



Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 23 February 2016
Ordinary Meeting 6.20pm

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Stuart Highway, Katherine

Robert Jennings
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.20PM

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Welcome to the Country

3. Present

Mayor Fay Miller
Deputy Mayor Donald Higgins
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Peter Gazey
Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Rob Phillips

In attendance

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Neroli Dickens – Director Works & Services/Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ms Claire Johannsson – Director of Corporate & Community Services
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager
Ms Sarah Bevington – Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)

Seven (7) x members of the Katherine Community
One (1) x member of the Media

4. Apologies and Leave of Absence

Nil

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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

MOVED: Phillips / Tapp-Coutts

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 19 January 2016 be confirmed as a true and accurate.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

- Alderman Gazey enquired as to a potential Conflict of Interest in regards to report item 13.9
- Mayor Miller advised this was not necessary.

8. Mayoral Business to be Considered

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

Mayoral Business for January 2016

On 11th January CEO Robert Jennings, myself, with other CEO's, Mayors and Presidents from Local Government in the Northern Territory met in Parliament House with the Chief Minister the Hon Adam Giles and Treasurer Minister David Tollner MLA. This meeting was to discuss the proposed handover of street lighting from Power and Water to local government, an ongoing issue of some two (2) years. The areas of concern included lack of consultation, accurate auditing of the infrastructure and ownership of the infrastructure. A key group was formed from this meeting to advance the negotiations to an outcome. The first meeting of this group was held on 28th January and chaired by the Member for Blain the Hon Nathan Barrett MLA. Issues debated included; broad discussion on the rationale for the changes in charges; cost shifting; quantum of rate increases to meet the capital charges; questions in respect of the charges; options for progressing the matter. There is some way to go to reach a satisfactory outcome I feel.

The Australia Day Celebrations were once again very successful in their new location at GYRACC. The facility provides comfort for the duration of the ceremony. Each year this event has increasing numbers attending which is very encouraging. The Australia Day Ambassador supporting Katherine was Simon Westaway who was accompanied by his son Rubin – both who enjoyed the hospitality of the Katherine community. It was a pleasure to conduct a Citizenship Ceremony for twelve new citizens and to announce the winners of the Australia Day Awards:

Citizen of the Year – Gillian Haggar

Since arriving in Katherine in 1969 Gillian has been involved in countless committees, Councils and boards as well as various community services.

It's Gillian's work with the Katherine Red Cross over the years, both paid and voluntary, that has helped ensure the success of the service in Katherine. It was her efforts co-ordinating the evacuation of the aged care hostel during the 1998 Katherine Floods and for all her work in organising accommodation for the residents until they could be reinstated back into the hostel that saw her awarded the Medal of Order of Australia.

Gillian was also one of the main instigators in getting approval and funding for the Rocky Ridge Nursing Home.

Gillian has also been a big supporter of such community events such as the Red Cross Canoe Marathon and the Katherine and District Show Society which she received Life Membership in appreciation of her support.

Gillian's willingness to help is well known in the Katherine community and she doesn't look, nor except thanks or recognition.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

Young Citizen of the Year – Anthony Assan-Busch

Anthony is a quiet achiever within the Katherine community. He has established himself as a role model to both indigenous and non-indigenous secondary students

Anthony has been involved with Rugby League and Touch football in Katherine for a number of years. He has received individual recognition for his sporting achievements, taking out the Frank Johnson Medal for Best & Fairest in the 2013 Darwin Rugby League competition while playing for Katherine Tiger's. Anthony has volunteered a lot of his time to coaching and mentoring juniors in both codes, often sacrificing weekend taking juniors to compete in Darwin.

As a highly valued member of staff at St Joseph's College Anthony has had significant influence on the lives of secondary students – particularly for indigenous boys through his position in the Indigenous Education team and is currently working hard towards his dream to become a Secondary Teacher.

Event of the Year – Katherine Show

2015 saw the Katherine & District Show enter its 50th year with 17,000 people attending the showgrounds over 2 days. This event, run by a small core group of people throughout the year, is an outstanding example of Katherine coming together as a community to create a wonderful weekend of equestrian, campdrafting, rodeo, competitions, entertainment and fun.

The Katherine Show is co-ordinated by a volunteer committee of seven (7) that dedicates countless hours to the planning of the annual event. It is then carried out by many local volunteers, as many as 200, who work as stewards, judges, assistants and numerous other contributions to ensure the show runs smoothly.

Thank you to the Air Force Cadets who performed the raising of the flag ceremony, Deputy Mayor Henry Higgins for being MC, Wing Commander Andrew Tatnell for his interesting keynote address, Bonwyn Chandler for her awesome BBQ Australia Day cake, Dragonfly for the catering, GYRACC for the setting up of the facility and most importantly Rosemary Jennings and Sarah Bevington for their very efficient organisation of the event.

Dr Jim Scattini Civic Reception

A Civic Reception for Dr Jim Scattini and his wife Marie was held on Friday 29th January in the Katherine High School gymnasium. Dr Jim Scattini has retired after 50 years of outstanding health service to the Katherine community. During those years he has delivered thousands of babies, performed many surgeries- including some veterinary in his earlier years, and saved many lives. The attendance at this reception which I estimate around 500 was testament to the high esteem that Dr Jim and Marie Scattini are held in. Many people travelled long distances to pay their respects. Richard Morris spoke on behalf of the community, Dr David Brummitt on behalf of the medical staff as well as speakers John Armstrong and Ness Scott. I had the pleasure of presenting possibly the only KEY that will ever be presented from Katherine Town Council for such outstanding contribution to our community.

Without a doubt one of the highlights of the reception was the standing ovation that Dr Jim and Marie received when they came to the stage – very fitting and very emotional.

The other highlight was the two outstanding cakes made and decorated by Genevieve Francais. One was "Kermit" the frog and the other magnificently decorated with medical interpretations. Absolutely outstanding. A wonderful gift from Genevieve to Dr Jim and Marie Scattini.

A "Guest Book" created a huge line as everyone wanted to say something special – and is something for both Dr Jim and Marie Scattini to look through at anytime.

I want to thank especially Dr David Brummit for his initial contact with me, Rosemary Jennings for her very efficient organisation of the event, Katherine High School for the use of the airconditioned gymnasium, Mahogany for the catering, Sarah Bevington for her assistance, Genevieve Francais for the two (2) outstanding cakes, David Reed for his assistance with the purchase and engraving of the key, all those who travelled long distances and those who lived close by. I am certain that Dr Jim and Marie Scattini had no idea how much they are respected and admired. On behalf of the community I wish them a very long, well earned, happy and healthy retirement.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

- Mayor Miller noted amend spelling to 'Bevington' and 'Reed' and agenda number document header stating the agenda item is 7 however agenda reflects Mayor Business Item 8.1
- Mayor Miller recently visited Adelaide attending the Life Style Expo representing the Northern Territory with 14 other territory representatives. Adjoining to the Northern Territory stand was the Kimberly region. Mayor Miller noted the number of visitors at the expo were down from previous years. However, this was an interactive experience for Northern Territory representatives.
- Mayor Miller noted the positive feedback on Katherine from attendees at the expo that had visited the region.

Mayor's Calendar of Events for January 2016

- ABC National Interview
- Meeting with Minister & Treasure Street Lighting Charges
- Meeting Commander Bruce Porter
- Street Lighting Charges
- Meeting Department Sport and Rec
- Katherine Emergency Committee
- ABC Interview
- ABC Grass Roots
- Elected Members Workshop x 2
- Meeting Katherine Times
- Meeting Parks & Wildlife
- Development Consent Authority Meeting
- Savannah Way Board Meeting
- Ordinary Council Meeting
- KRAG Katherine Region Action Group
- Meeting Bernadette Fernandez / Friendships NT
- Meeting Community Member x 2
- Civic Reception – Dr Jim Scattini
- George Health
- Katherine Branch Dinner General Meeting
- KREDC Transport Working Group Meeting
- Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route Consultation
- Meeting with Andrew Tatnell SADFO RAAF Tindal
- Australia Day Celebrations
- Australia Day Ball Darwin
- Australia Day Ambassador Dinner
- NT News Interview
- Katherine LTAC Meeting
- GYRACC Exhibition Australia Wide Four Quilt Exhibition
- Meeting with Relationships Australia
- Meeting at RAAF Base Tindal
- Community Expo Defence Community Organisation

9. Correspondence and Documents to be Tabled

9.1 Letter – Katherine Town Council Submission on the Department of Housing Strategy Consultation Draft

9.2 Letter – Minister Higgins – Katherine Town Council Submission on Temporary Working Holiday Markers Legislative changes

- Mayor Miller noted Councils great concern to the changes in legislation and the impact it will have on tourist coming to Katherine.
- Mayor Miller requested a copy be sent to Department of Chief Minister.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts requested we send a copy to NT Cattlemen's Association as well as Developing the North, NT Tourism.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

10. Petitions

Nil

11. Questions

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

11.1 With Notice

Nil

11.2 Without Notice

- Alderman Gazey questioned what the program is for slashing and road side verges he noted it has started.
- Mayor Miller passed the question to the Director of Works and Services for comment.
- The Director of Works and Services said that she will put the detail in writing to Alderman Gazey and Elected Members of the anticipated schedule of works.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts questioned if it would be worth advertising in the Katherine Times.
- Mayor Miller agreed that this would be worth advertising.

12. Notice of motion

Nil

13. Report of Officers

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2015

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

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of January 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Alderman Clark noted the typo in Katherine South High School being Katherine South Primary School.
- Alderman Gazey questioned the item under the Katherine Springs and if this was a new name for the Katherine Hot Springs.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted that there is an opportunity to rename the Katherine Hot Springs however there is a process we need to follow.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

- Alderman Gazey questioned the four (4) service request for mowing and verges
- Mayor Miller asked the Director of Works and Services to comment.
- The Director of Works and Services advised that the works is currently in hand and that the requests were received at the end of month.
- The Director of Works and Services noted that service requested only capture started or finished requests and not requests that are currently in the process.
- Alderman Gazey questioned where the requests were for.
- The Director of Works and Services mentioned that they were both rural verges and nature strips.
- Alderman Rose questioned the two (2) complaints received for January report although we mentioned zero (0) reports were received.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted this and advised we would get back to Elected Members with a response.
- Alderman Clark complemented the Visitor Information Centre on the increase in sales with the decreased number of patrons.
- Deputy Mayor Higgins and Alderman Tapp-Coutts agreed.
- Mayor Miller noted Faith Williams on her efforts as well as the new retail line.
- Alderman Gazey mentioned Deputy Mayor Higgins effort as MC at the Australia Day and particularly the tie competition.

13.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2016

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

MOVED: Phillips / Clark

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of January 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller thanked the Operations Manager for the additional trees on Giles Street and thanked him for securing them.
- Alderman Phillips would like to thank the work that has gone into the parks and ovals and noted they are looking excellent.
- Mayor Miller questioned where the new Cricket Centre is.
- The Director of Works and Services said the installation is complete and it is at the cricket oval this work was done through a Department of Sport Recreation.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts noted on page eleven the two (2) dogs returned to owners, six (6) dogs rehomed and nine (9) euthanized for the month of January and mentioned that it would be great if we could look at alternate methods for rehoming dogs such as a Facebook page.
- The Chief Executive Officer agreed that this is part of the new digital strategy we are looking into.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

13.3 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2016

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

MOVED: Clark / Phillips

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of January 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Alderman Gazey questioned the school holiday program particularly in regards to the number of attendees for the school holiday program, to get clarity on the number of attendees.
- The Director of Corporate and Community Services mentioned that the 72 children included children that attended one or more times.
- Alderman Gazey asked if it was the same children each day.
- The Director of Corporate and Community Services said that she couldn't confirm exactly, but it appeared to be around thirty attendees.
- Mayor Miller commended the increase sales at the Visitor Information Centre for the month of January.

13.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JANUARY 2016

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Gazey / Clark

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of January 2016.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Alderman Clark questioned on page 30 the trees purchased for the CBD and whether the tree that were brought were for the CBD.
- The Director of Works and Services said the area of the CBD isn't just the main area it is Giles, O'Shea and Lindsay and that these trees were not in the main street.
- Alderman Gazey questioned on page 20 the Year To Date Actuals vs Budget, interest component was still projected to be the full amount and was this due to the fact that the interest is paid on maturity of the term deposit.
- The Director of Corporate and Community Services confirmed this.
- Alderman Gazey questioned page 28 that the North News Australia Pty Ltd and what we are purchasing there as well as Fertiliser and Turf, Katherine Tree maintenance for removal and pruning of trees in various locations for \$38,335.00
- The Director of Corporate and Community Services noted North News Australia Pty is for advertising in Katherine Times. Fertiliser and Turf is for fertiliser. Katherine Tree Maintenance on pruning \$11,814 and removal \$18,271 and storm clean-up \$8,250 a total of \$38,335.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

- Alderman Rose questioned on page 30 the Think Water to freight KTC.
- The Operations Manager noted that Think Water is the companies name.

13.5 **STORM WATER NETWORK INVESTIGATIONS – FUNDING ENDORSEMENT**

File: Legal Documents / Lease / Katherine Civil Airport

MOVED: Higgins / Rose

That approval is granted for the allocation of \$35,000 from 'Airport' Internally Restricted Funds to the necessary clearance and asset inspections works of the underground stormwater network at the Civil Airport.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller sought clarity from the Director of Works and Services regarding the email attachment to this report from Renoflo it was stated by no means should the budget estimate be taken as the total all up cost to undertake the cleaning and CCTV inspection of the stormwater assets for the Katherine Airport roadways.
- The Director of Works and Services mentioned that there is no fixed quote from the contractor to cover themselves. KTC does have a further break down for the cost of labour per hour and we have informed them of the budget and are hopeful that we don't reach full expenditure of \$35,000.

13.6 **KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL – ACCOUNTING AND POLICY MANUAL**

File: Local Governance / Council Meeting / Reports

MOVED: Phillips / Tapp-Coutts

That Council endorse the attached amended Katherine Town Council Accounting and Policy Manual.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- The Chief Executive Officer passed out amended pages 42 & 43 update for the Accounting and Policy Manual.
- Alderman Clark questioned if we should add the YMCA to the committees section.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised that the document has to reflect the current Municipal Plan and we will update with the upcoming Municipal Plan review.
- Alderman Gazey questioned page 57 the Scout Hall and if it will remain on there.
- Mayor Miller requested the Director Corporate and Community Services to respond.
- The Director of Corporate and Community Services mentioned that there are past transactions against the facility and we cannot delete

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

the cost code however we will close the account for future transactions.

13.7 DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE PROPERTY

File: Property Management / Disposal / Asset Disposal and Auctions

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to dispose of the obsolete items as listed above.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.8 DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE PROPERTY

File: Property Management / Disposal / Asset Disposal and Auctions

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Rose

That the Elected Members note the above actions taken in the disposal of the Scout Hall on Lot 1932, 78 Victoria Highway due to the asset in question being beyond economical repair.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

13.8 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

File: Local Governance / Elections / Appointment of Deputy Mayor

MOVED: Rose / Clark

1. Determines the appointment of a deputy principal member(s) and
2. Determines the term of any such appointment

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller reflected that there were two (2) Elected Members that have not served in this term, Alderman Gazey and Alderman Tapp-Coutts.
- Alderman Rose mentioned that he thinks the Elected Members that have served the time should be able to go for Deputy Mayor and that he recommend Alderman Gazey do the second term due to upcoming training.
- Alderman Rose put forward that Alderman Tapp-Coutts should do the first 7 months from the beginning of May and Gazey the second half.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

13.9 MUNICIPAL PLAN – QUARTERLY REVIEW

File: Local Governance / Elections / Appointment of Deputy Mayor

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

That Council notes the status of the quarterly review of the Municipal Plan for 2015/2016 as at the 31 December 2015.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller was thankful for the report and to have an update on how projects are going.
- Alderman Rose questioned the Asset Management Plan being in the final stages of completion and how far away it is.
- The Director of Works and Services noted that we currently have Steve Wright from Civica at Katherine Town Council this week and that we will be able to provide a better time frame after this week.
- Alderman Rose noted the money we spent on Civica has been put to good use.
- Alderman Gazey commented on the rural road side strategy being put together so we can see a concrete plan on how things are going to be put together and he is looking forward to seeing this at the next review.

14. **Reports from Representatives on Committees**

File: Community Relations / Committees / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

The following meetings/activities were attended by the Elected Members in October:

Alderman Peter Gazey

Elected Members Workshop
Open Forum
Council meeting
Australia Day Celebrations

Alderman Steven Rose

Elected Members Workshop
Open Forum
Council meeting
Chamber of Commerce
DCA Meeting
Australia Day Celebrations

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

Elected Members Workshop
Open Forum
Council meeting
Australia Day Celebrations

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

Alderman Rob Phillips

Elected Members Workshop
Open Forum
Council meeting
Australia Day Celebrations
Dr Jim Scattini Civic Ceremony
Katherine Show Grounds Advisory Committee
Katherine Historical Meeting

Deputy Mayor Donald Higgins

Elected Members Workshop
Open Forum
Council meeting
Australia Day Ambassador Dinner
Australia Day Celebrations
Dr Jim Scattini Civic Ceremony

Alderman Lis Clark

Elected Members Workshop
Open Forum
Council meeting
Australia Day Celebrations
Dr Jim Scattini Civic Ceremony
Tindal Expo

15. Late Agenda

Nil

16. General Business

- Mayor Miller thanked Sarah Bevington for the work in the new agenda layout and requested the 'welcome to the country before the opening prayer.
- Alderman Clark commented on the Katherine Times article a few weeks back and that there was a mention about the money we received for the bridge on Emungalan Road and that Elected Members were unhappy about receiving this money, but we are excited about it and Alderman Clark advised we haven't received a second lot of money yet.

17. Confidential Items

Nil

18. Next Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 22 March 2016.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2016

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting was closed 18:55pm

Fay Miller

MAYOR OF KATHERINE

Attachments 9.2 Letter – Minister Higgins – Katherine Town Council Submission on Temporary Working Holiday Markers Legislative changes

Report 13.6 Accounting and Policy Manual amended pages 42 & 43 to replace agenda