



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING

OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 29 JULY 2014

AT

6.30 pm

Council Chambers Civic Centre
Stuart Highway, Katherine

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT
THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 29 JULY 2014 AT 6.45 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

Mayor Fay Miller
Deputy Mayor Lis Clark
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Donald Higgins
Alderman Rob Phillips
Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts
Alderman Peter Gazey

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Neroli Dickens – Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Sophie Henderson – A/Director Corporate and Community
Services
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager
Mr David Laughher

6 x members of the Katherine Community
1 x members of the Media

Mrs Heather Kirk – Minute Taker

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Phillips/Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 24 June 2014 be
confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 7/0

5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Nil

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

- Tonight is David Laugher's last meeting with Katherine Town Council. David and his wife Anne are relocating to Tasmania where they have their respective families.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK David for his contribution to Katherine Town Council and the wider community. I have been privileged to work with David since the last election and have very much appreciated his depth of knowledge in local government – especially with policies and procedures. Under his direction this Council's administration has vastly improved its effectiveness and efficiencies for which I am very grateful.

On behalf of the elected members I wish David and Anne well in the future – and look forward to meeting up with you in a much cooler Tasmanian environment in the not too distant future.

- I also welcome the interim Chief Executive Officer Neroli Dickens to the position for the duration of the selection process for a replacement Chief Executive Officer. It will be an extremely busy time for Neroli as she will be taking the responsibility for several executive positions until those positions are also appointed. I and the other elected members have confidence in appointing Neroli as the interim CEO and will give her the support necessary to carry out those responsibilities.

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 JUNE 2014

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

MOVED: Phillips/Higgins

That the report of the Chief Executive Officer for the month of June 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Phillips – animal attacks – action taken. Would like to see some positive publicity around this, which may help with some people's impression of Council. The rangers work very hard for sometimes very little.
- Alderman Rose – asked for an update on the Mayoral Debutante Ball. The Mayor advised that the ball was a great success with 9 couples presented at The Museum. She thanked Pedro for the lighting, and everyone else that helped including Alderman Gazey, Phillips, Higgins and Deputy Mayor Clark. Next year the Ball will be for those who have never been a debutante.

11.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works and Services Department Reports

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

That the report of the Works and Services Department for the month of June 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Rose – lawns looking very good. Shame it costs so much to replace vandalised sprinklers, which is increasing. The Mayor stated that four wheel drives and caravans are also causing damage. Alderman Rose stated that the Police may also drive over the lawns. Alderman Phillips – if the sprinklers were correctly installed this should not be a problem.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Gazey/Rose

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of June 2014.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Deputy Mayor Clark – page 24 – queried gage. The CEO confirmed this was on Shadforth Road in the car park.
- Alderman Gazey – end of financial report \$245,000 – roads to recovery. Is this in addition to the \$100,000 in the successful grants. The CEO advised these are separate items.

11.4 NOMINATION FOR MINISTER'S DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Higgins/Tapp-Coutts

That Council:

Endorses the nomination of Mayor Fay Miller to the Minister's Disciplinary Committee.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.5 NOMINATION FOR LGANT EXECUTIVE

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

MOVED: Clark/Rose

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council:

1. Endorses the nomination of Mayor Fay Miller to the LGANT Executive.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.6 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2014/2015

File: Local Governance / Media Relations / Administration

MOVED: Clark/Phillips

That it be recommended to Council:

1. It is proposed that the meeting cycle for December 2014 and January 2015 be as follows:

December 2014

Workshop	Monday 8 th December 2014
Ordinary Council Meeting	Tuesday 9 th December 2014

January 2015

Workshop	Monday 19 th January 2015
Ordinary Council Meeting	Tuesday 20 th January 2015

2. That the Council offices be closed as follows:

Civic Centre	25 th December 2014 until the 2 nd January 2015 inclusive
Library	25 th December 2014 until the 2 nd January 2015 inclusive
Depot & Inspectorate	25 th and 26 th December 2014 and 1 st January 2015
Visitor Information Centre	25 th and 26 th December 2014 and 1 st January 2015
Waste Management Station	27 th December 2014 until 31 December 2014 inclusive – opening hours 10.00am till 2.00pm 25 th December 2014

CARRIED: 7/0

11.7 ADOPTION OF POLICY – SOCIAL MEDIA

File: Human Resources / Personnel / Employment Conditions / Policy and Procedures Local Governance / Policy / Policy Decisions To Be Actioned – Policy Manual Updates

The Mayor advised that this is a new policy to be adopted and can be reviewed at a later stage. We are only adopting it at this stage.

MOVED: Higgins/ Tapp-Coutts

That Council:

1. Receives and adopts the draft policy – Social Media

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Gazey – does not seem to cover a problem of elected members or employees making comments towards a community member or other organisation – only seems to be interaction between staff and elected members. CEO advised this behaviour comes under Code of Conduct.

11.8 ADOPTION OF POLICY – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

File: Human Resources / Personnel / Employment Conditions / Policy and Procedures Local Governance / Policy / Policy Decisions To Be Actioned – Policy Manual Updates

MOVED: Phillips/Higgins

That it be recommended:

1. Receives and adopts the policy – Conflict of Interest.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Phillips – does this include all staff and Alderman? The Mayor confirmed that this includes everyone including full time, part time, Elected Members, contractors, sub-contractors.
- Alderman Higgins – advised this was a document from Local Government which all councils have to abide by.

11.9 USE OF COUNCIL SEAL – REGISTRATION OF INSTRUMENT – APPLICATION FOR SEPARATE TITLES BY PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

File: Finance / Rates / Declarations

MOVED: Rose/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended:

1. That Council approves the use of the Common Seal for this purpose.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.10 ACQUITTAL – 2014 LIBRARY OPERATIONAL FUNDING

File: Finance / Grant Funding / NT Library

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That the acquittal for the 2013/2014 Library Operation Funding be received and noted and the acquittal be forwarded to the Northern Territory Library, Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Higgins – noted that Council puts in \$82,000 out of rate payers funds for the library.

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 Peter Gazey

Elected Members Workshop
Council Meeting
Briefing on Rollout of Low Aromatic Fuel
Governor-General's Civic Reception

Alderman Steven Rose

Elected Members Workshops
Council Meeting
Development Consent Authority Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Governor-General's Civic Reception

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

Elected Members Workshops
Council Meeting
Governor-General's Civic Reception
Junk Tip-Off Challenge
Katherine Cancer Working Group

Alderman Rob Phillips

Elected Members Workshops

Council Meeting

Historical Society Meeting

Katherine Showgrounds Precinct Advisory Committee Meeting

Mayoral Debutante Ball

Alderman Donald Higgins

Elected Members Workshops

Council Meeting

Mayoral Debutante Ball

Katherine Sports Precinct Advisory Committee Meeting

Briefing on Rollout of Low Aromatic Fuel

Governor-General's Civic Reception

Deputy Mayor Lis Clark

Elected Members Workshops

Council Meeting

Briefing on Rollout of Low Aromatic Fuel

Governor-General's Dinner

Governor-General's Civic Reception

Open Forum

Somerville Morning Tea

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mayor Miller - broken wine bottles have become an incredibly difficult challenge to deal with right across the municipality, but especially within the town boundary. It is becoming increasingly difficult to cope with the volume which is smashed daily along our pathways and streets. I am sick of it and so are our residents. It is an absolute eyesore for visitors to our town, and definitely gives a negative impression.

Over the years there has been an inordinate amount of time and effort put into trying to deal with all levels of anti-social behaviour – all of which work to some degree for a very short term. However none of them have been effective for very long.

Today the Mayor spent some considerable time trying to gather as much information as possible re the sale of wine in plastic bottles. She spoke to a licensee in Tennant Creek where they have been selling wine in plastic bottles for approximately 6 months – restricted to one bottle per day. They still retail high ended bottled wine for those who prefer it. The licensee said there has been a massive decrease in broken glass throughout the town. We need to have some serious discussion and begin lobbying for some vast improvements in Katherine.

- Fracking. The Mayor has requested the CEO Neroli Dickens arrange a presentation for the elected members from Mining and Exploration including SANTOS in relation to their plans for exploration around Katherine. Our intention is for this to be followed by a presentation for the whole community.

- Katherine Museum – The Mayor said The Museum is a well cared for and loved place by the volunteers. Unfortunately considerable damage has been done over the weekend through vandalism. The Museum Manager is very upset.
- Alderman Phillips – Katherine Museum – concern re a letter from the Museum Committee with suggestions in relation to the Clyde Fenton building. The Committee wanted to know if Council will consider the quote to consider cooling the building down. Committee is prepared to cover costs, with some help. Wish to put in solar air conditioning. The Mayor advised that a response has been given. The former CEO advised that the Chair of the Committee asked Council to suspend the work and carry forward budget allocation for that work. The Mayor replied that there was no budget allocation. A quote should be sought but the repairs have not been carried out. Alderman Phillips stated the decision was taken without elected members being involved which he did not think right as all elected members received the letter.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts – broken glass – endless forums – nothing is changing – what do we do to change it? People from communities living on edges of town, poverty, violence, social fall out – devastating – doing damage to town and social safety people feel. There is a limit to what Council can do. Suggests the Mayor should speak to some of the Ministers to try and find some way forward.
- Alderman Rose – broken glass – social experiment that hasn't worked. The government should revisit and re-evaluate situation. Thinks it should revert back to the way it was. Council should formally write a letter to government notifying them of the situation.
- Alderman Gazey agrees with all above comments. Item no 8 – on agenda – what is this item for? Alderman Higgins advised it is when a document is received by the Mayor it can be tabled, such as a book.
- Deputy Mayor Clark agrees with the broken glass issues. Had some complaints re Visitor Information Centre - amount of rubbish there. Depot workers work hard to pick up rubbish. Problem with buses parking there. Possibly need to look at a designated area for buses. So many people sitting on pathway that tourists have to navigate.

15. **PETITIONS**

Petition to Relocate the Katherine War Memorial – presented on behalf of Katherine RSL Sub-Branch by Alderman Tapp-Coutts

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Rose

By-Law 143 – 7B:

That the petition be received and referred to a committee or officer for consideration and a report to the Council.

CARRIED: 7/0

16. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil

17. **MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting was closed at 7.25 pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE