



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING

OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 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 25 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 6.15 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

2.

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Neroli Dickens – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Claire Johansson – Director Corporate & Community
Services
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager

12 x members of the Katherine Community
2 x member 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

MOVED: Deputy Mayor Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That the apologies of Alderman Phillips from 27 October to 1 December 2014 are
accepted and leave be granted.

CARRIED: 6/0

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts /Deputy Mayor Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 28 October 2014 be
confirmed as a true and accurate record.

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 11 November 2014 be
confirmed as a true and accurate record.

That the Confidential Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 11 November
2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 6/0

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

Her Worship the Mayor attended the following meetings for the month of October 2014:

- ABC Interview x 3
- Department of Transport Meeting
- 9 meetings/teleconferences with Members of the Public
- Meeting with Chamber of Commerce
- October Business Month Gala Dinner
- Katherine Times Mayor's Message x 4
- Savannah Guides Meeting
- Review of Constitutional Arrangements Electoral Review Meeting
- Liquor Accord Meeting
- Tourism Top End Executive Meeting
- ABC Grassroots Radio Interview
- Development Consent Authority Meeting
- Origin Energy Representatives Meet and Greet
- Katherine Emergency Committee Meeting
- Elected Members Workshop
- Katherine Alcohol Management Plan Meeting
- KRAG Meeting
- Wriggle and Rhyme Anniversary Party
- CDU Workshop Meeting
- Representatives from the Chief Minister's Office – Meeting
- Meeting re REF Grant Applications
- Teleconference with Vice Chancellor of CDU
- Katherine High School Graduation
- Weekly Meeting with Police x 2
- Rotary Park Fun Day
- McHappy Day
- Customer Service Awards – October Business Month
- High Tea Fundraiser
- LGANT Executive Meeting
- St Joseph's School Assembly
- St Joseph's Year 12 Graduation Dinner
- Katherine RSL Sub-Branch Petition Meeting
- Elected Members Workshop
- Tour of the Aquatic Centre
- Teleconference with Blackadder Consultancy
- Leukaemia Fundraising Dinner
- Meeting re CEO Interviews
- Meeting with the CEO Department of Mines & Energy
- Q&A Session – Hydraulic Fracturing
- Meeting with WGCDR RAAF Tindal
- Open Forum
- Council Meeting

Mayor Miller advised of the following:

- Tony Mayell, CEO, Tourism NT called re establishing a Katherine Committee in relation to tourism and marketing, called Local Tourism Advisory Committee. Tourism NT have advertised for expressions of interest. Will meet every 3 months. Tourism NT are currently 'holding' \$60,000 on behalf of Katherine.
- Deputy Mayor Clark and Mayor Miller attended 2 one day courses in Darwin – Certificate in Engagement Essentials and Conflict in Engagement. Feels strongly a provider should come to Katherine to provide further training for all elected members and staff, and include the regional councils, as the training was very beneficial.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

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

- Response letter from the Minister Mines and Energy dated 7 November 2014. The CEO read the closing statement from the Minister's letter and advised that this is pertinent information for the public to be aware of. The letter was emailed on 7 November but only came to Mayor Miller's attention today. Alderman Tapp-Coutts has submitted a request for a motion to be placed before Council tonight concerning fracking. Mayor Miller advised that a full report of everything that has happened leading up to this point, including Professor Hawke's report, will be available shortly for public viewing. Mayor Miller has requested Alderman Tapp-Coutts motion be tabled tonight, however there will be no debate on this tonight. There requires to be some changes to the motion, as Council cannot "ban fracking", as it has no authority to do so.
- Motion submitted by Alderman Tapp-Coutts relating to Unconventional Oil and Gas Mining/Fracking within the Katherine Municipal Boundaries.
- Submission from Katherine Aviation concerning Katherine Airport Lease. The CEO advised that this is to be incorporated into future discussions and deliberations on this matter.
- Tourism NT – Establishment of Local Tourism Advisory Committee for Katherine Region

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 OCTOBER 2014

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

MOVED: Clark/Gazey

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

CARRIED: 6/0

- Deputy Mayor Clark queried where Mayor Miller's list of events was. This is now included in Mayoral Business - number 8 in minutes, and will no longer be included in the CEO's Report.
- Alderman Rose commented on the Visitor Information Centre figures – well done to staff on on-selling as numbers are down.
- Alderman Gazey sought clarification on:
 - the 21% decrease in the number of visitors for October 2014.
 - the 35% increase in sales and staff statistics for sick/family leave comparison of days in 2014/15 and hours in the previous financial year. The CEO asked if we could take this on notice to provide clarity. Mayor Miller advised that she finds graphs easier to read.

11.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014

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

MOVED: Rose/Tapp-Coutts

That the report of the Works and Services Division for the month of October 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6/0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts commented on discussion during the open forum on how the town is looking. When we look at finance figures it shows we are trying to keep on top of it – a lot of money has been spent on sprinkler replacements in October.
- Alderman Gazey was drawn to \$5,700 figure, and asked if this money was well spent as we are moving into the wet season. The CEO advised the dollar figure reflects works undertaken potentially during the last 2 months, when it was still dry.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts commented that staff are doing a good job, and also the contractor on Katherine Terrace.
- Alderman Gazey queried the 22 hours of vehicle preparation for the parking ranger on page 20. The CEO passed this question to the Operations Manager for comment, but advised that her interpretation would be that this is a badly worded title. The Operations Manager will have to investigate this.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

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

CARRIED: 6/0

11.4 KATHERINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES – 10 SEPTEMBER AND 8 OCTOBER 2014

File: Community Relations / Committees / Katherine Historical Society Committee

Mayor Miller commented that it is good to have minutes included of committees Elected Members attend.

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

That the Minutes of the Katherine Historical Society Committee meetings held on 10 September and 8 October 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6/0

11.5 MINUTES OF THE KATHERINE SHOWGROUNDS PRECINCT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2014

File: Community Relations / Committees / Katherine Showgrounds Advisory Committee/2014 Showgrounds Precinct Advisory Committee Meetings

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts /Gazey

That it be recommended to Council:

That the Minutes of the Katherine Showgrounds Precinct Advisory Committee meeting held on 23 October 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6/0

11.6 MINUTES OF THE KATHERINE SPORTS PRECINCT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – 21 OCTOBER 2014

File: Community Relations / Committees / Sports Precinct Advisory Committee Meetings 2014

MOVED: Higgins/ Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That the Minutes of the Katherine Sports Precinct Advisory Committee meeting held on 21 October 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6/0

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

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Shortlisting of Applicants for CEO vacancy
Question and answer session with resource sector and Environmental Departments
Aquatic Centre Visit

Alderman Steven Rose

Open Forum
Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
October Business Month Dinner
Meeting re Review of Constitutional Arrangements - Electoral Review
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Customer Service Awards
Question & Answer Session with Resource Sector & Environmental Departments
Development Consent Authority Meeting

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Katherine Museum Board Meeting
Aquatic Centre Visit
Question & Answer Session with Resource Sector & Environmental Departments

Alderman Donald Higgins

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Question & Answer Session with Resource Sector & Environmental Departments
Development Consent Authority Meeting

Deputy Mayor Lis Clark

Open Forum
Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Meeting re Review of Constitutional Arrangements - Electoral Review
Internal Audit Committee Meeting
Wriggle & Rhyme 1st Birthday
Chamber of Commerce Business Awards
Community Grants Meeting
Charles Darwin University 25th Birthday
Meeting with Stephen Blackadder Consultants
Question & Answer Session with Resource Sector & Environmental Departments
Aquatic Centre Visit

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- MOVED: Miller/Tapp-Coutts

Mayor Miller advised that at a recent workshop it was discussed changing December's Council meeting date. Mayor Miller asked the Aldermen of their availability during December. There is no requirement to have a Council meeting every month and there is nothing coming before Council in December that is urgent. Mayor Miller moved that no Council meeting take place in December.

Alderman Tapp-Coutts advised that a Special Meeting can be called if needed. 2015 Council meeting dates will be circulated as soon as possible.

CARRIED 6/0

- Alderman Rose advised that today the NT Government Advisory Committee considered the Katherine River Corridor Management Strategy which is an initiative of Minister to get weeds in the Katherine River Corridor under control for environmental reasons. A strategy to manage weeds is under consideration.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts requested Council write to the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment asking for the costing on painting of markings on bridge, in order that Council have something to work on for next year.
- Deputy Mayor Clark asked if the cameras in the Main Street are working and being responded to. Mayor Miller agreed they were. The CEO advised she and Mayor Miller had viewed screens and footage within Police Station, there are 3 sites for the cameras there and they are being monitored both in Katherine and Darwin.

15. PETITIONS

Nil

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 6.50pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE