



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING

OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2015

AT

6.18 PM

Council Chambers Civic Centre
Stuart Highway, Katherine

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT
THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2015 AT 6.18 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Neroli Dickens – Director Works & Services/Deputy Chief
Executive Officer
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager
Ms Sarah Bevington – Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)

4 x members of the Katherine Community
1 x member of the Media

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 22 September 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 7/0

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 The following comments detail some of the history and follow up actions associated with the query:

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

At the 22 September 2015 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Alderman Tapp-Coutts asked if there has been further correspondence around fracking. Mayor Miller commented there has been nothing further. Mayor Miller asked the CEO to follow this up with the Department.

- On 24 February 2015 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council, the Katherine Town Council made the following resolution:
 1. Support the community of Katherine and request a moratorium on Unconventional Oil and Gas Mining/fracking within the whole of the Katherine Municipal Boundaries.
 2. Request the Minister for Mines and Energy declare a moratorium on shale gas fracturing, exploration and drilling within the whole of the Katherine Town Council Municipal boundaries.
- In around April 2015 there was a meeting between Ron Kelly (CEO, Department of Mines and Energy) and Elected Members to discuss the decision of Council, hydraulic fracturing in the Northern Territory and proposed details related to the moratorium by Council. During the meeting Elected Members sought further information from Mr Kelly regarding a number of issues.
- There have now been four follow up calls to Mr Kelly where he finally confirmed in August 2015 that he was taking the matter to Cabinet for comment. Since the original meeting in April 2015, there has now been an extended period of time with no response. Council is not satisfied with this response and have drafted the attached letter for urgent attention.

CARRIED: 7/0

6. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

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 September 2015:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • KAAG Meeting | • Council Meeting |
| • Liquor Accord Meeting | • Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee |
| • Meet with Vietnam Australia Building Industry Services | • Katherine Multicultural Community |
| • ABC Grassroots Interview | • Elected Members Workshop x 2 |
| • Interview with YMCA NTG Grants | • Meeting regarding Katherine Airport |
| • LGANT Teleconference | • ALGWA NT Executive Meeting |
| • Katherine South Community Forum | • Meeting with Chamber of Commerce |
| • National Citizenship Day Ceremony | • National Police Remembrance Day |
| • Open Forum | |

- Meeting with CEO Department of Housing
- Department of Housing Review Consultations
- Katherine Hostel for the Aged
- Brolga Site Judging x 4
- KREDC Committee Meeting
- Probus Foundation Meeting

- The social improvement to Katherine since the TBL's were introduced on 18 December 2014 has been very successful in reducing the consumption of alcohol which formerly led to high incidents of alcohol fueled violence to the persons and property. The program which is reliant on intensive police resourcing has been renamed Point of Sale Intervention (POSI). I am very supportive of this highly successful trial and definitely support the ongoing intervention. On the number of committee's that I sit there is also unanimous support.
- The Katherine Regional Economic Development Committee (KREDC) has been very proactive in addressing areas of growth in our region — eg Defence, Transport, Tourism — by the formation of working groups to expand consultation in those areas. Several presentations have already taken place with appropriate Government Departments and Developing the North to pursue positive outcomes. Katherine Town Council through the CEO Robert Jennings and myself are very proactive in this area and appreciate the good working relationship between Katherine Town Council, the KREDC and NT Government.
- The proposed hand over of street lighting from PAWA to local government has been passed to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) to seek legal advice on behalf of all municipal and regional councils. Whilst Katherine Town Council has budgeted for this item we will not be making any decision before receiving the outcome of the legal advice. At this point of time the proposed charges for street lighting and infrastructure are not accurately defined by PAWA and definitely need clarification.
- The Katherine Flood Mitigation Report which was announced early this year, has been completed and presented to the Katherine Emergency Committee. The \$25m allocated to flood mitigation in Katherine has, we believe, been allocated wisely. The recommendations from the committee are to be presented to Cabinet this month for endorsement with the planned implementation before the end of this year. Following endorsement the report will be available online. At this point the administrative component of the implementation has still not been determined.
- Congratulations to Simmone Croft (Manager at the Katherine Museum) and the MAC project team for successfully completing the air-conditioning project at the Clyde Fenton Hangar. The museum now has an outstanding building to hopefully preserve the fragility of the aircraft for many years to come.

