



# Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday 22 March 2016**  
**Ordinary Meeting 6.27pm**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,  
Stuart Highway, Katherine

Robert Jennings  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

### MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2016 AT 6.27PM

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**1. Welcome to the Country**

**2. Opening Prayer**

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

**3. Present**

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

**In attendance**

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer  
Ms Claire Johannsson – Director of Corporate & Community Services  
Ms Sarah Bevington – Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)

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

**4. Apologies and Leave of Absence**

The absence and apology of Alderman Robert Phillips, the Director of Works and Services Neroli Dickens and the Operations Manager David Moore were received and noted.

**5. 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 23 February 2016 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Alderman Gazey requested the minutes from ordinary council meeting 23 February 2016 item 13.2 point three (3) be amended to read *though a Department of Sport and Recreation grant.*

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

### 6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

#### 6.1 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chief Executive Officer noted the following items to the previous minutes 23 February 2016 will be addressed in the April ordinary council meeting.

- Alderman Gazey questioned what the program is for slashing and road side verges, he noted it has started.
- Alderman Gazey commented on the rural road side strategy being put together so we can see a concrete plan on how things are going to be organised and he is looking forward to seeing this at the next review.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised Katherine Town Council officers are currently working on the program for the slashing of road side verges and will provide a schedule at the next ordinary council meeting.
- Alderman Rose questioned the two (2) complaints received for January report although we mentioned zero (0) reports were received.
- There were no reports received against staff for the month of January.

6 / 0

### 7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

### 8. Mayoral Business to be Considered

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

#### 8.1 Mayoral Business for February 2016

On the first weekend in February the LGANT (Local Government Association of the Northern Territory) held their Executive meeting in Darwin in conjunction with the annual strategic planning workshop. At this meeting we determined the Budget for 2016/2017 which confirms our forward direction.

I represented the Katherine region at the Adelaide Lifestyle Expo (more familiarly known as the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show) on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February. It has been several years since I participated in a consumer show, but I haven't lost my enthusiasm. I was one of a dozen people representing the Northern Territory on a large interactive stand where we received many positive enquiries. My attendance at the Expo was at no cost to ratepayers. It was of my own choosing while visiting family in Adelaide.

In the following week Katherine was very well represented in Melbourne at the Victorian Caravan, Camping and Touring Super Show by Top Didj Alex and Petrena Ariston and Manuel Pamkal. Tourism NT won the best state tourism stand award for its use of NT attractions – and I have no doubt that Manuel's didj playing and indigenous painting sessions attracted many to the stand. An outstanding effort with benefits for the whole of the Katherine region.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

Mayors and Presidents from across the Northern Territory met with the Chief Minister Adam Giles and Minister for Housing Bess Price on Monday 22 February in Parliament House. This is the second meeting we have had with the Chief Minister collectively and it is planned to continue these twice yearly. This gives us the opportunity to discuss face to face issues that are of concern in our respective areas. The most significant announcement of the day was that the street lighting ownership will not become the responsibility of Councils until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. We appreciate the Chief Ministers decision which was made after consultation with a Local Government Focus Group nominated by LGANT to determine a satisfactory outcome for all local government.

The CEO Robert Jennings and I have had several informative meetings in Darwin during February with Departmental personnel which included the Department of Chief Minister, Department of Infrastructure, Department of Mines and the Leader of the Opposition – all addressing future developments in Katherine.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February ALGWA NT (Australian Local Government Women Association) held their first ever networking meeting outside of Darwin, at Knotts Crossing Katherine. It was a pleasure to see 26 people participate in the mid-morning meeting. Darwin Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim was the very interesting keynote speaker.

### **Mayor's Calendar of Events for February 2016**

- CHAIN Meeting
- Development Consent Authority
- Meeting with a Member of the Public
- RAAF Tindal Meeting
- LGANT Strategic Planning Meeting
- ALGWA NT Committee Meeting
- ABC Grass Roots
- Meeting with Katherine Times
- Meeting with Commander Porter
- Meeting with Tourism Top End
- Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show
- TIO General Manager Meet
- Meeting with Mayors and Presidents
- Teleconference Paul Henderson
- Council Meeting
- Open Forum
- KAAG Meeting
- Meeting with the Hon Gary Nairn
- Meeting with Department of the Chief Minister CEO John Coleman
- Meeting with Leader of the Opposition Michael Gunner
- Meeting with Department of Mines and Energy CEO Ron Kelly
- ALGWA Networking Lunch
- Meeting with Simon Quilty Katherine Hospital and Angela Brannelly Department of Health
- Katherine Emergency Committee Meeting
- Katherine Sportsgrounds Community Consultation Meeting
- Lydia Di Lembo & Michelle Rossi

- Mayor Miller stated the Mayoral Business for February 2016 is as included in the agenda.
- Alderman Rose questioned whether the Mayors trip to Adelaide was mentioned.
- Mayor Miller advised it was.
- Alderman Gazey requested the Mayor calendar of events meeting with Simon Quilty be amended to the correct spelling *Quilty*.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

### **9. Correspondence and Documents to be Tabled**

Nil

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

### 10. Petitions

Nil

### 11. Questions

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

#### 11.1 With Notice

Nil

#### 11.2 Without Notice

Nil

### 12. Notice of motion

Nil

### 13. Report of Officers

#### 13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2015

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

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of February 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Alderman Gazey questioned; following on from business arising item 6.1 the service request for February only shows one (1) completed request for mowing of street side verge and how we can better capture work that is in the process to update the community.
- Mayor Miller passed the question to the Chief Executive Officer.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised we are currently looking into a solution to outstanding service request being reported on.
- Mayor Miller noted the pop-up shop at the Hot Springs and is impressed with the design, Mayor Miller questioned if there was another pop-up shop.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised there is not at the moment.
- Alderman Gazey questioned if there was solar fitted to the pop-up shop.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised not at the moment.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

### 13.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2016

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

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of February 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Mayor Miller noted the increase in the urban litter clean-up for February due to storms and appreciated the explanation in the report.
- Alderman Gazey noted the seven (7) deaths and burials for the months.
- Mayor Miller noted that there is a lot more trees around the cemetery and that they are Frangipani's as well as two (2) that have come from her place.
- Mayor Miller advised trees planted along Giles street will provide additional shade.
- Mayor Miller asked the Chief Executive Officer to check into the dog attack on a person and the consequences.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised he would provide this information.
- Alderman Gazey questioned page ten (10) the 30,240kg of refuse that was collected and disposed of in urban street sweeping and if this is a normal amount.
- The Chief Executive Officer he will take that question on notice and get back to Council with the information.

### 13.3 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2016

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Corporate and Community Services Reports

MOVED: Gazey / Tapp-Coutts

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of February 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Deputy Mayor Higgins questioned page fourteen the third line from the bottom he questioned the Teal Moring Tea.
- Mayor Miller advised that Teal is the colour and the morning tea is held as a fundraiser each year for ovarian cancer.
- Mayor Miller noted the Library Lovers month activity that happens in February.
- Mayor Miller commented on the Visitor Information Centre improvement and that it is great to see Faith and the staff working hard on tourism in our region.
- Mayor Miller noted the excellent staff attitude.
- Mayor Miller encourages Council staff and Elected Members to visit the Visitor Information Centre to see the new look and well done to the staff.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

- Alderman Rose noted it is really good to see the increase in visitor numbers and that he is hoping we are in for a really good tourist season this year.

### 13.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of February 2016.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Alderman Clark commented on the exeloo we have in town and the \$500 we have spent on one and \$900 on another.
- Alderman Clark noted that there is a lot of money being spent on the electrics of these exelooos.
- Mayor Miller agreed.
- Alderman Gazey noted that it is approximately \$33 a day on maintenance on loos.
- Mayor Miller noted that we will just have to keep working on a solution with the loos.
- Tapp-Coutts noted that we needed something environmentally friendly.

### 13.5 KATHERINE HOT SPRINGS REVITALISATION UPDATE REPORT

File: Property Management / Asset Register / Hot Springs Reserve / Hot Springs Revitalisation Project

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Gazey

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Mayor Miller noted an amendment to page 38 Katherine South High School should read Katherine South Primary School.
- Mayor Miller thanked the Chief Executive Officer for including the community feedback on these projects.
- Alderman Rose noted that it is good to see such overwhelming support on this project and he thanks people that took time to comment.
- Alderman Gazey noted the feedback that has come from the community and this is something we need to continue to include.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

### 14. 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 February:

#### **Alderman Peter Gazey**

Elected Members Workshop X 2  
Open Forum  
Council meeting  
Governance Training  
YMCA Committee Meeting  
RAAF Tindal Meeting  
ALGWA Networking Seminar  
Binjari Meeting

#### **Alderman Steven Rose**

Elected Members Workshop X 2  
Open Forum  
Council meeting  
Development Consent Authority  
Chamber of Commerce Meeting  
Katherine Aviation Presentation

#### **Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts**

Elected Members Workshop X 2  
Open Forum  
Council meeting  
Travelling Film Festival  
ALGWA Networking Seminar

#### **Alderman Rob Phillips**

Elected Members Workshop X 2  
Open Forum  
Council meeting

#### **Deputy Mayor Donald Higgins**

Elected Members Workshop X 2  
Open Forum  
Council meeting  
Katherine Community Sportsgrounds Consultation  
Katherine Aviation Presentation  
Casuarina Street Primary School

#### **Alderman Lis Clark**

Elected Members Workshop X 2  
Open Forum  
Council meeting  
RAAF Tindal Meeting  
Travelling Film Festival  
Katherine Community Sportsgrounds Consultation  
Katherine Aviation Presentation



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

ALGWA Networking Seminar

### 15. Late Agenda

Deputy Mayor Higgins put forward a motion to include late agenda item 15.1

#### **15.1 PROGRESS ON THE LEASE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED MATTERS FOR THE KATHERINE CIVIL AIRPORT**

File: Legal Documents / Lease / Katherine Civil Airport Lease

MOVED: Clark / Rose

That it be recommended to Council to receive and note the above report.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts noted the typo on page two (2) to Tenant Creek and requested correct spelling Tennant Creek is replaced.
- Alderman Rose said it is great to see this getting close to the end process as over the last four (4) years there has been a lot of work go into the Airport. Alderman Rose passed a well done onto staff.
- Alderman Gazey noted the feedback and information that has been passed onto the public with regular updates.
- Deputy Mayor Higgins noted the bottom paragraph referring to grant funding for \$820k and questioned if this is confirmed.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted that Council have a contract to be signed with Department of Transport for the grant funding.

### 16. General Business

- Alderman Clark thanked Rosemary Jennings and Mark Flynn for the Clean-Up Australia Day as well as Alderman Gazey for looking after her that day and helping out.
- Alderman Clark noted there isn't as much litter as there use to be around and that the town has improved.
- Alderman Clark noted that the toilets at Giles and the Katherine Hot Springs were wonderful and clean.
- Deputy Mayor Higgins thanked Council staff in his term as Deputy Mayor as he has had a great time and recommends the opportunity to other Elected Members.
- Deputy Mayor noted all the special things he has experienced with this role as well as most of the people he meets with being positive about Council and good luck to Alderman Tapp-Coutts for her term as Deputy Mayor.
- Mayor Miller thanked Deputy Mayor Higgins for his time as Deputy Mayor and it is greatly appreciated.
- Alderman Gazey noted that he is receiving positive feedback from people about Council for things that are happening in Katherine.
- Mayor Miller congratulated Alderman Tapp-Coutts for the upcoming launch of her book and wished her all the best for massive sales and that interstate it will be great to see the book on sale.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts thanked Mayor Miller
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts noted that her publisher has released 9000 copies to go for sale and that they are going to second print.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 22 MARCH 2016

Mayor Miller advised the members of the public Council has resolved to use section 56 of the Local Government Act to discuss and resolve confidential issues which come before it.

Section 65 (2) states that Council is able to close a meeting, which means that all members of the public and press will be asked to leave the Council Chambers, to discuss specific issues in relation to matters referred to in regulations 13 of the Local Government (administration) regulations.

Mayor Miller called for the meeting to be closed to the public 18:56PM

Deputy Mayor Higgins moved that the meeting be closed to the public to discuss issues relating to matters as stipulated in regulations 8 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

### 17. Confidential Items

#### 17.1 OUTSTANDING RATES – REGISTRATION OF OVERRIDING STATUTORY CHARGE

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

CARRIED: 6 / 0

Mayor Miller called for a motion to re-open the meeting to the public.

Deputy Mayor Higgins moved a motion that the meeting be open to the public 7:04pm.

### 18. Next Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2016.

### 19. Meeting Closed

The meeting was closed 7:04pm

Fay Miller  
**MAYOR OF KATHERINE**