



MINUTES

**Special Meeting of Council
Held on Thursday 27 June 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

Mayor Clark declared the Special Meeting of Council - 27 June 2024 open at 12:01 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn via phone
- Councillor Amanda Kingdon
- Councillor Peter McDougall via videoconferencing
- Councillor Kerrie Mott
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

OFFICERS

- Amanda Haigh – A/CEO, Manager Governance and Risk (minute taker)
- Desiree Rodgers - Manager Finance
- Irene McCreevy - Manager People and Culture
- Brett Kimpton - Manager Environment and Municipal
- Casey Anderson - Manager Corporate Administration
- Clare Milikins - CFO Business Associate

PUBLIC - 0

4.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted for Councillor Maddy Bower and CEO Ingrid Stonhill.

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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



Nil conflicts declared.

Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn call dropped out at 12.02pm intermittently and returned at 12.02pm.

6 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

6.1 DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES 2024-2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION SMC-2024-2

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

1. That Council acknowledges the Chief Executive Officer, certified the Certification of Assessment Record as true and accurate record.
2. That Council declare:
 - (a) Items one (1) to seven (7) in the attached Declaration of Rates and Waste Charges 2024/2025 for the financial year ending 30 June 2025, pursuant to Section 237 and 238 of the *Local Government Act 2019*; and
3. That Council approve the revised Rating Strategy Policy, version eight (8).

CARRIED 5|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Trembath

AGAINST: Councillor Mott

Discussion

Councillor Amanda Kingdon advised that she had not had time to read the report.

Noted that previously advised that Waste Charges would increase to 7%, good to see well under at 5.9%. The prediction is for a gradual increase to 10% over the next 3 years.

Question posed, the revenue for Multiple Dwellings is that in the declaration or budget.

Multiple Dwelling rates and charges are not considered in the Rates Declaration, the Rates Declaration only accounts for Council's Assessment Record. Multiple Dwelling rates and charges are supplementary rates.

Modeling in the projected budget has been worked from what was achieved till March 2024 and includes the supplementary rates received. Supplementary rates, including Multiple Dwellings, are not guaranteed to be reflected in the next Financial Year.

6.2 2024-2025 MUNICIPAL PLAN, BUDGET AND FEES AND CHARGES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION SMC-2024-3

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

1. That Council adopt the Budget for 2024/2025.
2. That Council adopt the Municipal Plan for 2024/2025.
3. That Council adopt the Fees and Charges for 2024/2025.

CARRIED 4|2

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



Discussion

Attachment 1 Municipal Plan 2024-2025 Written Submissions to be replaced with Municipal Plan 2024-2025 V2. Some of the submissions information dropped off from the version in the report when collating the agenda. Elected Members were notified via email at 10.32am.

Mayor read out the report at the request of Councillor Kingdon.

Deputy Mayor joined the meeting via videoconference at 12.20pm.

Noted error in report dot point regarding page 33 should be 23 July 2024 Council meeting not 23 June 2024.

It is clarified that the report is to table the submissions received for Council to consider and adopt the Plan and Budget before submitting to the Minister.

Councillor Kingdon requested the child be removed from the meeting due to being too distracting.

Confirmed that Councillor feedback received via email has been incorporated into the submissions document.

Queried being informed that the Rapid Response buggy is operating extra hours on Saturday and Sunday and has this been provided for in the Budget - an operational area with extra litter cleanup occurring over the weekend currently and this is within the operational budget set by the Council.

Councillor Kingdon advised that she had not read all the feedback and responses. Special Meeting agendas must be distributed at least 4 hours prior to the meeting as prescribed in the *Local Government Act 2019*. Consultation closed at 5pm 25 June 2024, the submission report was prepared for the agenda and distributed at 5.59pm 26 June 2024. A reminder email was sent to Elected Members again on Thursday morning 27 June 2024.

Raised that no engagement event was scheduled for Elected Members to consult community members. Noted last year some Councillors organised a 'Cuppa with a Councillor' to engage on the Municipal Plan. Councillors noted the varied efforts taken to seek community feedback and let people know that the plan was open for submissions and feedback.

Councillor Kingdon requested it be noted that Council did not organise an engagement event for consultation on the Municipal Plan. However, this is not correct. The CEO and Mayor held a business consultation engagement meeting through the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee. Council also organised numerous engagement methods for the Municipal Plan.

Suggested next year the Elected Members hold a stall at the markets at least once over the consultation period for Municipal Plan engagement with the community.

Noted it will be a challenging year ahead and that council must look at a loan for the Civic Centre building upgrades otherwise the building will need to be closed due to the leaking roof and noncompliant disabled access. The Audit and Risk Management Committee independent members advised that the council are in a good position to service a loan. Council is unable to seek other sources of funds for an administration building as it is our own building and do not have a choice but to fix the roof and non compliance's, especially the doors and disabled access.

Councillor McDougall notified his device was about to drop out and requested to be noted that he was in favour of passing the report.

Councillor McDougall left the meeting at 12:36 pm

Further discussion occurred brought to Point of Order.

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC



Nil

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

10 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Special Meeting of Council - 27 June 2024 was declared closed at 12.39 pm.

Mayor thanked everyone for coming noting it was a very difficult meeting.