



# **Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes**

**Tuesday 21 August 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 21 August 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 Miller Fay Miller  
Deputy Mayor Toni Tapp Coutts  
Alderman Peter Gazey  
Alderman Matt Hurley  
Alderman Jon Raynor  
Alderman John Zelle  
Alderman Lis Clark

**In attendance**

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

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

**4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Apologies: NIL

Leave: NIL

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**5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

MOVED: Hurley / Zelle

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

CARRIED 7 / 0

MOVED: Gazey / Clark

**5.2** That the Minutes of the Special Confidential Meeting of Council held on 7 August 2018 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.

- Meeting with Member for Katherine Sandra Nelson
- Katherine Prize – GYRACC
- ABC Radio Interview x 3
- Loose Group Art Exhibition – O’Keeffe House
- Katherine Town Council Doggy Day
- RAAF Open Day Committee – Dinner
- Ongoing Professional Development – Civil Celebrant
- Head Space Briefing – Darwin
- Meeting with Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw
- Darwin City Hotel famil – Tourism Opportunities
- Geological and Bioregional Assessments Program – Beetaloo User Panel Meeting, Berrimah
- MIX 104.9 Radio Interview – Below the Berrimah Line x 3
- Katherine Seniors Morning Tea – Katherine Civic Centre
- Meeting with PUMA Energy Executive
- Teleconference with PUMA

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- Meeting with community member x 4
  - Territory FM Radio Interview with Jane Aagaard
  - Teleconference with Ken Davies, CEO Families and Childrens
  - CEO Review
  - Channel 9 Interview – re Shine Lawyers
  - Reject Car Rally – send off from Katherine Civic Centre
  - Special Confidential Meeting Katherine Town Council – teleconference
  - Visit to Mataranka, Minyerri and Ngukurr – 2 days
  - ABC Grassroots
  - Alcohol Review – Implementation Process
  - Meeting with Tracy LeFevre re Independent Learning Centre
  - Meeting with Jessica Powter
  - Big Rivers Regional Economic Development Meeting
  - Jawoyn Rebranding meeting
  - Preparation for Katherine Races and clean up
  - Funeral x 1
  - Katherine Races
  - Vietnam Veterans Day – Cenotaph
  - Ministerial Advisory Council for Senior Territorians – Parliament House
  - Launch of the Northern Territory rebranding – ZEN, Darwin
  - MODE Design presentation
  - Ordinary Council Meeting and Open Forum

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

NIL

**10. PETITIONS**

Springvale Homestead – Kylie Chambers

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

CARRIED: 7 / 0

**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 - JUNE 2018**

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

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

Alderman Raynor – Page 2. The 15% loading on tender. The agenda states, “see next comment.” But there is no related item comment following.

CEO – An item appears to be missing. Will check and correct as appropriate.

Alderman Gazey – Responsible Officer – List of acronyms to be added to the table to assist identify the responsible officers.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

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

CARRIED: 7 / 0

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

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

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

Mayor Miller – Doggy Day was a great success. All the dogs had a wonderful time, as did their owners. The success highlights how important and appreciated by community this event is. It was well organised and a big thank you goes to our Community Liaison Officer, Rebecca Mewburn for her excellent work.

Mayor Miller – Door counters for VIC. Are they beneficial? The spend per customer is higher and our recorded visit numbers are down. This bring into question the accuracy of sales/person figures. It will be interesting to see how an additional door counter effects these figures.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Page 11 - Sales have jumped considerably. Door counter accuracy will enable a truer idea of the sales figures.

Mayor Miller – I note staff are reporting they are developing full itineraries for customers. This is really important. With the number of visitors in the VIC, it is difficult and challenging to put itineraries together in this busy environment. However, these itineraries keep tourists in our region so it's a great effort by our staff.

XCCD – Door counters provide an approximation of visitor numbers. There will always be cases where anomalies arise. The only true way to accurately count is to have a dedicated person counting the ins and outs each day. However, door counters are part of the Tourism NT's reporting model. It is

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their preferred method of collating data. These door figures, together with other sources of information, support and quantify the regional visitor numbers.

Mayor Miller – The Katherine VIC is different from other NT visitor centres. It has the café next door and the ABC as occupants of the building.

Aldermen Tapp Coutts – I receive so much excellent feedback from my Air B&B customers on the service they get at the VIC. Please pass that onto the staff.

Alderman Raynor – Can the VIC have just one entrance and one exit? Would this improve the accuracy of visitor numbers?

Mayor Miller – Probably not practical when we have the other areas i.e. gardens and café co-located with the VIC.

XCCD – There is a symbiotic relationship with café and gardens which is enhanced by the multiple accesses. Visitors report the shady deck creates a relaxed atmosphere and encourages them to stay a little longer and to visit the VIC. The VIC has recorded the highest sales month ever by about \$45K. We are expecting a drop off in visitor numbers as tourist season starts to reduce, but we are extremely proud of the July figures.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

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

CARRIED: 7 / 0

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

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

MOVED: Hurley / Clark

Alderman Clark – Sprinkler repairs – This is very low compared to last year and even when compared to last month?

XIE – A large proportion of the vandalism occurs when sprinklers are turned on. The number of events held in July reduced the time the sprinklers were in use and as a result, less damage occurred.

Alderman Clark – There is a large amount of rubbish in outer areas. Has there been any news on the changes to TBLs for Katherine?

Mayor Miller – Katherine won't see a massive change in immediate future. Police Auxiliaries are being trained with the first graduates being stationed at Alice Springs and then Tennant Creek. They will then be rolled out in Katherine as more graduates become available. In September, the Police Commander Northern will change. The incoming Commander is keen to ensure Katherine is safe and well-resourced to keep various undesirable activities under control.

Alderman Clark – The Rangers are picking up a large number of dogs. Have people got more dogs?

XIE – The number is a record of the number of times a Ranger attends a premises about a matter. Some matters will require a Ranger attend the same address several times to speak with the resident. Each visit is recorded as this provides more accuracy on how Rangers are spending their time.

Alderman Clark – I am referring to the Impoundment figures.

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XCCD – On Territory Day in particular, there is an increase in missing dogs, which coincides with the fireworks. Correspondingly, there is work in reuniting dogs and owners.

Alderman Gazey – I note the Ranger Breakdown on page 18 - a new % column has been added. What is the column representing? Percentage of what and how does that relate?

XIE – This is a representation of the number of requests on a particular item. The % figure is compared to the previous month, e.g. there were 3 facilities inspections in June and 14 in July. Therefore, July was a 367% increase on the month of June.

CEO –What we can do is provide a YTD figure and an explanation, if useful.

Mayor Miller – Katherine Races – The showgrounds looked amazing and it was a proud moment to be associated with them. Visitors reported that it was the best turned out venue for a country race meet that they had seen in a long while. Well done to all the council officers involved in the preparation of the grounds.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Sign at Showgrounds entrance is out of date and practically illegible. Can we get a new sign?

Alderman Clark – No dumping signs – Have the Rangers notice illegal dumping in Katherine since new fee structure for the WMF has been in place?

XCCD – The new fees for the WMF will come into effect on 1 September. We will monitor any increases of illegal dumping.

Alderman Zelle – Page 16 – Road work repairs. What was done on Emungalan Road.

XIE – The core issue is that Emungalan Road does not have adequate swale drainage and we made the contractor aware of that. Council subsequently provided the shape of the verge drainage for a driveway design, i.e. provided the template.

CEO – There is more work to be done on this at a strategic level, (which has been started).

**That it be recommended to Council:**

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

CARRIED: 7 / 0

**14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES**

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Special Confidential Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Elected Members Information Session x 2

Katherine Prize GYRACC

Katherine Mural Project with Koulla Roussos

Doggy Day – KTC

Katherine Night Market

Seniors Morning Tea – KTC

CEO Review – KTC

Showgrounds Meeting - KTC

Special Confidential Meeting – KTC

Casuarina School 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Letters to Lindy – GYRACC

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Alderman Gazey  
Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Special Confidential Meeting of Council  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Information Session x 2

Alderman Clark (May to July)  
Ordinary Meetings of Council  
Special Confidential Meeting of Council  
Open Forums  
Elected Members Information Sessions  
Rodeo Meeting  
Water Advisory  
Man's Shed Launch  
Edith Farms Meeting  
Rise Meeting  
Green Snaps  
Junk Festival  
RSL Meeting  
Showgrounds Meeting  
Meeting with CEO  
Territory Day  
Showgrounds Meetings

Alderman Raynor  
Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Information Session

Alderman Zelle  
Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Special Confidential Meeting of Council  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Information Session

Alderman Hurley  
Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Information Session

**15. LATE AGENDA ITEMS**

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

To accept to the meeting the three late agenda items.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

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### 15.1 **MONTHLY REPORT FOR FINANCE - JULY 2018**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Financial Report

MOVED: Hurley / Clark

Alderman Gazey – On the summary page, there are no “green” dots. Green represents we are on track? Can we be reassured there is nothing to worry about?

COO – A red dot indicates there is something for you to note but is not a cause for concern.

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

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

CARRIED: 7 / 0

### 15.2 **GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT – KATHERINE MUSEUM**

File: Finance / Grant Funding / Katherine Museum

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Gazey

Alderman Gazey – This is a worthwhile grant for the Museum, however, as there is no description of what we are spending the \$68K on, can I get some assurance that \$68K is enough to cover the proposed works or will Council be required to add some money.

CEO – Paragraph 4 provides some information of the project. The money is largely for the planning and design of the exhibit. We are continuing to seek additional funding for an enhanced museum entrance and for some of the elements identified by this grant.

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

That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute the Grant Funding Agreement for the Katherine Museum and affix the Common Seal as required.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

## 16. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Is there any feedback up on motion to write the minister on Low Security Prison?

CEO – I have spoken to senior officers in NTG. They do not currently see this as a priority item for Katherine. However, we will lobby for this again during the next election and in the meantime, do some preliminary work on how the project might progress.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Just noting that Alice Springs are building a Juvenile Centre.

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Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Cleaning of “Sabu” the pioneer horse. A quote of \$50K was received from the sculpture to dismantle and sand blast back to new condition. Have we progressed this cleaning project?

CEO – Some work has been done and \$10K identified for purpose in the budget. However, the current priority level for Council is not a high, but we are making a start.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Is there some feedback on progress of the Let's Talk Katherine Community consultation process?

CEO – Council has developed an Action Plan and NTG are tasked with gathering all the relevant parties to meet again. We will discuss the weaknesses of the forum and how we can achieve the goals that were identified.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – So it is still on the agenda?

CEO – Yes, very much so.

Alderman Gazey – Will the information get back to the members of the public who provided their email addresses?

CEO – It will be more likely we will release this via online methods, i.e. FB / webpage.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Has Council purchased a green waste mulcher?

CEO – Not yet. We are awaiting news on securing funding which would allow us to purchase a larger machine. This request is on the Minister's desk. If that funding is not provided, we will go back to purchasing a smaller machine.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – It is a good idea that we can sell green mulch back to the community and this is a great recycling opportunity for the town.

Alderman Zelle – The recent Katherine Athletics Carnival was a very successful event. Competition was strong and everyone had a good time. Thanks go to the Council for providing us with such a well prepared facility.

Mayor Miller – Were there many visiting athletes attending?

Alderman Zelle – This was mainly a Katherine Athletics event and is a preparation event for teams heading to the Darwin Carnival later in the year.

Alderman Clark – I called into the Winton Museum on a recent journey back from Queensland. It is a very modern, up to date museum that the Winton community can be very proud of, especially as they have provided many of the displays. It is truly worth a visit if you are in the region.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – I would like to note that as with the VIC, the Katherine Museum visitors numbers were down this year, but the sales figures were up.

Alderman Gazey – The Black Dog Ride visited Katherine this week and used the Council lawns for their mustering point. I note this was not a Council organized event, but it was disappointing there was little information on the event, especially as there were over 300 riders from all parts of Australia in attendance. Can Council look at how we can better work with these types of events, i.e. assistance with online advertising / promoting?

Mayor Miller – Events in Katherine need some further promotion, i.e. Black Dog Ride. I ended up advertising the event on my FB page. Those that were riding were very interesting to speak to and they all had a story to tell. I am very proud of them for raising awareness on this massive issue. The riders report they are looking forward to next year's ride too.

Alderman Gazey – I would have liked some notice on the Vietnam Veteran's Day. The fly over of Army Helicopters was an amazing, yet unexpected surprise.

Alderman Raynor – The flyover was organised by the Katherine RSL sub-Branch. RAAF Base Tindal were in charge of organizing the ceremony.

Alderman Zelle – I recently attended the Casuarina Street Primary School Colour Run. This was a great deal of fun for everyone involved.

Alderman Gazey – At a recent Information Session, we were very lucky to have a presentation by the Katherine Dirt Kart, outlining a proposal for their

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future activities. I would like to encourage other clubs to make presentations to Council. It is very informative for the Aldermen.

Mayor Miller – As Regional Economic Development Committee Chair, I undertook a trip to Mataranka and Ngukurr, accompanied by Jake Quinlivan from DCM. In Mataranka we met with Mayor Judy McFarlane and visited their Museum. We also dropped into Minyerri, before continuing onto Ngukurr. The amount of work being progressed in Ngukurr is very heartening. There have been a number of houses built and others refurbished. The early child care facilities are top class and the school visits were lovely. It was refreshing to meet a couple of the Elders, who were great characters with strong ideals. The Outback Spirit has 19 tours along The Savannah Way and the tourists are delighted to see the genuine Arts Centre in town. Things are happening in our communities that are very positive, but due to distance, we tend not to see it. But there is excellent work being done in these outer communities. I thank Jake Quinlivan for providing me this interesting and informative experience.

Alderman Gazey – You can also see housing refurbishments and building going on in communities closer to Katherine, i.e. Binjarri.

Mayor Miller – NT Masterbrand release. The Territory has new colours, purples and mauves. This is derived from the merging of our red earth and blue skies. The new branding will be delivered across the NT and is expected to be around for the next 10 years. We need to embrace the new catch phrase “*Northern Territory Boundless Possible*” along with the new colour scheme.

Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – When is the RFDS Outback Air Race visiting Katherine?

XCCD – End of August. They asked for sponsorship through promotion of the event. We will do this on FB and our webpage.

Mayor Miller – An invitation for Police Remembrance Day has been received. Is this a clash with the RAAF Freedom of Entry Parade?

CEO – No. Police Remembrance Day is the morning of 28 September. The Freedom of Entry March is the morning of 29 September.

Mayor Miller – The RAAF Freedom of Entry March is a very special event. This time, the full Military Band is coming to Katherine (which is a rare treat) to support the event. The RAAF are in talks with a third party who will provide the necessary support for the staging of a free concert for the Katherine community at the Showgrounds. There will also be an invited guests Ball at RAAF Base Tindal. It will be a very exciting few days for Katherine.

## **17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

NIL

## **18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The ninth Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 25 September 2018.

## **19. Meeting Closed**

The meeting closed at 7.09 pm.



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**Officer Title Abbreviations**

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