



MINUTES
OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING
OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014

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 28 JANUARY 2014 AT 6.05 PM

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PRESENT

Mayor Fay Miller
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Donald Higgins
Alderman Rob Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs Neroli Dickens – Acting Chief Executive Officer/Director Works & Services
Mr James Rowe – Director Corporate and Community Services
Mrs Sophie Henderson – Community Services Executive Manager

1x 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

That the apologies of CEO David Laugher be accepted and that leave be granted.

CARRIED: 5/0

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 10 December 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

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

7. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

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

It is with regret that Katherine Town Council has lost Alderman Adrian Creighton who sadly passed away on 16th December 2013 following a long battle with cancer. Alderman Creighton was elected to Council in March 2012 and served the community well. As a council representative he attended council and committee meetings while he was in good health. Unfortunately these past few months his health progressively deteriorated. I thank Adrian for his contribution to our community. May he Rest in Peace.

Alderman Kate Ganley has tendered her resignation as an elected member as of last Friday. Alderman Ganley's family situation has changed in recent times which has brought her decision to resign. I thank Alderman Ganley for her contribution to the Katherine Town Council team and wish her well for the future.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

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

9. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

9.1 With Notice

9.2 Without Notice

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORT OF OFFICERS

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

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

MOVED: Higgins/Phillips

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

CARRIED: 5/0

- Alderman Rose noted the final figures received from the VIC are down from previous years and noted the dip in income and its effect on the Councils budget.
- Mayor Miller noted her discussions with Council Executive and her concerns with regards to these figures.
- Alderman Phillips questioned the numbers in relation to the heat and tourists leaving.
- Mayor Miller noted that numbers were up however spending was down.

- Director of Corporate and Community Services, James Rowe stated that he collected data from other visitor information centres within the NT and the Kimberly's and they all had decreasing sales.

- Mayor Miller noted how she herself is guilty of making bookings online.
- Alderman Higgins noted that the VIC is used more for collecting information – Online trend.
- Alderman Clark noted her concerns in relation to promotion as well as prices going up for tourist attractions within town.
- Alderman Phillips even noted the price of the bus from the Gahn in to town. Backpackers cannot afford it and will prefer to walk.
- Mayor Miller noted that Tourism was well promoted last year however the enthusiasm is not there as locals are not present. Until such time as Katherine has a designated person attending promotional expo's we will not see the benefits. Council may need to look into taking into consideration the possibility of attending such expos aimed at Grey Nomads – Particularly the East Coast and South Australia.
- Acting CEO Neroli Dickens recommended that these discussions come up during municipal plan discussions.

11.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2013

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

MOVED: Higgins/Clark

That the report of the Works and Services Department for the month of December 2013 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5/0

- Mayor Miller noted that this report format is much easier to read – in line with the annual report at the end of the year.
- Alderman Higgins noted that it was great to see the CCTV Cameras working in the main street – Noted an incident at Dollar and Sense where property damaged has occurred and police will review the footage with hopes to apprehend the criminals.
- Mayor Miller noted that herself and CEO David Laugher have inspected the CCTV Operation at the police station and where very impressed.
- Alderman Clark has noted that due to the CCTV Cameras that people are moving out of the main street to avoid areas that are monitored – pushing the problem out.
- Mayor Miller acknowledged that the police are well aware of this issue.
- Alderman Rose noted that at least the Police may be able to move resources away from the CBD.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2013

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of December.

CARRIED: 5/0

11.4 MUNICIPAL PLAN – QUARTERLY REVIEW

File: Governance/Compliance/Municipal Plan

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council notes the status of the quarterly review of the Municipal Plan for 2013/2018 as at the 31 December 2013.

CARRIED: 5/0

- Acting CEO Neroli Dickens pointed out to the elected members that for the purpose of this report CSEM is Community Services Executive Manager – Sophie Henderson.
- Alderman Higgins noted that Elected member training should be noted as Ongoing. All items will have an action – either in progress or ongoing.

11.5 2014/2015 BUDGET TIMETABLE

File: Finance/Budgeting/Budget 2014-15

MOVED: Phillips/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

That the 2014/2015 Budget timetable be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5/0

11.6 PASTORAL LEASES – CONDITIONALLY RATEABLE LAND 2013/14

File: Finances/Rates/Declarations

MOVED: Philips/Clarke

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council approve the application to the Minister for approval of the rating of pastoral leases in 2014/2015 as per previous years with a rate increase adjusted by the Darwin CPI as at 30 June 2014.

CARRIED: 5/0

- Alderman Philips queried which 3 properties are within the municipality? Community Services Executive Manager Sophie Henderson noted these to be Manbulloo Station, Florina Station & the Kelly Daley property out at Edith Farms.

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 Steven Rose

Katherine Region Tourist Top End Christmas Party
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
DCA Meeting
CEO Performance Review
Elected Members workshop

Alderman Rob Phillips

CEO Performance Review
Elected Members Workshop
Council Meeting

Alderman Donald Higgins

Elected Members Workshop
Council Meeting
DCA Meeting

Alderman Lis Clark

Elected Members Workshop
Council Meeting
YMCA Christmas Party

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Due to the vacancies caused by the death of Alderman Creighton and the resignation of Alderman Ganley, Katherine Town Council will have a by election on 15th March. Nominations will open 5th February. An Information Session for potential candidates and anyone interested will be held at the Civic Centre on 11th February. It will be beneficial for anyone who does not understand the Roles and Responsibilities of an elected member to Local Government. The presenters will include Mayor Damien Ryan, Alice Springs Town Council and Tony Tapsell, CEO of the Local Government of the NT. Hopefully this type of information session will be a value for all future Local Government elections in assisting people to make an informed decision about their commitment to serve the community. Unfortunately I am unable to be at the information session due to prior commitments outside of Katherine.
- Alderman Rose would like to add that it has been a pleasure working with Kate and Adrian and they will both be missed at Council.
- Alderman Phillips relayed Nola Sweetman's thanks in regards to wishes expressed by Council.
- Alderman Clark has noted that due to the increase of smashed glass around town that there has been an increase in children around town with bandaged feet due to cuts from glass. Alderman Clark asked that the Mayor raise this issue on Alcohol related committees that she attends.
- Acting CEO Neroli Dickens noted that the Committee Meeting schedule will be revised and reissued shortly and raised at the next workshop.

15. PETITIONS

Nil

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 6.30pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE