



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2013

AT

6.00 pm

**Council Chambers Civic Centre
Stuart Highway, Katherine**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT
THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 6.05 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PRESENT

Mayor Fay Miller
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Kate Ganley
Alderman Higgins

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr David Laugher - Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Neroli Dickens – Director Works and Services
Mr James Rowe – Director Corporate and Community Services
Mrs Alice Anastacio – Finance Manager
Mr Warwick Jack - Works Manager
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager
Ms Sophie Henderson – Administration Manager
Ms Naomi Hunter – Tourism and Marketing Manager

3 x Members of the Katherine Community

Ms Rosemary Jennings – Minute Taker

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Members Leave of Absence
and Apologies

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

Apologies for Deputy Mayor Phillips & Alderman Creighton

CARRIED: 5/0

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Clark/Rose

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 27 August 2013 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 5/0

5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Member Disclosure of Interest and Declared Interest

The CEO pointed out the Conflict of Interest forms which are available to be completed.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

7. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Mayoral Business to be considered

Mayor Miller will be on leave for 10 days as of 25 September 2013.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Correspondence and Documents Tabled

Nil

9. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

9.1 With Notice

Nil

9.2 Without Notice

Nil

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORT OF OFFICERS

11.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2013

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Chief Executive Officer Reports

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That the report of the Chief Executive Officer for the month of August 2013 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Ganley notes that on page 10 of the report we have listed Grants as funding for 2013/2014 including Graffiti removal, Katherine Derby Dolls noted as not from this financial year. CEO to review previous financial year applications. Mrs Sophie Henderson has advised the status of the grants listed.

Alderman Rose questioned the CCTV Equipment for the Hot Springs. How many will there be? CEO advised 2 cameras will be installed. Poles have been put into place. Cameras will be in place in the carpark. Will allow Council to review footage regarding incidents either via Council or police. Alderman Rose questioned who will be responsible for reviewing cameras. CEO advised reviewing the footage will be as per Privacy Act. Police can access in regards to seeking evidence. Council to ensure that it complies with the Privacy Act.

Alderman Clark noted the visitor numbers are up however they are spending less. Mayor Miller agreed that this has occurred in previous years through the Top End and Katherine has been affected this year more than previous years.

11.2 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE WORKS MANAGER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2013

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works Manager Reports

MOVED: Rose/Higgins

That the report of the Works Manager for the month of August 2013 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Rose questioned the stage at the Lindsay Street Complex. He noticed that the stage roof may require paint. Also queries how the sound goes with the sides being covered in shade cloth in terms of noise to surrounding areas. CEO has advised that there has been no feedback in regards to noise complaints. The sound quality produced was incredible. The further back from the stage you are the more the sound reaches. There are no issues with sound projection. It does not appear to be impacting on any residential areas.

Mayor Miller commented that there are numerous mentions in regards to issues at the Hot Springs in the report. Works has replaced signs, locks etc. She noted the heavy use to the area.

Mayor Miller asked to acknowledge the work that Warwick Jack has done for Katherine Town Council over the past 29 years. Mayor Miller, on behalf of the elected members thanked Warwick Jack for his dedication to the Council. Mayor Miller, on behalf of the elected members and staff, presented Warwick Jack with a gift. Mayor Miller wished Warwick the best of luck with his new direction in life.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – AUGUST 2013

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That the Finance Report for the month of August 2013 prepared by the Finance Manager be received and adopted.

CARRIED: 5/0

CEO has advised in line with Financial reporting that approval for funding is sought from Council prior to spending. Alderman Rose noted he found it helpful to know how Council is going.

11.4 KATHERINE PRIZE

File: Community Relations / Events / Katherine Prize

MOVED: Ganley/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council approve this change in purpose and vision for the Katherine Prize and approve the development of a new Plan of Management.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Higgins does not believe there is much to discuss. The report is quite clear by the Lambert Family. He recommended that if the Family recommends this we should respect their wishes. Mayor Miller noted the importance of the Katherine Prize and is happy with the recommendation as it is line with how the family feel.

Alderman Rose agreed with the positive direction that is being taken.

11.5 KATHERINE COLLECTION

File: Community Relations / Committees / Lambert Family Art and Craft Trust

MOVED: Higgins/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

That approval is given to the CEO to negotiate on behalf of Council for the possible inclusion of the Katherine Collection in any exhibition space plans of the Godinymayin Centre for the future.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Higgins is confounded by this report. His understanding is that the original format for this committee was that this would be a given. Mayor Miller agreed however did not believe it was a formal decision. She also noted that the GYRACC currently does not have the room for this in Stage 1. CEO has advised there has been no formal decision made in regards to the placement of the Katherine Collection in their space. The Lambert Family Trust has not made this recommendation in previous meetings. This conclusion was only reached in the last meeting of the Trust.

Alderman Rose queried the CEO if there would be conflict of interest for him to negotiate on behalf of Council although he is a member of the Board for the GYRACC. CEO advised no, as he cannot vote on behalf of the Council.

11.6 CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW

File: Human Resources / Human Resource Management / Performance Management / Chief Executive Office – Performance Review

MOVED: Higgins/Rose

That Council

1. Agree to appoint Sue Davy (LGANT) as independent facilitator;
2. Appoint panel members as deemed necessary; and
3. Delegate authority (as defined in report) to the review panel.

CARRIED: 5/0

All elected members agreed to appoint Sue Davy as the independent facilitator.

Alderman Higgins suggested nominating possible panel members now. Mayor noted the recommendations in the report to appoint the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and possibly one other elected member. Alderman Higgins agreed to support Alderman Rose as the third elected member on the review panel.

All Elected Members agreed to delegate authority to the review panel.

Alderman Ganley noted that discussions in regards to performance review be discussed as a committee.

Alderman Clark queried if the Deputy Mayor had been asked regarding his position on the panel.

11.7 FINANCIAL DELEGATION & AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

File: Local Governance / Policy / Purchasing Delegations

MOVED:

That it be recommended to Council:

1. Under Section 32 of the Local Government Act 2008 the following amended Financial Delegations be approved:

Financial Delegations		
Position	Purchase Delegations Threshold	Payment Delegation Threshold
Chief Executive Officer	\$100,000	Unlimited – subject to properly authorised purchase commitments
Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Director of Works & Services	\$50,000	\$50,000
Director of Corporate & Community Services	\$50,000	\$50,000
Finance Manager	\$10,000	\$10,000
Administration Manager	\$10,000	\$10,000
Operations Manager	\$10,000	\$10,000
Contracts Manager	\$10,000	\$10,000
Senior Ranger	\$5,000	\$5,000
Library Officer (2)	\$1,000	NIL
Tourism & Marketing Manager	\$1,000	NIL
Community Development Officer	\$1,000	NIL
Administration & Executive Support Officer	\$500	NIL
Works Administration Officer	\$500	NIL
Ranger (2)	\$500	NIL

NOTE:

- A. Subject to being funded in Council's approved budget, the occupants of the above positions are authorised to raise Council orders for the purchase of goods and services and are delegated responsibility for the authorisation of Council expenditure up to the threshold amounts shown.
 - B. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to raise orders in excess of his/her threshold up to any amount but only where the expenditure is approved by Council resolution or the expenditure involves a fully budgeted item that recurs each year (e.g. Council annual insurance renewal).
2. In accordance Section 20 of the Local Government Accounting Regulations Council has authorised the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Director of Works & Services, Director of Corporate & Community Services, Finance Manager and Administration Manager to process payments as per approved budgets and relevant delegations.

CARRIED:

Mayor Miller asks that this agenda item be withdrawn to be reviewed.

11.8 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL – ACCOUNTING AND POLICY MANUAL

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED:

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council endorse the amended Katherine Town Council Accounting and Policy Manual.

CARRIED:

Mayor Miller asks that this agenda item be withdrawn to be reviewed.

11.9 SMOKE FREE VENUE REQUEST – AFL NT

File: Property Management / Hire / Showgrounds / Property Hire / Various

MOVED: Higgins/Clark

That Council:

Lay this matter on the table until all stakeholders of the venue have been advised and consulted regarding this proposal.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Higgins queried if the letter referred to AFL NT events or the whole showgrounds.

11.10 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KATHERINE

File: Community Relations / Community Engagement Strategy

MOVED: Ganley/Rose

That Council:

Lay this matter on the table until the October Ordinary Council Meeting, with a workshop to be held during the month prior.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Ganley asks that this item be laid on the table until Council is fully across all implications associated with this strategy. CEO has advised that the act of tabling an item is to seek information that is not currently available. Alderman Ganley noted that the information required referred to the implication on the Municipal Plan.

Alderman Higgins queried the costs associated within the Municipal Plan.

Alderman Ganley noted the significant changes as it will require resourcing.

Mayor Miller agreed however noted the need to sit down to review the budget.

Alderman Ganley feels that it is not worth endorsing if it will not be implemented due to inability to adequately resource it.

Mayor Miller noted the need to have a workshop in the near future to work through the strategy. She noted that a determination of the money available will not be known at the workshop.

11.11 THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE KATHERINE FESTIVAL

File: Community Relations / Events / Katherine Festival 2013

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That Council:

1. Note and accept minutes of committee meeting
2. Endorse the CEO to continue negotiations with the GYRACC.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Clark noted that a lot of people want Council to continue with its involvement with the festival however, not in the same direction. She noted the Aldermans' participation within the festival. This festival is a part of the Council's duties. Alderman Clark proposed that instead of being conducted over a 2 week period it be conducted over a weekend. She noted that this year's festival was the worst attended.

Alderman Rose queried if there would be enough funds to hold one big event to attract a large crowd.

Alderman Ganley noted the recommendation to establish the future direction of the festival. She believes this is a large ask for a Council meeting. Alderman Ganley suggested that the Council follow the lead of the Katherine Arts Fringe Festival where a short term contracted person is sourced to organise and run the event. Alderman Ganley noted the experience and skills required to hold a festival. Alderman Ganley advised that Council needs to consider resource allocation and that the Festival not be held at the same time as the Darwin Festival. Also if possible to piggy back off the show in regards to the entertainment available. Alderman Ganley believes that Council should not withdraw support for a community event. She noted the importance of Council to decide on if they are to provide monetary support or take full control.

Alderman Rose again stated that he did not believe there was enough funds available to stage a large event.

Alderman Higgins noted the minutes of the meeting suggested that one big event be held, preferably with a high quality headline act. He suggests that the Katherine Festival be changed to one single main event.

Mayor Miller commented that she believes the Arts do an exceptional job of running festivals. She personally would like to see the GYRACC be given funding to run an event for one night to utilise the expertise of the current Director. She believes this would be a better use of funds than to pay a temporary organiser for 3 months. She also believes that the Council needs to support the GYRACC as much as possible. She would also like to seek additional funding to help with these events with Alderman to still support.

Alderman Higgins would still like to see local participation with the event.

Alderman Clark is concerned that if there is a separate organiser organising the event they may not agree with Council in terms of the local component. Mayor Miller noted that this would be a client/customer relationship with Council being the Client.

Alderman Ganley noted if the GYRACC is to be approached then they should be consulted.

12. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

File: Community Relations / Committees / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

The following meetings/activities were attended by the Elected Members:

Alderman Kate Ganley

2 x Workshops
Council Meeting
Community Markets – Alderman
Monthly Katherine Regional Arts Meeting
Participated in the recruitment of a new staff member for Katherine Regional Arts

Alderman Steven Rose

2 x Workshops
DCA Meeting
Teddy Bears Picnic
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Long Tan Day

Alderman Donald Higgins

2 x Workshops
1 x Council Meeting
DCA Meeting

Alderman Lis Clark

Open Forum Council Meeting
2 x Workshops
Launch of the Sidne Cart
Seniors Morning Tea
Katherine Prize
Teddy Bears Picnic
3 x YMCA Meetings
Main Event
Market Stall – Alderman
Show 'n' Shine

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

Alderman Higgins noted the Rubbish Warrior is in town. Alderman Higgins noted that he is causing more time and costs to Council contractors. He suggests that the Rangers be asked to approach him in regards to littering. CEO has been advised by the police that he is known to be quite dangerous and not to approach him.

Alderman Clark noted the amount of glass in the river corridor. She also noted an increase in plastic bags. Those in attendance at the Clean-up removed a substantial amount of rubbish however had issues with removing glass.

Alderman Rose noted that Tennant Creek has implemented plastic bottles for low cost wines to avoid the glass being smashed in public areas. Negotiations have taken place with the manufacturer and he feels that the Council should consider being involved in these negotiations.

Alderman Ganley queried the previous issue of electronically recording meetings. CEO advised that Council is investigating the costs of implementing audio and visual recording to also allow for live streaming and video conferencing capabilities by Council. CEO noted that the hours required to transcribe the minutes from audio will be quite considerable.

Mayor Miller would like to note that she congratulates Cath Bowdler and the staff of GYRACC for the WOW festival held over the weekend. A lot of preparation went into the organisation and the quality of the weekends of presentations was excellent and would like to see more festivals held in Katherine. She would also like to see more men participate.

Mayor Miller noted the plastic bottle issue will be raised at the next Alcohol Plan of Management Meeting with 2 local licensees in attendance. CEO noted that Alice Springs Town Council are also considering.

15. PETITIONS

Nil

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 7:45pm

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE