



# **Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes**

**Tuesday 22 May 2018  
Ordinary Meeting 6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,  
Stuart Highway, Katherine

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD  
AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 22 MAY 2018**

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**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 who are present.

**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 John Zelle (via video link)  
Alderman Lis Clark  
Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts  
Alderman Matt Hurley  
Alderman Jon Raynor

**In attendance**

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer (Chief Executive Officer)  
Mrs Claire Johansson – Chief Operating Officer (Chief Operating Officer)  
Ms Rosemary Jennings – Executive Manager Corporate & Community Development (EMCCD)  
Mr Jamie Craven – Executive Manager – Infrastructure and Environment  
Ms Sue Crammond – Minute Taker

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

**4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Leave of Absence – Mayor Fay Miller – 2-7 June 2018 – Received and accepted. Alderman Tapp Coutts will be Deputy Mayor over that period.  
Mayor thanked Deputy Mayor Gazey for his tenure  
Leave of Absence – Alderman Zelle - 21 June 28 June 2018

**5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

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That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 24 April 2018 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Gazey

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 8 May 2018 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Gazey

Alderman Tapp Coutts provided an amendment to the Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes - 24 April, which is below and asks that the minutes to be updated to reflect these changes.

*“Alderman Tapp Coutts: Provided a media release from Minister Dale Wakefield about the Royal Commission Implementation Plan which announces \$71.4 M in funding to replace the Don Dale Detention Centre and other youth detention centres. \$8.9M has been allocated over 4 years, to empower local decisions. Maybe Katherine could tap into this to put together a proposal for a prison farm in Katherine. The government also announced that NT Prisons are running at 108% capacity.*

*Minister McCarthy advised at the LGANT Meeting in Darwin that the then Labor Government had commenced moving on a 200-bed facility at Katherine Rural Campus and had dropped Mataranka proposal prior to the last election. When Labor lost the election this was not pursued further by the CLP Government. Minister McCarthy indicated that he is very supportive of prison farms. A good example is Tennant Creek where people from the work camp help out with local events such as the Show, the Festival and sports carnivals and some have been trained as umpires for sporting activities. Others are getting jobs back in the community and the work camps in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek achieving some really good outcomes. Alderman Tapp Coutts suggested that this motion/proposal be taken to the Big Rivers Economic Development Committee (BRREDC) to get this proposal in motion.”*

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**7. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

NIL

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**8. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**

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

ANZAC Day Dawn Service, 10am Parade and 11am Ceremony  
Katherine High School – Teleconference  
Indonesian Consulate – Courtesy visit to Katherine Town Council  
Malarndirri McCarthy – Teleconference  
Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (DIPL) Meeting  
Meeting with Chris Dixon – Katherine Men’s Shed  
MIMI Arts – Teleconference  
Warren Snowden – Teleconference  
Elders Real Estate - Office opening  
MIMI Arts – Meeting with Ernie Dingo  
Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group – Visited RAAF Base Tindal  
Development Consent Authority  
Meeting with residents x 4  
Meeting with Emma McDonald – Senior Investment Officer, Tourism  
Infrastructure/Austrade  
Big Rivers Regional Economic Development Committee  
DIPL – NT Masterbrand Narrative Stakeholder Forum/workshop’  
Cancer Council Fundraiser – Darwin  
Northern Australia Local Government teleconference (Savannah Way)  
NT News interview – PFAS & Municipal Plan  
Special Meeting of Katherine Town Council – Draft Municipal Plan  
NT Accommodation Review – teleconference  
Women in Business Lunch  
Iconic Arts Trail Meeting  
Historical Society - meeting with Trevor Horman  
ABC radio interview – Municipal Plan  
Katherine Public Library Mother’s Day event  
Katherine Youth Justice Reinvestment Forum opening  
2018 NTG Katherine Budget Luncheon  
KAAG Meeting  
Trisha Moroney Memorial Prize launch – Flinders University  
LGANT Executive Meeting – teleconference  
Meeting with Allison Stout  
Tourism NT & Tourism Top End Industry Roadshow  
DIPL – meeting re CBD Revitalisation  
NT News Interview/medicinal cannabis and hemp x 2  
ABC Radio – Alice Springs – re Indigenous Art Gallery  
ABC Radio – Darwin – re cannabis & hemp and Indigenous Art Gallery  
Elected Member Information Session  
Centralian Advocate Interview  
Herald Sun Interview

**9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED**

Letter – 21 May, 2018 – Jodie Ryan – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Chief Minister’s Office – Invitation to become a member of Onshore Shale Gas: Community and Business Reference Group and the response – 22 May 2018, by Mayor Fay Miller.

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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 - APRIL 2018**

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

MOVED: Hurley / Clark

Deputy Mayor Gazey – I would like an explanation (key) for the abbreviations of Council Officers in light of their new titles, to be added to future reports.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of April 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.2 **MONTHLY REPORT FOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - APRIL 2018**

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

MOVED: Hurley / Clark

Mayor Miller – Tourist season appears to be starting slowly this year. However, numbers very recently picking up and the streets are full of caravans again. Alice Springs report the same slow start to the season and the recent increases in tourist numbers.

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Alderman Clark – Visitor surveys – The response rate to VIC surveys is very low?

Executive Manager, Corporate and Community Development (XCCD) – Of the 5,555 visitors to the VIC, 57 completed a satisfaction survey.

Survey completion rate is low as these surveys are performed at the VIC counter. With the number of visitors in the Centre it does not offer an opportunity to capture every person. The VIC Manager is looking at other ways to capture survey information, including electronic and online survey systems.

Mayor Miller – Good promotion of Katherine has created a good feeling in the town. We currently have parts of a feature film being shot here and next week, Channel 10 will be filming an episode of “*Everyday Gourmet with Justine Schofields*” at the Hot Springs, Cicada Lodge and The Black Russian Café. Tourism NT rang me and reported on a good write up from a journalist recently. These activities are great promotion for the town.

Deputy Mayor Gazey – National Youth Week Movie Night at the Library recorded record attendance numbers, which were made up from a wide age group – this is great to see. The movie was good, the atmosphere was good and support from Council Staff was good.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I would like to mention that the Katherine Region of Writers group meets at the Library and the staff are always lovely. I would like to pass on our thanks to them.

Mayor Miller – Library activities are great and involve the community very well.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Corporate and Community Development Report for the month of April 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**13.3 MONTHLY REPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES - APRIL 2018**

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

MOVED: Hurley / Tapp Coutts

Alderman Clark – Litter collection has gone up by about 600kg. I believe we do need to discuss what can be done about the litter, particularly the alcohol related debris and smashed glass. Levels of abuse are on the increase in town, with arguing and fighting very visible in the streets. This has escalated recently and is reverting to levels we have not seen in the town for several years.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Report for the month of April 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

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#### 13.4 **MONTHLY REPORT FOR FINANCE - APRIL 2018**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Financial Report

MOVED: Gazey / Zelle

Chief Operating Officer – In reference to the statement of budget estimate comparison, the net operating surplus/(deficit) has been improved by grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets. This backs up the hard work being done in acquiring the grants. The \$756K corresponds to items as listed in the original budget. Subsequently budget review items were added to the revised budget as further grant money was approved.

In reference to the capital income and expenditure statement there are line items for brought forward income and expenditure due to the timing of works and funds. Year to date actual is shown for income and expenditure.

The end of year forecast has not been altered although it will likely vary due to planned capital works in June 2018 and there may be capital expenditure that is realised in the next financial year, that has been committed in this financial year. The non-adjustment of EOFY expenditure forecast is a conservative approach to the statement.

Deputy Mayor Gazey – The increase in end of year forecast - is this because money is allocated for specific tasks?

Chief Operating Officer (COO) – If there is additional income or expenditure for capital works it will be shown as a budget adjustment. If the funds are from a grant, the funds are quarantined for that specific purpose.

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of April 2018.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

#### 14. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES**

Deputy Mayor Gazey

EMIS

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Special Meeting of Council – Draft Municipal Plan

Showground Advisory Group Meeting

Library – Movie Night, Youth Week

ANZAC Day Services

Alderman Clark

EMIS

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Special Meeting of Council – Draft Municipal Plan

Showgrounds Advisory Meeting

Library – Story Time, Launch of Seed Bank

Library - Movie Night, Youth Week

Opening of Main Gallery – GYRACC

ANZAC Day Service

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Alderman Raynor

EMIS

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Special Meeting of Council – Draft Municipal Plan

Alderman Tapp Coutts

EMIS

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

ANZAC Dawn Service

Chief Ministers Lunch GYRACC

Special Ordinary Council Meeting for Draft Strategic Municipal Plan

Budget update with CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER and Ald Raynor

Great 8 Update with CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER and Council

Strategic Plan and Budget Meeting

Regional Community Engagement Group (Dept of Health)

Iconic Arts Trail Meeting KTC

Office of Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Update - Chief Ministers Dept.

Flood Public Art Project - Koulla Roussos

Budget Lunch - Minister Nicole Manison

Museum Auction Dinner

NT Writers Centre Board Meeting - phone linkup

Katherine Region of Writers Meeting - Library

Alderman Zelley

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

EMIS

Special Meeting of Council – Draft Municipal Plan

Alderman Matthew Hurley

Ordinary Meeting of Council

EMIS

Open Forum

Special Meeting of Council – Draft Municipal Plan

## **16. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Alderman Hurley – Is there an appointment with Cmdr Hollamby to discuss Council and the community's concerns on litter and anti-social behaviours etc.?

Chief Executive Officer – Yes, on Wednesday (tomorrow).

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I would like to notify Council that I was asked to sit on the Dept of Health, Regional Community Engagement Board. At their first meeting I was elected the Chairperson.

Alderman Tapp Coutts - I would like to acknowledge the untimely death of Tom E Lewis. This is an incredible loss for the community. Could the Council send a card and flowers?

Mayor Miller – Yes, this is a very sad passing. I will be acknowledging this further at the next Council meeting.



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Chief Executive Officer – There will be Council representation at the funeral.  
Deputy Mayor Gazey – As per a suggestion made tonight at the Open Forum, I would like to see the option of extending the Open Forum session to ¾ hour, especially at times when we are seeking feedback from the community, i.e. currently our Municipal Plan. Can we consider how a time extension could be managed?

Deputy Mayor Gazey - As this will be my last meeting as Deputy Mayor, I would like to say I have enjoyed the role and I am pleased to hand this responsibility over at the end of the month, to our next Deputy Mayor, Toni Tapp Coutts.

Alderman Hurley – I would like to add an item to the Open Forum rules on how long a person has the floor and limiting the number of questions one person can ask. Otherwise, we have one person dominating the entire forum.

Deputy Mayor Gazey – Yes, I agree with that Alderman Hurley.

Mayor Miller – As do I.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Yes, I would support those additions.

Alderman Raynor – I note payment for the solar panel installed on the Civic Centre roof has been made. Can Council update the public on how the system is performing?

Executive Manager Infrastructure & Environment – The system has been operating for about two (2) months. It is producing between 180-200kw per day, which accounts for approximately 50-70% of building's power requirements. At the current rate, the system will have paid for itself in approximately 2 to 2 ½ years. There is more space on the roof which could accommodate additional panels, but as we can't export extra power back to the grid, there is no value extending the system. I believe the system we have now, is the correct size for the building and matches well our power requirements.

Chief Operating Officer – We have conservatively factored into the budget a 35% saving in electricity costs. We will continue to monitor and adjust the figure if/as required.

Alderman Raynor – Has a power audit been completed, e.g. what can we turn off, particularly at night to make further savings?

Chief Executive Officer – I will look into that. One of the key things may be to ensure all computers are turned off at end of day.

Mayor Miller – The majority of the building's lights have been converted to power saving LEDs which further reduces our power consumption and provides a cost saving.

Chief Operating Officer – Further electrical savings will be achieved from the LED streetlight roll out. We have allocated the anticipated savings toward streetlight maintenance expenses for the coming year.

Mayor Miller – I would like to pay my respects to Tom E Lewis. Tom E was too young to have gone - we have lost a vibrant member of the community. I have personally spoken to the family and they are coming to terms with this passing. I also pay my respects to Mrs Ruth Parker. Ruth was a long-standing resident of Katherine and has a strong connection with Council being the mother-in-law of one of our Depot members. I will provide more on Ruth's passing at our next meeting.

## 17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

NIL

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**18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The sixth Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 26 June 2018.

**19. Meeting Closed**

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.



Fay Miller  
**MAYOR OF KATHERINE**

**Abbreviations**

<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>COO</b>	Chief Operating Officer (formerly DCCS)
<b>XCCD</b>	Executive Manager Corporate and Community Development
<b>MCFAS</b>	Manager Customer Finance Administration Services
<b>XIE</b>	Executive Manager Infrastructure and Environment
<b>MCERS</b>	Manager Compliance Environment & Regulatory Services
<b>MIE</b>	Manager Infrastructure & Environment
<b>MVIC</b>	Manager Visitor Information Centre
<b>CO</b>	Communications Officer
<b>EA</b>	Executive Assistant
<b>CLO</b>	Community Liaison Officer