



Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday 13 December 2016
Ordinary Meeting 5:50PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Stuart Highway, Katherine

To be Confirmed

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2016

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2016

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 Peter Gazey
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Henry Higgins
Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Robert Phillips

In attendance

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Moore – A/Director of Works and Services
Ms Sophie Henderson – Community Services Executive Manager
Ms Rosemary Jennings – Community Support Officer (Minute Taker)
Ms Naomi Hunter (Communications Officer)

Video Link

Ms Claire Johansson - Director of Corporate and Community Services

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

4. Apologies and Leave of Absence

Nil

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 22 November 2016 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED: 6/0

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6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

Reports items

13.10 Katherine Town Council – Rates – Multiple Dwelling Policy and Procedure

13.11 Katherine Public Library – Policy Document

From Ordinary Council Meeting 22 November will be put to the January 2017 Council Meeting as there is still further clarification required on wording in the policy document.

CARRIED: 6/0

7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

Nil

8. Mayoral Business to be Considered

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

Mayor's Calendar of Events for November 2017

Elected Members Workshop x 2

Brolga Award Judging – Darwin x 2

Meeting with member of the public x 4

ABC Grassroots Radio Interview

Environment Transport & Infrastructure Reference Group Meeting – Local Government Association Northern Territory

Brolga Award Judging Dinner – Darwin

Funeral – Iris MacNamara

Katherine October Business Month Dinner

Meeting Parks and Wildlife – Sarah Kerin

Meet and Greet – Betty Asbestos Awareness

Parliament House Event – Leader of the Opposition

Parliament Sittings – New Ministers Sworn In

Australian Local Government Women's Association Northern Territory Meeting – Darwin

Meeting with Northern Land Council

Katherine Neighbourhood Precinct Meeting

Northern Australia Development Office – Video Conference – Population Summit

Meeting with Katherine Town Council Chief Executive Officer x 3

Katherine Carers Morning Tea

Faith Williams (Katherine Visitor Information Centre Manager) Farewell

Funeral Maureen Dunham

Customer Service Awards – Chamber of Commerce – Business Dinner

Territory Economic Summit Series – Meeting

Open Forum

Citizenship Ceremony

Council Meeting

Meeting with Coffey

Katherine Senior Citizens Morning Tea

Meeting with Police Commander – Mathew Hollamby

Kaye Melcalf – TIO

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Meeting with Department Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Meeting with Steven Edgington – Department of the Chief Minister
Meeting with Barunga Festival Committee
Meeting with Jean – Top End Rumble
World Teachers Day Celebrations – Katherine Golf Club
Annual Toy Run
Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club – Show and Shine
Katherine Swimming Carnival x 2 Days

Mayoral Business for December 2016 Council meeting

Joint Kimberley and Northern Territory Forum

- Kimberley and Northern Territory CEO's, Councillors, Mayors and representatives met in the Andy McNeill Room at the Alice Springs Council Chambers on Tuesday 29th November and Wednesday morning 30th November. While this is the 15th forum at which senior local government leadership meet to discuss and resolve matters of mutual interest, this is the first forum that Katherine Town Council has been represented, with CEO Robert Jennings and I attending.
- Our workshop with the Kimberley representatives identified several sectors of common interest – with tourism being the highest. The Savannah Way links Broome to Cairns and has great potential for further promotion and development across the borders. I am a Board member of Savannah Way and will be discussing this forum at our next teleconference.

Attachment: The programme for the Joint Kimberley and Northern Territory Forum

Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)

- A general meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting of LGANT was held at the Alice Springs Town Council Function Room on 1 – 2 December. In attendance representing Katherine Town Council was CEO Robert Jennings, Alderman Lis Clarke and myself.
- Minister Gerry McCarthy attended the meeting on Friday 2 December and addressed the delegates. During question time at the end of his presentation there was disappointment expressed by several delegates (including myself) at there being no dedicated Minister for Local Government - the 3rd tier of government. Local Government is a department now under the Minister for Housing and Community Development. While we have asked the Minister to reconsider this position, he emphasised the current structure in no way reflects less commitment by himself or the NTG to Local Government.
- At the AGM Friday morning I was privileged to be re-elected as an Executive Member for the coming 12 months.

Attachment: The programme for LGANT General Meeting and AGM.