- Congratulations to all finalists in the Chamber of Commerce Customer Service Awards for 2015. All well deserved nominations. The presentation ceremony is this coming Saturday night and promises to be a gala event. My congratulations especially to the Library and Meaghan Pike (formerly of the Katherine Visitor Centre) who are both finalists.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

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

8.1 Letter to Minister Tollner – Request for response to Hydraulic Fracturing Letter

- Mayor Miller informed the meeting that we are still waiting for a response to this letter and that the Council will continue to act on this issue.
- Alderman Phillips mentioned that looking into the future how do we best go looking into getting the mines to contribute to the region.
- Alderman Phillips stated that there are a number of developments around Katherine through the mines.

8.2 Letter – Onshore Oil and Gas in Northern Territory

- Alderman Higgins stated that the letter was generic but would like to note the statement regarding Residential Areas, including rural residential areas, are not considered as being compatible with oil and gas exploration or development.

8.3 The Clontarf Foundation Annual Report 2014

- Alderman Higgins tabled the Clontarf Foundation Annual Report 2014 which will be referred to in section 15 General Business.

9. PETITIONS

Nil

10. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

10.1 With Notice

Nil

10.2 Without Notice

Nil

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

12. REPORT OF OFFICERS

12.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2015

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

MOVED: Clark/Phillips

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of September 2015 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Clark commented on the grant funding submissions and that it is good to see Council putting the work in to the applications.
- Alderman Clark noted the decrease hours in sick leave of Library staff.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts noted on page seven (7) the higher percentage in sales to the VIC and thanked the staff for their hard work.

12.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2015

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

MOVED: Phillips/Tapp-Coutts

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of September 2015 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Rose noted the sprinkler replacement and stated that the parks and garden are looking fantastic. However the sprinklers are being damaged and replaced often.
- The Director of Works and Services stated that the September figures occurred during the school holidays and that this is the time that we often see an increase in equipment being vandalised.
- Alderman Phillips noted that people can damage the sprinklers by driving on nature strips.
- Alderman Clark questioned the removal of the trees at the Cinema Café carpark.
- The Operations Manager stated that trees have been replaced and that there is a hole left for a solar light to go in.

12.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2015

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of September 2015.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts thanked staff for comments in the Financial Report and noted it was much easier to read.
- Alderman Gazey and Mayor Miller agreed.

12.4 MUNICIPAL PLAN – QUARTERLY REVIEW

File: Governance / Compliance / Municipal Plan

MOVED: Higgins/Gazey

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council notes the status of the quarterly review of the Municipal Plan for 2015/2016 as at the 30 September 2015.

CARRIED: 7/0

12.5 ANNUAL REPORT

File: Governance / Compliance / Annual Report

MOVED: /

That it be recommended to Council:

CARRIED: /

This report was moved to a late agenda item.

12.6 AIRPORT PAVEMENT INVESTIGATIONS – FUNDING ENDORSEMENT

File: Legal Documents / Lease / Katherine Civil Airport Lease

MOVED: Clark/Phillips

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That approval is granted for the allocation of \$30,500 from Airport Internally Restricted Funds to the current investigative works occurring at the Civil Airport, specifically in relation to apron pavement conditions analysis.

CARRIED: 7/0

12.7 APPROVAL TO RESCHEDULE COMMUNITY FORUM KATHERINE NORTH

File: Community Relations / Community Forums

MOVED: Phillips/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

To endorse the following date for the Katherine North Community Forum with the Katherine community that will provide an opportunity for residents and ratepayers to discuss their issues and opportunities as well as for Council to provide an update on projects/ services, to listen and to answer questions:

- Katherine North Community Forum originally scheduled for 14 December 2015 rescheduled to 2 November 2015 meeting location to be advised.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Deputy Mayor Higgins advised he will be an apology as he will be on leave.

12.8 ENDORSE LETTER – MINISTER PETER CHANDLER – PERMANENT BEAT LOCATIONS

File: Community Relations / Community Forums

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Phillips

That it be recommended to Council:

1. To endorse the attached letter for Minister Peter Chandler.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Mayor Miller advised that in Alice Springs they have released a Draft Alcohol Management Plan and that the alternate recommendation is that if Alice Springs cannot continue with Temporary Beat Locations (TBLs) they introduce an alternate permit system.
- Mayor Miller stated we will continue to encourage the TBLs in Katherine to the NT Government.

12.9 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

File: Government Relations / Liaison / Department of Housing Local Government and Regional Services

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

1. To endorse the attached submission letter on the Housing Strategy Consultation addressed to Minister Bess Price MLA.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts said that this letter is a high priority for Katherine and we need to continue working on this.
- Alderman Rose said that it is fantastic that we have someone who is interested in acting on this issue to avoid the situation of people coming in from the communities and having no accommodation.
- Alderman Phillips said that we need the extra housing and that we need to keep following up on this issue of accommodation.
- Mayor Miller stated in addition to KTC that she is on the Katherine Accommodation Action Group and they meet to look at a strategic solution and satisfy the needs of the people that need this accommodation and what accommodation they need.
- Mayor Miller said the accommodation demand will increase with the new Cancer Care facility at the Katherine Hospital.
- Mayor Miller is hopefully we can find secure affordable accommodation.
- Alderman Gazey said that Katherine need accommodation for short term homeless people and that people are able to check in and out easily with minimum notice.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts stated that we have a Chemo Unit about to open in Katherine in the next week or two and the Cancer Council office and people attending this facility will also need accommodation.
- Alderman Rose stated that the hospital was funded to build accommodation however the funding was given back to the Federal Government.

13. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

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

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

Alderman Peter Gazey

Open Forum
Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Tindal Twilight Expo
Katherine South Community Consultation
Benefits Grants Managing
Dementia Awareness Lunch
Market Stall
Citizenship Ceremony

Alderman Steven Rose

Open Forum
Elected Members Workshop
Ordinary Council Meeting
Citizenship Ceremony
Meeting with VABIS Group
Katherine South Community Consultation
National Police Remembrance Day
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
RBH DCA

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

Open Forum
Elected Members Workshop
Ordinary Council Meeting
Katherine South Community Consultation
Katherine Cancer Working Group
Katherine Historical Society Meeting
GYRACC - Head Full of Love Performance

Alderman Rob Phillips

N/A

Deputy Mayor Donald Higgins

Open Forum
Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Meeting with VABIS Group
Book Week – Katherine South School
Super Hero Day – Kintore Street School
Katherine South Community Consultation
Citizenship Ceremony
Clontarf AFL – Final and Presentation.
Tindal Twilight Expo
Library Book Week
Market Stall

Alderman Lis Clark

Open Forum
Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Meeting with VABIS Group
Community Grant Fund Meet
Tindal Twilight Expo
Katherine South Community Consultation
Citizenship Ceremony

14. LATE AGENDA

14.1 2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT INCORPORATING THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

File: Local Governance / Compliance / Annual Report

MOVED: Clark/Phillips

CARRIED: 7/0

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the 2014/2015 Annual Report and Audited Financial statements having been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations* be received and noted.

2. That pursuant to Section 199 of the *Local Government Act*, the 2014/2015 Annual Report be forwarded to the Minister and published on Council's website.

CARRIED: 7/0

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Alderman Gazey commented on the content in the Annual Report and that it was well presented.
- Alderman Phillips stated that he has been away for September, but would like to see work done to the footpaths with all the development going on in the Katherine Area.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts would like to see Council establish a register of all Katherine Australia Medal recipients and these be officially invited to Australia Day, and that the names be printed on the Australia Day Program.
Dr Scattini, Gillian Banks, Gillian Hagger, Barbara Tynan, Werner Sarny, Phil Phillips are some that come to mind.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts would like Katherine to look at getting the two following awards, Indigenous Leader – contribution to the Katherine community, Volunteer – contribution to the Katherine community and see Katherine consider entering the Tidy Towns Awards for 2016.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts acknowledged that Ben Tapp has won the most prestigious Campdraft in Australia, The Warwick Gold Cup, for the second time. Ben is the only Territorian to have won this cup in its 50+ years. The Northern Territory also won the Teams Draft for Katherine Tourism.

- The CEO Robert Jennings advised we will work these ideas into future strategic meetings.
- Alderman Phillips stated that Katherine has previously won the Tidy Towns Awards and questioned what we would need to re-enter.
- The CEO Robert Jennings advised he would be happy to look into this.
- Deputy Mayor Higgins has over the past 6 weeks, had the pleasure of representing the Mayor and the Katherine Community at several events around Katherine.

Deputy Mayor Higgins had the pleasure of attending book week at Katherine South primary school and was once again amazed at the ingenuity of their young mines in completing their costumes to represent a character from a book they had read during book week.

Deputy Mayor Higgins also attended the Kintore Street School where they had a super hero day. Once again the costumes were of a high standard and showed the imagination of people who already have enough to content with in their lives.

Deputy Mayor Higgins was lucky enough to attend and present Trophies for the AFL finals of the Clontarf Academy which was held here in Katherine this year. Schools from WA and NT were represented and the football was of high standard of which Doug Kelly a former AFL great of Katherine was heard to comment on several occasions.

Deputy Mayor Higgins would like to thank his employer, Victoria Daly Regional Council who allowed him to take three days annual leave and split it up into two (2) hourly lots so I could attend all the events that occurred in a 9-5 day.

Deputy Mayor Higgins raised the point as it has been raised with him by some concerned rate payers and has no reflection on the current capabilities of the incumbent.

Does Katherine want a full time Mayor or a part time Mayor?

All the events Deputy Mayor Higgins attended were in Katherine and did not involve any meetings with Ministers or other stake holders of our community.

Deputy Mayor Higgins stated the question begs to be answered does Katherine have a full time Mayor who is able to travel to Darwin for meetings as well as be available to attend all the invitations that they may receive from local schools and community events. Under our current arrangement a full time Mayor will always be someone in my opinion anyway who is semi-retired and has the available time during the day without conflicting with an employer to commit to all the events that the people of Katherine expect of their Mayor. If Katherine wants a full time Mayor that is of a younger age group then they have to make a couple of hard decisions.

Does Katherine expect a 40 something person to give up a career they have probably worked the last twenty years to accomplish and do that for the very merger allowance the current Mayor is allowed to draw from council funds.

Rate payers have to decide; part time Mayor means a continuing of the current system which in my opinion is not a bad thing or raising the allowance for the Mayor to a level that will attract a younger population to want to be involved in their community. Deputy Mayor Higgins knows the knockers out there will say they should do it for the love of the community, but love of the community does not feed the family, especially if you the Katherine people want to see younger members of the community putting their hand up for Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Higgins personally feel that the current system is fine for probably one more election period but after that if the expected growth of Katherine happens I think the rate payers must seriously consider the idea of a full time Mayor that is compensated accordingly.

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts agreed that you could not work fulltime and be the Mayor of Katherine. Alderman Tapp-Coutts agreed that we need to move towards the Government rate for a Mayor across the NT.
- Alderman Phillips agreed.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts stated that the key is youth if we want to see young people in the position of Mayor of Katherine.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts put her apology in for the market on 7 November 2015.
- Alderman Clark asked whether we were reinstating in the Alderman Stall
- CEO Robert Jennings said that we will speak with all Elected Members regarding this.
- Deputy Mayor Higgins informed Council he will be absent from 28 October – 16 November.
- Mayor Miller stated that Katherine Town Council has been successful in our application for the Round One Special Purpose Grants for 2015 – 2016, which is for the formalisation of the public open space at Lindsay Street and surrounds. The grant approved is for \$109,000 which will be directed towards formalising the parking areas.
- Mayor Miller thanked the Director of Works and Services for the effort put into the submission. This section of Lindsay Street will be greatly enhanced for our tourists and locals alike.
- Mayor Miller congratulated the Katherine Town Council Library staff for winning the Customer Service Award for Government Department sector at the annual Customer Service Awards presentation held at Knotts Crossing on 17 October. Well done in being acknowledged for the great work that you do in providing customer service to our community.
- At long last the Regional Passenger Transport (RPT) Service has recommenced as of last Monday 19th October – travelling the return trip Darwin/Katherine/Tennant Creek/Alice Springs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Katherine has been without an RPT service for a decade, so I sincerely hope that AirNorth are well patronised during this 2 year contract so that this service can continue to provide a convenience for locals and tourists alike.

- While in Alice Springs for the Indigenous Economic Forum last week Mayor Miller met with the CEO Tony Mayell at Tourism NT to discuss the Terms of Reference for Katherine LTAC. Tony Mayell was supportive of reviewing the Terms of Reference from the KREDC on LTAC a good flow of information from LTAC to KTC to KREDC and onto Tourism NT.
- Mayor Miller is hopeful this will promote tourism and encourage more operators to be involved in the Katherine region.
- Mayor Miller commented on the Temporary Beat Locations now called Point of Sale Interventions (POSIs) that it was interesting Beer Wine and Spirits sales have increased since the current TBLs commenced.

16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 7:12pm

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE