



MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council
Held on Tuesday 10 December 2024**

Civic Centre, Council Chambers
24 Stuart Highway, Katherine NT 0850



1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the first nations people of the Katherine township and surrounding council communities. We recognise the first nations culture as one of the longest surviving cultures in the world and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and future.

2 OPENING PRAYER

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

3 OPENING OF THE MEETING

Please, note that this meeting is being recorded for the minutes taking purposes.
Mayor Clark declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 10 December 2024 open at 12:01 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn
- Councillor Peter McDougall
- Councillor Kerrie Mott
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

OFFICERS

- Ms Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda Haigh - Manager Governance and Risk
- Nikola Faberova - Executive Assistant Governance (minute taker)
- Casey Anderson - Manager Corporate Administration
- Brett Kimpton - Manager Environment and Municipal
- Irene McCreevy - Manager People and Culture
- Desiree Rodgers - Manager Finance
- Kimberly Worrigal - Contracts Coordinator
- Bart Kakoschke - Officer Records and Information

PUBLIC - 8

4.2 APOLOGIES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council accepts the apology of Councillor Bower.

Voting did not occur.

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE



Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any conflicts of interest.

6 PRESENTATIONS FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Nil.



7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 26 NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-255

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil



7.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 25 NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-256

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council receive and note the Action update.

Voting did not occur.

Discussion

No response from SM Hair regarding the laneway closure yet.

9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-257

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for the month of November 2024.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

The Grants Commission meeting involved discussions with various councils about federal grant funding. The purpose was to inform councils about the untied funds they receive, which can be used for projects that do not qualify for specific grant funding. Mayor highlighted the importance of these funds for council operations.

Central Desert Regional Council and McDonnell Regional Council meetings were part of the Grants Commission's efforts to provide information on grant funding methodologies and assistance.

Katherine Swim Club sought updates on the aquatic centre's status and opening time frames and raised concerns regarding their current storage space.

Meeting with RAAF personnel, including Air Commodore from Canberra, to discuss the airport and defence expansion. The meeting also covered updates on Katherine Town Council's activities, which were of interest to the RAAF.

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-258

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Selena Uibo MLA - Congratulations Letter - 27 November 2024 - ID205954 [10.1.1 - 1 page]
 2. Letter from CEO DLPE - Water Availability - Katherine Region- ID206294 [10.1.2 - 1 page]

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

The letter from the CEO of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, was for information only. Council has no participation in the applications to the government.

Councillor Mott spoke to and tabled the following documents:

1. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting Friday 11 October 2024 - Town of Port Hedland - ID225046



2. United Nations General Assembly 18 July 20024 - Human Rights Council - ID225047
3. Territory Coordinator Bill 2024 - Territory Coordinator Act 2024 - ID225045.

Noted, that these documents should be brought up at the General Business, item 18.

11 PETITIONS

12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AGENDA)

Question	Response
When is the council going to remove the word "war" from the War Memorial sign?	Taken on notice. Council has painted over this word.
What's going to happen to the airport? What are the future plans? Any chance of increasing its capacity?	Taken on notice.
Why is there social media information included in the Professional Development policy? Why is it a part of the policy when councillors don't do social media training?	Taken on notice. Councillors do undertake social media training.
Request to councillors to delay the policies from the Agenda to, at least, the April meeting to have enough time to read them and make an informed decision.	Noted.
Why don't councillors submit their monthly activities? Request for compulsory reporting obligations for the elected members to be brought back.	Reporting is not compulsory, councillors are encouraged to submit their monthly activities.
What amendments are being proposed in the Breach of Code of Conduct policy?	Taken on notice.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

14.1 POLICIES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

1. That Council approve the reviewed policies below:

- a) Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter
- b) Elected Members Breach of Code of Conduct Policy
- c) Elected Member Information and Interaction with Staff Policy

Discussion

Noted that two people from the floor have suggested to table this item at the future meetings.

Councillor Mott would like more time to read the policies and ask for feedback from fellow councillors regarding tabling this item at a later time.

Councillor McDougall was happy to move forward. Enough time from last Wednesday to read the policies and make an informed decision. His questions regarding the policies were answered by the CEO prior the meeting.

Deputy Mayor does not wish to hold up the proceedings, however would like more time.

Councillor McDougall acknowledged that it might not be fair to decide on the (b) and (c) policies in the absence of other elected members.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2024-259

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council approve the Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2024-260

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Mott

That Council lay the Elected Member Breach of Code of Conduct Policy and Elected Member Information and Interaction with Staff Policy on the table to the next meeting in January 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

14.2 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-261

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the Month of November 2024.

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Mott

14.3 COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-262

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Community Relations Department report for the Month of November 2024.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Congratulations to Ms Jennifer Hutchinson's achievement of the Territory Champion Award for outstanding customer service.

Dates for the Australia Day celebrations and Citizenship Ceremony are not set yet.

14.4 CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-263

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Corporate Administration Report for the month of November 2024.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Compliment to the team for cleaning up promptly after the storm.

14.5 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-264

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council receives and notes the report of the Environmental Services Department for November 2024.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

NEMA stands for National Emergency Management Agency.

Mosquito testing is done twice a month at eleven locations. Council do mosquito eradication at the council facilities, not across the municipality.

14.6 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024



COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-265

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receives and notes the report of the Infrastructure Services Department for November 2024.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Three paupers funerals are planned for this month. Appreciation to the CEO and the team for caring for the community.

Difficulties with removing graffiti. Special cleaning products had to be researched and used. The impacted statue was painted over.

Great work by the infrastructure team using recycled materials for centenary fencing. Council is trialing these recycled plastic pickets to see how they perform in a long term.

15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-266

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for November 2024.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Deputy Mayor stated that he takes his role seriously and attends the events as the public is aware. He apologised for not submitting his activities.

Councillor Trembath has no doubts about the Deputy Mayor's commitment.

17 LATE AGENDA

17.1 FIRST BUDGET REVIEW 2024-2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-267

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council

- a. Note the first budget review for 2024-2025.
- b. Adopt the amended 2024-2025 budget.
- c. Approve the re purposing of the Contingency Reserve to Aquatic Centre Contingency Reserve of

\$1,000,000.

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Mott

Discussion

Councillor Mott informed that her vote against this item is due to her not having time to discuss and ask questions regarding the proposed budget.

17.2 POLICIES 2.0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-268

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council approve the reviewed policies below:
 - a. Professional Development Allowance Policy

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Mott

17.3 KATHERINE LIBRARY CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-269

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council notes the Katherine Public Library will be closed for the Christmas period on Saturday, 21 December 2024, and will reopen on Tuesday, 7 January 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

The 90th Anniversary of Katherine Hospital was a well-attended event. Looking forward to its centenary celebrations.

Councillor McDougall wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Deputy Mayor attended an award ceremony at McFarlane Primary School. If end of the year celebrations clash, Deputy Mayor attends on behalf of the Mayor.

The Christmas lights judging competition is this week, residential and commercial.

Civic Centre will be closed for Christmas from 25 December till 3 January 2025.

Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

The open meeting was declared closed to the public at 12:59 am.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-270

Moved: Mayor Clark; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

Members, pursuant with Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* gives power to the council to close a meeting to the public to discuss the following confidential items, in relation to matters referred to in regulations 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*. This means that all members of the public are now asked to leave the Council Chambers.

I now move a motion to close the meeting to public.

Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to public.

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 26 NOVEMBER 2024

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(e) subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

20.2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 25 NOVEMBER 2024

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part or the Council of Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (iii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

20.3 KATHERINE AQUATIC CENTRE UPGRADE - BUDGET

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
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Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
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20.4 KTC AND KATHERINE MUSEUM

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

20.5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 1:45 pm.

Discussion

Councillor Kingdon did not submit an apology for the Council Meeting today.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-276

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Mott

Apology from Councillor Kingdon for Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 December 2024 not be accepted.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 10 December 2024 was declared closed at 1:47 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 28 January 2025.