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- Tonight we say “farewell” to long term Katherine resident Alderman Robbie Phillips and his wife Roz who are finally retiring and about to relax and enjoy family time together. Learning to relax will take some doing for Robbie I am sure as he has been an extremely active man on the land all his life. It will be a whole new lifestyle too living in Perth but one I am certain that Robbie and Roz will very quickly adjust to and enjoy.
- Robbie has served the Katherine community very well as an elected member on Katherine Town Council over an extended period which began in 1988. His terms were 1988 -1992, 1996 – 2000, part term 2000 – 2004 during which Robbie resigned, then elected again in 2012 and resigning and retiring as of this evening. Thank you for always speaking your mind Robbie during debate – always with passion and the best interests of the community.
- During Robbie’s time representing the ratepayers of Katherine, he has served on many committees – but I believe one of his favorite’s has been the Showgrounds User Group.
- On behalf of Katherine Town Council elected members and staff Robbie, I thank you for your many years serving our community. I wish you and Roz excellent health and happiness as you begin this next chapter in your life journey and look forward to seeing you both in Perth in the future.
- I also take this opportunity to THANK all elected members, CEO Robert Jennings and all staff for their commitment to Katherine Town Council during 2016. We have a great team and have achieved a good deal this year with 2017 being even more promising for proposed project outcomes.
- I wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your family and friends, wherever you may be. I look forward to a rest myself with family and friends, and with great anticipation for a fabulous new year for Katherine.

9. Correspondence and Documents to be Tabled

9.1 Letter Received - Alderman S Rose - Appointed Member - Katherine Water Advisory Committee - 7 December 2016

9.2 Letter Received - Alderman L Clark - Alternate Member - Katherine Water Advisory Committee - 7 December 2016

9.3 Letter Received – Alderman R Phillips – Resignation from Katherine Town Council Letter

10. Petitions

The Chief Executive Officer noted the response to the petition tabled in the agenda submitted from Kate Ganley. Discussions have already occurred and will continue with the YMCA.

11. Questions

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

11.1 With Notice

Nil

11.2 Without Notice

Nil

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12. Notice of motion

Nil

13. Report of Officers

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2016

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

MOVED: Higgins/Gazey

That it be recommended to Council:

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

CARRIED: 7/0

- Deputy Mayor Gazey noted the Facebook updates in regards to the Hot Springs getting out to the community. It is great to see.
- Mayor Miller noted the work of Communications Officer, Naomi Hunter for her work in regards to ensuring this communications occurs.
- Alderman Clark noted there still appears to be trouble with the dogs. It continues to rise, with no changes. Maybe Council needs to look at this again.
- Mayor Miller advised that this will be raised with the Environment and Compliance Manager.
- Mayor Miller noted that the Rise Ventures named Katherine its largest user of employment services.
- Alderman Rose met with Alicia Grenfell from Rise Ventures today and advised they are doing some great work and Katherine is the major player with these employment opportunities. They are looking for further ways to engage with the youth and create further employment opportunities. A lot of resources are being put towards this venture which we hope will show benefits. The youth need further opportunities in the community. There are a lot of opportunities to make important changes to the town. It is disengaged youth that are risk taking and have nothing to do.
- Alderman Phillips has been working with a young group from TRM for the last fortnight. The three (3) young indigenous men are credit to the original training received. Very enthusiastic.

13.2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2016

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Gazey / Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

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

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts noted it was great to see a large decrease in the debtors.
- Mayor Miller credited the works of the Finance department.
- Deputy Mayor Gazey queried the spending of Council money out of town. Are Council doing everything they can to keep the money local?
- Chief Executive Officer deferred to the Acting Director Works and Services, David Moore who noted that Council attempts to buy and utilise as many local services as possible he also commented there is also a budget to consider and a service level is expected. The Acting Director Works and Services noted the issue of appearing to favour particular services can also cause an issue and is mindful of this.

13.3 CAPITAL FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES KATHERINE CIVIL AIRPORT

File: Finance / Grant Funding / Department of Transport / Airport Infrastructure Works Program

MOVED: Phillips/Rose

That it be recommended to Council:

The capital funding agreement between Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and Katherine Town Council to the Katherine Airport Infrastructure Works.

CARRIED: 7/0

All the Alderman noted they were glad to see the project in motion.

13.4 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

File: Government Relations / Committees / RISE – CDP Advisory Board

MOVED: Clark/Gazey

That it be recommended that Council:

Agree to endorse a representative(s) be nominated to RISE CDP – Advisory Board.

CARRIED: 7/0

The Mayor proposed to defer this item to the January 2017 meeting to allow the Elected Members to consider the nomination.

14. Reports from Representatives on Committees

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

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

Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey

Elected Members Workshop x 2
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Katherine Community Markets
Tourism Community Consultation
New Ambulance Centre Inspection
PFAS Information Session
YMCA AGM and Board Meeting
Development Consent Authority Meeting
White Ribbon Day March

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

Elected Members Workshop x 2
Open Forum
Council Meeting

Alderman Steven Rose

Elected Members Workshop x 2
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Develop
Development Consent Authority x 2
Chamber of Commerce x 2
Remembrance Day
Project Sea Dragon Meeting
New Ambulance Centre Inspection
RAAF PFOS information session
White Ribbon Day March
Meeting with Peter Gazey
Danny Murphy Collection

Alderman Rob Phillips

Elected Members Workshop x 1
Showgrounds Advisory Committee
Katherine Historic Society x 2

Alderman Donald Higgins

Elected Members Workshop x 2
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Katherine Community Markets
Tourism Community Consultation
New Ambulance Centre Inspection
PFAS Information Session

Alderman Lis Clark

Elected Members Workshop x 2
Open Forum
Council Meeting
Katherine Showgrounds Advisory Committee
Katherine Community Markets
Danny Murphy Collection
Project Sea Dragon Meeting
Tourism Community Consultation
KTC Christmas party

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Rodeo / Camp draft advisory
Emungalan Bridge Advisory Meeting
Senior Citizen Morning tea
Land for Wildlife Information Session
New Ambulance Centre Inspection

- Mayor Miller recommended that all Elected Members provide reports to Council for every committee that they attend as a representative of Council, commencing in 2017.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts recommended that the reports from Elected Members be up to the date of the meeting as opposed to the previous month.
- Alderman Clarke noted last week I attended the LGANT Conference with the Mayor and CEO. This was my fifth meeting and has attended four in my first term on Council. It is now very well attended. Meeting people from other Councils and networking is a great way to see how other Councils work and meet with other Aldermen. Mayor Damien Ryan from Alice Springs was re-elected as President of LGANT. Our Mayor was re-elected the Executive. The Territory has 5 Municipals, 12 Regional Councils and 63 Local Authorities.

There were a number of presentations, e.g.:

- Australian Local Government
- 2016 Healthy Community Accords and Heart Mags Online
- Local Government directions
- Constitutional Recognition and Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander People
- 2017 Local Government elections – NT Electoral Commission
- Cyber Security
- Honorable Gerry McCarthy – Minister for Housing and Community Development

There were also a few Local Government Awards for Long Service given out. I would encourage any Alderman to attend at least one of these meetings during their term as you do learn a lot. I would like to wish the Mayor, CEO, Staff and my fellow Aldermen a great and Safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts recommended that at least one representative should attend every meeting. Mayor Miller agreed as it is highly beneficial.

15. **Late Agenda**

Nil

16. **General Business**

- Alderman Clarke would like to wish the Mayor, CEO, Staff and Elected Members a Merry Christmas and happy new year.
- Alderman Rose noted he has finally been counted as part of the Census. Thanks to the Mayor who engaged with the Chief of the Census at the LGANT Conference who then contacted Alderman Rose to discuss. It was discovered that the entire Edith Farms Road area was missed as well as parts of Lansdowne. Census officers attended these areas however this was poorly handled with no notice to residents.
- Mayor Miller was aware of the Edith Farms Road issue but was not aware of Lansdowne.

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- Alderman Rose noted those that did not have Post Office boxes were the ones that missed out.
- Alderman Rose would like to wish Alderman Philips the best for the future.
- Alderman Clarke noted the Census stopped at Cossack Road and there were quite a few residents missed.
- Deputy Mayor Gazey noted of the last 2 years he has probably been quite critical of the weeds and areas being missed. He noted recently the improvement to the road side verges, in particular the work to remove the neems on Shadforth Road. Congratulations to those involved as it is paying off through a lot of hard work.
- Alderman Rose would like to thank the Council staff for the amazing work that has happened this year.
- Mayor Miller thanked Claire Johansson for taking part in our meetings (via Skype).
- Mayor Miller thanked all the hard work from the staff at Katherine Town Council for 2016.
- Congratulation and best wishes to Robert and Roz Phillips and good luck in your retirement.
- Alderman Philips provided his formal resignations from Katherine Town Council as an Alderman.
- The Chief Executive Officer thanked Alderman Phillips for his passion and hard work on behalf of all the staff at Katherine Town Council. It has been inspirational. Being an Elected Members is not an easy role. You have to attend events and put your time aside. Thank you for your contribution to the community.

17. Confidential Items

Nil

18. Next Ordinary Council Meeting

The first Ordinary Council Meeting for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 24 January 2017.

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting was closed 6.29PM.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE