



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**Tuesday 26 November 2019
Ordinary Meeting 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 26 NOVEMBER 2019**

1. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

I am honoured to be on the ancestral lands of Katherine's Aboriginal peoples. I acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of the continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history. I pay respect to the Elders of the community and extend my recognition to their descendants past present and emerging.

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 Jon Raynor
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Matt Hurley
Alderman Peter Gazey
Alderman John Zelle
Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts

In attendance

Mr Allan McGill – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mrs Claire Johansson – Chief Operations Officer (COO)
Ms Rosemary Jennings – Executive Manager Community Services (EMCS)
Ms Sue Crammond Minute Taker (EA)

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

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

Alderman Gazey – 14 to 19 December 2019
Alderman Hurley – 1 December to 13 January 2019

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Clark

5.1 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 22 October 2019 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 7 / 0

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Tapp Coutts

5.2 That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Monday, 11 November 2019 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 7 / 0

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NIL

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.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TABLED

- Katherine Showgrounds & Multipurpose Advisory Committee User Group Minutes – 1 October 2019
- CBD Shopfronts Grants
- Exemption from Tender documentation – Tyre Remediation

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

Deputy Mayor Jon Raynor – Audit Committee - Compliance

MOVED: Deputy Mayor Raynor / Alderman Zelley

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Is this some sort of procedural item we have missed?

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Yes. It is an audit plan to look through Council's governance processes and check what we need to be in compliance with, against the *Local Government Regulations*.

Alderman Gazey – Is there a cost involved to Council that we haven't budgeted for?

CEO – That would be dependant on who we get to do that review.

Council Resolve that:

- A. It be noted that the Audit Committee is preparing an audit plan for 2020.
- B. As the first item on that audit plan, be a review of governance and compliance and
- C. The CEO take the necessary steps to have the audit commenced.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13. REPORT OF OFFICERS

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – OCTOBER 2019

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

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Hurley

Alderman Gazey – Pg 2, newsletter mailout. What was the % of illegible email addresses?

XCS – Estimates are that nearly 50% could not be read.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Pg 2, there was a meeting with DIPL today. Can you provide an update Mayor Miller?

Mayor Miller – Signage for the VIC has been moved further south along Stuart Highway to allow for more warning to move across lanes to make the right hand turn into Chambers Drive for the VIC. DIPL suggest we should give it a dry season test to see how it works before making any further changes. Bicentennial Road intersection may have additional signage applied. Additional signs for caravans, etc. will be all compliant with signage rules. DIPL consulting on how that will look. Deputy Mayor Raynor – What about the Exit signage from the shopping centre? The directional signage needs to be larger.

Mayor Miller – Will need to revisit that one at another meeting. I will get that set up. Alderman Tapp Coutts – The Knotts Crossing burial site. Alderman Clark and I visited and looked at the area identified (possibly by Pancho). We also undertook a Museum visit and found the list of those who are buried there. We also know some remains were moved to an Emungalan Road site. I suggest Council budget for a nice little fence and memorial plaque for the Knotts Crossing site and work with the Museum to get the historical details completed.

Alderman Gazey – I believe there is concern about erosion for the area. Any fencing would need to consider that factor.

Mayor Miller – Well done on the research Aldermen.

Alderman Clark – The Adventure Play Park Water bubbler is now installed with the official opening held today with the Clyde Fenton Primary children in attendance. Nice cold water was on offer and hopefully all park visitors will get to use it.

That Council resolve:

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of September 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.2 **MONTHLY REPORT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES – OCTOBER 2019**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Community Services Reports

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Tapp Coutts

Alderman Tapp Coutts – It is good to still be keeping a track on VIC numbers. Looking at the graphs, the yearly patterns are much the same. Average sales went up a bit last year, but not so much this year. Staff, services and efficiencies are getting better and that will reflect in our numbers.

That Council resolves:

That the Community Services Report for the month of October 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.3 **MONTHLY REPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES – OCTOBER 2019**

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

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Tapp Coutts

Alderman Gazey – Pg 17 – 29 broken damaged and vandalised sprinkler components. There are still a lot around town that need to be replaced/repared. Could we conduct an audit so that we can pick this up?

CEO – I had that audit discussion with the Depot crew this morning. The type of vandalism occurring means we can't fix the sprinkler, we have to replace the whole unit. Eleven sprinklers were damaged like this on Friday and then a further 18 were damage on Monday. It's an ongoing problem.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Great to see the number of dogs being returned to owners. It is still a sad thing that some are still being euthanised. The Rangers are doing a good job. They genuinely care about the animals and are very compassionate in the manner in which they deal with them. No one likes to see good dogs put down and there is a lot of time spent trying to rehome them.

Mayor Miller – Looking forward to seeing the guidelines for cemeteries soon.

Alderman Clark – Where are the old guidelines? Can they be issued in the meantime? There is quite an increase in dogs being impounded?

CEO – A blitz has been going on which accounts for the higher figure.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Back to sprinklers – Have we got a program for turning on and off the sprinklers? Can we also do an audit on streetlights as well?

CEO – Yes, there is a program in place for sprinklers. Will check on an audit on streetlights.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Where are we up to with the internet connection of lights?

COO – Again, will take on notice.

That Council resolves:

That the report of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Report for the month of October 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.4 **MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – OCTOBER 2019**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Reports

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Clark

Alderman Clark – Pg 24 and Pg 25 – Wrong totals figures again.

Mayor Miller – Is it a \$1 amount? It could just be attributed to rounding.

COO – Will take on notice.

Alderman Gazey – Arnhem Nursery purchase of \$1483.00 for Territory Apple. I can confirm that was for a number of plants, not just one tree.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Where are these trees being planted?

Alderman Clark – They will part of the Hot Springs project.

Alderman Clark – Pg 35 - Water Account for YMCA – Do we on pass that bill on to the YMCA?

CEO – Yes.

Alderman Clark – Community Banner etc., what was that?

XCS – This was Council's subscription advertisement for the 2020 CoC Directory.

Alderman Clark – Warburton Street Complex. I assume that's FoodLadder and we also pass that account onto them?

Mayor Miller – Yes.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – 90 + Day Debtors. How are we handling them?

COO – These will be infringements that are sent to the Fines Recovery Unit (FRU) – they remain open until settled. We do get some payments made in small staged portions. We have quite detailed policies on how we deal with debt to Council.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Pg 36 - 72 high risk trees at the Cemetery. Does that account for all the trees at the Cemetery?

COO – Not all trees - only those identified by the audit as high risk.

Mayor Miller – The majority was maintenance work to these trees. I visited the cemetery with the COO, to view what had been done by the contractors. We were comfortable with the work that has been completed.

That Council resolve that:

Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of September 2019.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.5 **DETERMINATION, CAUSE NOTICE OF THE REMOVAL OF A VEHICLE OR TRAILER TO BE ADVERTISED**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Agenda

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Clark

Alderman Gazey – The resolution reads as though it could be either option. I would like it to be a more regimented statement at removes the "or" option.

Mayor Miller / Alderman Gazey – A motion to amend the resolution by removing the word "Or".

CARRIED: 7 / 0

That Council resolve:

That pursuant to Section (65) (6) (b) of the Northern Territory Traffic Regulations the Council hereby determines that:

The method of causing notice of removal of vehicles be by the means of, publishing a notice on the KTC website for two (2) successive weeks and a weekly Facebook post for two (2) successive weeks, be determined an appropriate method of serving a notice under the Traffic Regulations.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.6 ACQUITTAL – IMPROVING STRATEGIC LOCAL ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM GRANT – RODEO RELOCATION PLANNING

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Hurley

That Council resolve that:

The acquittal for Improving Strategic Local Roads Infrastructure Program (ISLRIP) for the purposes of planning of the rodeo relocation project be received and noted and the acquittal be forwarded to the department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.7 ACQUITTAL – DIPL – REGIONAL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (REIF2) – AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agendas 2019

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Clark

Deputy Mayor Raynor – What upgrades were made to the terminal building?
Mayor Miller – It is listed on page 53.

That Council resolve:

That the acquittal for the *Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund* (REIF) – REIF 2 – Katherine Airport Infrastructure Works grant for the purpose of undertaking improvements at the Katherine Airport be received and noted and the acquittal be forwarded to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics

CARRIED: 7 / 0

14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Katherine Showgrounds & Multipurpose Advisory Committee User Group Minutes – 1 October 2019 (tabled)

15. **ALDERMEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Deputy Mayor Jon Raynor

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Special Meetings of Council x 2
St Joseph's Prize Giving Evening
Katherine Doggy Day
Remembrance Day Service
Stars Foundation Presentation Nigh
Young Territorian Author Awards
Clontarf Foundation Awards
Audit Committee Meeting
Sportsground Meeting
Meetings with CEO
Meet with COO x 2 and Airport Manager(s)

Alderman Lis Clark

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Special Meeting of Council x 2
Knotts Crossing Cemetery Scoping exercise with Alderman Tapp Coutts
Katherine Doggy Day
McHappy Day
CEO Interview
Remembrance Day
Showgrounds Advisory Committee
Audit Review Meeting
Katherine Museum Partnership Meeting
Electoral Boundaries
CBD Project Meeting

Alderman Peter Gazey

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Special Meeting of Council x 2
Development Consent Authority Out of Session Meeting
Remembrance Day
CEO Interview
Katherine Doggy Day

Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Special Meeting of Council x 2
Knotts Crossing Cemetery Scoping exercise with Alderman Clark
1 x Katherine Region of Writers @ Library
Remembrance Day
Katherine Museum Partnership Agreement Meeting
Auditor Budget Briefing

Sportsground Meeting
Regional Health Advisory Meeting - TEHS
Art Exhibition @ Old Gallon
Official Opening Adventure Play Park

Alderman John Zelle
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Special Meeting of Council x 2

Alderman Matt Hurley
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Special Meeting of Council x 2

16. LATE AGENDA ITEMS

CEO Allan McGill handed around a motion for regarding the NT Liquor Act amendments.

The Vintage Car Enthusiasts Club has given us an application for alcohol consumption as part of the Christmas function. It arrived yesterday. This made us aware that the *NT Liquor Act* has changed and those changes do impact on Council, when events are held on Council premises. The Attorney-General and Justice Department have provided a letter (26 November) in response to our queries on the changes. In that it states, Council will need to advertise these events in the Government Gazette prior to the event. This advertising will cost \$150 each time. (copy of letter attached).

Alderman Tapp Coutts – If the organisation is selling alcohol, then it is up to the organiser to get the event gazetted?

CEO – We think so.

Mayor Miller – In light of the letter, what do we do about the Vintage Enthusiasts Club? Are we in contempt if don't advertise this event in the Gazette? We probably won't get it done in time.

CEO – The Department are aware of this and will be lenient as these rule changes are very new.

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Clark

That Council resolve:

- a. That the Council note the letter dated 26 November 2019 from the Director Liquor Licensing.
- b. That, the Chief Executive Officer be delegated the authority to issue permits for consumption of liquor on Council property and also to publish notification of all such permits in the Government Gazette.
- c. That a report be presented to the December meeting of the Council with more information in relation to the NT Liquor Act and options available to the Council in relation to processing applications.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

17. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Exemption from Tender Request – Tyre Remediation**

CEO – This is in response to work for removal of tyres and contaminated materials. We have received a price from the only company with equipment and availability (McMahon) to do the work. We need a Council decision before the NTG will consider the exemption.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Will they look favourably on this request because of the specialty of this case?

CEO – I believe they will.

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Hurley

That Council resolve that:

Authority is given for KTC Officers to seek an Exemption from Tender approval for the removal of tyres and contaminated waste from the Showgrounds precinct.

CARRIED: 7/0

Mayor Miller – I am very grateful Darwin City Council have given us support in this matter and are offering to take this waste from us at an acceptable rate. The potential bill for taking this interstate could have been over \$1 M.

CEO – There is only one other licensed operator who could do this work, but they were unable to do the job in timeframe, which is prior to the looming wet season.

- CBD Shopfront Grants Program

CEO – These grant approvals usually goes to the CBD-PCG for decision, but we have had difficulty in getting that group together earlier. This is the reason for the lateness of this report.

SHOPFRONT BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS PROGRAM – ACCEPTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

FILE: Finance // Grant Funding / Shopfront Beautification Program

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Zellej

Alderman Gazey – How long have these applications been with Council?

XCS – The oldest one is probably about eight 8 weeks. The PCG who make the decisions on these grants has not met recently, which caused the delay.

Alderman Gazey – A person has stated to me that it had taken three months for this application to reach this point. I just wanted to check.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – It is worth noting that the Finch Café withdrew their application and returned the money we had granted, as the business has sold. The new owners should be given the opportunity to decide if they wish to apply for a grant and/or even if they want to change their shopfront. Hopefully they will apply.

That Council resolve that:

1. That Council approve the awarding of the above-mentioned requested funding to Savannah Way Baptist Church under the condition that the development consent approval for the use of the premises of a place of worship is provided.

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2. That Council approve the awarding of the above-mentioned requested funding to Katherine Sports & Family Chiropractor.
 3. That the Council approve the awarding of the above-mentioned requested funding to the Katherine Beauty Bar.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Alderman Hurley – I acknowledge Francis Hays and Norman Rosas' passing.
Alderman Tapp Coutts – Mayor Miller will be presenting for KTC at Norm Rosas' funeral. Trevor Horman has also passed. Trevor was an integral part of The National Trust. He worked on trains and railway stations, like the one here in Katherine. He is responsible for the Train Museum at Adelaide River. He was also part of the Advisory Board for Katherine Museum's Solar Project.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I have had a complaint on the lack of water and periodic wi-fi in Library. After one hour the Wi-Fi times out and it makes it hard to study. A complaint was sent to records about a month ago, without answer.

XCS – I am not aware of the complaint so I will follow up. On water side, I noticed that during my visits recently. Will look at ways to manage both these requests.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – The Library Wi-Fi is off the street system. Can we look at a separate connection for the Library?

XCS – That's a possibly.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – What are we doing about Katherine parking bay signs?

CEO – Original artwork will be restored. I made that decision made on Monday.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Alderman Gazey and I stopped to speak to the business owner who was camping out to protect his windows. He had questions on what KTC were doing on criminal behavior in town. It is a Police matter but the levels of crime concerns me. It is a very hard problem, but we want business people to have a positive opinion of town.

Alderman Clark – It is frustrating for business owners with their windows being continually smashed. But there are no consequences or repercussions for those committing the crimes. Why are they doing this? As a result, we have to take measures to stop vandalism and that costs everyone money.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Shop owners can take advantage of up to \$5K from the Shopfront Grants Program. This particular business is putting a solid front on the window space which will have a picture of the Gorge on it. That might stop some of the vandalism.

Alderman Gazey – The community should be able to come to EMs with their issues and have a frank discussion. Standing there in the main street made me aware there are 3 lights in that area and not one of them are working. In fact six were not working in a 200 m stretch. The solar lights in the cinema area are also not working. In Herbert Court, streetlight have been out for something like six weeks. CCTV cameras installed in the main street have obstructed views as trees are not trimmed. DIPL owned the main street but KTC collect the rates. We should be partitioning DIPL. KTC need to help our residents and assist with their complaints.

Alderman Clark – There is a level of vandalism being experienced at the Cenotaph too. The Ode plaque has something spilt on it that has eaten into the surface. I can't understand why this new Cenotaph is continually being damaged.

Mayor Miller – I had a business between 1994 and 2011 that regularly had windows smashed. We found very bright lights worked and vandalism reduced markedly. What the businessman is doing now is not new. Neighbourhood watch identified buildings that were not up to standard and provided owners a report. The only business that took notice was Australia Post. Business owners need to take all actions to light up their premises. Sleeping at the property, I have done that too to

protect my property. But we need to get smarter when dealing with this. What the answer to stopping this, I don't know, but if someone does have those answers, we really want to listen. Lights in main street need to be looked at. Trees around cameras were supposed to be regularly trimmed for clearance. We can bring that up with Police and DIPL. I have a meeting with the Police tomorrow. I want a serious solution to this.

Mayor Miller - Congrats to Nitmiluk and Jawoyn. They have been outstanding in terms of receiving tourism awards over the last three year. But this year, they have absolutely scooped the pools. They received the Minister and Chairman's awards as well as four others. It is fantastic to see them acknowledged across the board for all their operations, including Cicada Lodge. Katherine Outback Experience were awarded Best NT Attraction. That's amazing when you consider the competition. And Marksey's Stockcamp was also acknowledged.

Mayor Miller – We went to the Adventure Play Park this afternoon for the official opening of the water bubbler. This story began with the Clyde Fenton 1/2 year classes writing letters of persuasion, presented first to me at the Park and then to the Open forum on 18 October. This resulted in a report being written and EMS voting to purchase and install the bubbler. It was a great process for these kids to learn and I congratulate the children, and teachers that encouraged them to write these well argued letters. Today, the kids were pretty proud of their achievements and so they should be. One note though, due to the level of vandalism we do experience, we need to have a cage installed around the refrigeration unit asap.

Mayor Miller – Condolences to Rosas, Hayes and Horman families on the passing of these well respected members of the community. We have lost three very special people, who have left a positive mark on the Region and greater NT.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Mitchell Ford is to be congratulated on his nomination of Young Australian of the Year, representing NT.

Mayor Miller – Our congratulations to Mitchell.

18. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Motion to close the meeting to the public @ 7:36 pm

MOVED: Mayor Miller / Deputy Mayor Raynor

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Motion to reopen the meeting to the public @ 7:48 pm

MOVED: Deputy Mayor Raynor / Mayor Miller

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Motion to publish the results of the confidential report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes, 26 November 2019.

MOVED: Mayor Miller / Alderman Clark

CARRIED: 7 / 0

18.1 T19-04 - MCKEDDIE ROAD REHABILITATION

File: Tenders / Tender 2019 / T19-04 McKeddie Road Rehabilitation

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Zelle

That Council resolve that:

Tender T19-04 – McKeddie Road Rehabilitation Project, be awarded to Downes Gradeaways at their submitted schedule of rates price of \$98,144.55 (GST exclusive).

CARRIED: 7 / 0

19. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The twelfth Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2019 will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2019.

20. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7:49 pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE

Officer Title Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------|--|
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| COO | Chief Operating Officer |
| XCS | Executive Manager Community Services |
| XIE | Executive Manager Infrastructure and Environment |
| MCERS | Manager Compliance Environment & Regulatory Services |
| MIE | Manager Infrastructure & Environment |
| PM | Project Manager |
| MCFAS | Manager Customer Finance Administration Services |
| MVIC | Manager Visitor Information Centre |
| CO | Communications Officer |
| EA | Executive Assistant |
| CLO | Community Liaison Officer |
| SO | Sustainability Officer |
| GO | Governance Officer |