 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly were applied under by-law 37.

MOTION

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Seconded – Councillor Cocking

That it be a recommendation to Council that:

- 5.1(2) That Council identify a \$5M COVID-19 reserve to provide for the future economic, social and well-being support of the community and the organisation with the following aims and scope:**
- 1. Details of the appropriate package will be considered over the coming weeks as part of the Council 2020/21 budget deliberations as well as ongoing analysis of the needs of our community and other government support measure packages, with a proposed announcement of all confirmed measures in June or July 2020.**
 - 2. At a high level, the break-down of the \$5M COVID-19 Reserve will be:**
 - A. Up to \$1.0M to provide an appropriate non-commercial COVID-19 hardship package.**
 - B. \$2.2M for CBD revitalisation project, subject to a clear breakdown of the tendered costs totaling \$20M, the NT Government commencing all aspects of the CBD revitalisation project on site and confirmed co-funding of \$20M for shade structures, lighting, activation zones and the Kwatja Play and community park.**
 - C. As determined at the 30 March 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council - \$1M for operational requirements as required and as determined by the CEO to allow for the safe, effective and legislative function of the organisation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.**
 - D. As approved at the 27 April 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council – acceptance of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development commercial hardship rate support.**
 - E. Any other measures as determined by Elected Members.**
 - 3. The COVID reserve will be based on the needs of the community and may not be required to be expended in its entirety based on a balanced approach to the current and long-term priorities.**
 - 4. The above allows a \$800k contingency should the DLGHCD support package be insufficient to meet the demand**

CARRIED (20948)

Councillor Melky asked for clarification around procedure of a new Motion being presented in the meeting that differs from the original Motion.

The CEO advised that there were a number of options available. The Recommendation brought to the meeting can be reviewed as required, but as this is an amended version presented late to the meeting therefore it still stands.

MOTION

Moved – Councillor de Brenni

Seconded – Councillor Cocking

That it be a recommendation to Council that:

That the amendments be made to Motion 5.1(2)

CARRIED (20949)

Councillor Cocking asked for clarification around the breakdown of the figures.

The CEO confirmed that as they were still waiting on the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development (DLGHCD) on the figure they are offering as part of the Local Government \$7.1M support package, hence the \$800k difference (Item 4).

Councillor Cocking asked for clarification on the content of Motion 5.1 and Motion 5.1(2)

The CEO advised that Motion 5.1(2) is to replace the original recommendation of Motion 5.1.

The Mayor suggested that we find out the figure the NT Government are offering before writing a letter thanking them for their support.

Councillor Melky asked for clarification around the approval of \$1M in a previous meeting and does this form part of the \$5M?

The CEO advised that the intent of the Motion was to capture that this was a previous Resolution so that the tracking of all the Motions and changes can be seen.

Councillor Melky raised concerns around how this Motion has been presented, allows for another \$1M and the word determined be replaced with approved (D).

Both Councillor de Brenni and Councillor Cocking supported the change of wording.

Councillor Melky asked that of the \$5M, will this come from an existing reserve or a new reserve?

The Mayor advised that Item 2(B) is in relation to the letter sent by Minister Wakefield on 24 April 2020 and that the redevelopment of the CBD is an important part of the COVID-19 recovery hence why it appears in the Motion.

The CEO confirmed that this will form part of the budget deliberations with a package announced in June/July 2020. Its allocation will be determined as part of this process but the intent is to identify a \$5M reserve and potentially the \$2.2M will be withdrawn from the current CBD revitalisation reserves.

Councillor Melky responded that as there is a \$2.7m reserve, why does this need inclusion in the \$5M?

The Mayor responded that this has been identified as a COVID-19 reserve and is there to form part of the recovery process and referred back to Item 2(B). If not utilised it will go back into the reserves.

The CEO confirmed this and if endorsed by the Elected Members, can form part of the budget discussions.

Councillor Banks asked the CEO for commercial hardship, where would this be factored within the \$5M COVID-19 budget as per the pandemic response?

The CEO advised that the intent was to utilise the DLGHCD process to assist in this and any required changes to the pandemic plan would be to respond to Elected Member requests.

Councillor Banks asked for confirmation around the \$5M, is this not factoring in Commercial and relying on the DLGHCD stimulus package recently announced? Are we still unsure what we qualify for?

The Mayor referred back to Item 4 of the Motion 5.1(2) and advised that there are 17 Councils as part of the package distribution. LGANT and DLGHCD have worked extensively on this.

The CEO advised that there is flexibility as part of this plan to adjust for any changes.

The Mayor thanked the Elected Members and Officers for the work they have put into these Motions and supporting information.

Councillor Melky advised that there is no acknowledgement of waiving rates for non-commercial rate payers.

The Mayor referred back to Item 2(A) and that the Officers would report back to the Elected Members

CEO advised that there is an administrative element that needs to be looked at as part of the Pandemic Plan. This has been recognised and is being addressed.

Moved – Deputy Mayor Paterson

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That standing orders be resumed

CARRIED (20950)

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Paterson

Seconded –

That ASTC introduce a voucher scheme for the 20/21 FY to all rateable properties in the Municipality to the amount of \$300 per property. These vouchers are to be spent on local businesses in Alice Springs.

LAPSED

Supporting Information to Motion

How Does this Work?

Each rateable property is given vouchers that amount to \$300.

These can be spent at businesses throughout Alice Springs who have registered under the scheme. These vouchers can be used at places such as restaurants, cafes, retail outlets etc.

Properties can have vouchers sent out, similar to that of the regional waste management facility.

Why?

This could invest \$2,880,300 to businesses in Alice Springs over 9 months.

Small business provides much support to Alice springs by providing sponsorship, in kind support and much more.

By introducing this scheme, it may ensure that more businesses continue to operate after the current pandemic has passed.

When will vouchers be issued?

These vouchers are issued in September and December.

Vouchers will expire at the end of the 2021 FY.

In September, properties will receive 7 x \$20 vouchers, in December properties will receive 8 x \$20 vouchers.

Business Portal

Locally owned businesses apply to be registered under the scheme, businesses can promote that they are a part of the scheme and can be put on the ASTC website.

ASTC could also approach the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to work collaboratively on the scheme.

Who is eligible?

Owner/s of every rateable property receives the vouchers.

You will receive as many vouchers as properties you own. (e.g. If you own 3 properties, you are eligible for 3 x \$300 worth of vouchers.)

Cost

Total cost of the vouchers will be \$2,880,300.

Administration costs are also required. This is estimated at 1 fulltime position for 12 months.

Budget line

City Deals Project Line - \$949,785 (Currently \$949,785)

Town Beautification - \$500,000 (Currently \$810,406 in reserves)

Todd Mall Beautification - \$1,430,515 (Currently \$2,704,430 in reserves)

Total - \$2,880,300

or other appropriate reserves

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Banks

In response to the COVID–19 crisis, Council set a budget for 2020/2021 that provides a 0% rate freeze on residential property based on the budget as set during 2019/2020

CARRIED (20951)

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded –

- 1. In response to the COVID–19 crisis Council set a budget for 2021/2022 with a rate rise freeze on the Residential property based on the 2019/2020 budget**

LAPSED

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Satour

- 2. In response to the COVID–19 crisis, Council set a budget for 2020/2021 that provides a rate rise freeze on the total collected rates on business and commercial property based on the 2019/2020 budget.**

LOST

The CEO advised that its difficult for Officer to determine the impact given that budget deliberations are in their early stages. There will be a reduction in services required somewhere so that needs to be worked on and achieve a balanced budget.

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded –

3. **Establish a once off COVID–19 Sports and Recreation fund to support sporting associations with ongoing coaches and sports coordinator survival funding of \$100,000.00 – to be costed from the SFAC budget.**
4. **In the case where a rate payer is not a natural person, Council amend policy 510 to allow Council the ability to introduce a new COVID-19 hardship concession plan for business operators and commercial property owners.**
5. **Creates a COVID-19 Hardship administration team to ensure applications from all rate payers' natural persons, commercial or businesses who apply under section 164 and 165 for either a waiver or deferral of rates, can be assessed in an efficient and suitable time frame. Including hotline and ASTC website special link/tab.**
6. **Allocate Road Side reserve / verge maintenance to the Owner / Occupier**
7. **Assess the need for and a budget for a second fortnightly curb-side waste pick up for additional waste and green waste no additional cost to rate payer**
8. **Assess saleable assets i.e.: Unused or unusable open space that maybe zoned under parks,**
9. **Assess value of Alice Springs Art Collection and review future of collection**

LAPSED

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Banks

10. **Reduce the current penalty interest on late rates from 19% down to 9% on all rate payers effective from the 30th of June 2020**

CARRIED (20952)

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded –

11. **Investigate where Council can benefit by outsourcing and utilising private enterprise taking on more of Council services.**

LAPSED

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Satour

That the ASTC structure the waiving of rates under hardship to align with Section 165 of the Local Government Act for all commercial and non-commercial rate payers Pandemic Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to ensure best practice.

Supporting Information to Motion

This motion has come from the need to respond to the world epidemic that has gripped our town and affected our community.

Due to the restrictions imposed by safety measures taken to date in relation to COVID-19, we are experiencing unprecedented economic strain for individuals and businesses alike.

People are worried and concerned on what the future holds, and there is no certainty for anyone that we are going to come out of this in one piece. The community of Alice Springs is looking towards the ASTC to waive rates for a period to combat the economic strain that people are experiencing. We should offer support in the form of waiving of Council rates under hardship and make this available to all rates payers for the first quarter of the 2020/2021 budget due in September. It is the right thing to do given the financial hit our community has taken, we can't afford not to support the community. We need to be measured in how we approach this financially decision to ensure that due diligence is taken and we adapt with processes of best practice standards. I know that by investing in our community we will experience both economic and social returns for the future. It is about giving people the peace of mind that we see what you are going through, we hear that you are suffering, and we back you to get back on your feet. We are in this together.

In summary if every eligible rate payer was to apply for a rates waive under the grounds of hard-ship, the financial impact on the Council could be up to \$5,750,000, which is equivalent to one quarter of annual rates. Criteria on how applications are assessed will need to be defined. To date Alice Springs Town Council has publicly released a number of measures in response to the COVID -19 Epidemic, in order to assist community.

On the 27th of March 2020, Council unanimously elected to approve measures to assist community that included the following:

1. That the local weighting criteria for Council procurement be increased from current 10% to 30% weighting in Council's Procurement of Good and Services Quotations and Tenders Policy until 30 June 2020.
2. From 27 March 2020, the charging of interest on outstanding rates balances is suspended until 30 June 2020.
3. The rates payment due dates for the last quarterly payment will be extended from 3 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.
4. Fees and charges – as from 27 March 2020:
 - a. Fees associated with the Civic Centre public toilet shower usage will be waived until June 2020.
 - b. All Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre (ASALC) memberships and 10 visit passes are suspended, to resume upon reopening.

- c. Library late fees waived until the Library is reopened.
- d. The Sports Facility Advisory Committee participation levy will be waived until 30 June 2020.

Councillor Cocking proposed an amendment for clarification by adding hardship into the Motion.

The CEO confirmed that the Officers have taken this as an action item and will present back to the Elected Member's.

Councillor Banks asked for the Motion to be amended.

MOTION:

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Satour

That the ASTC structure the waiving of rates under hardship to align with Section 165 of the Local Government Act for all commercial and non-commercial rate payers Pandemic Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to ensure best practice.

LOST

Councillor Banks asked for permission from Mayor Ryan to second the Motions put forward by Councillor Melky. Mayor Ryan refused this request.

Councillor Melky raised the issue of all his Motions being grouped together rather than one by one and the Motion was lost and can't be tabled for another three months.

The Mayor advised that these would be discussed at the next Ordinary meeting.

The CEO advised that the rate freeze discussion has been had and the budget deliberations are ongoing and therefore the discussion can be had at any time. Three months is under a specific clause and the CEO took this question on notice. The CEO clarified that Special Meetings of Council are called to discuss a specific item and that in response to Councillor Melky, the Officers interpreted the Motion as a group and not separate items.

The Mayor agreed to revisit the Motion and discuss separately (revert back to Item 1 – 11)

6. ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Damien Ryan declared the meeting adjourned at **4.51pm**

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____