



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**Tuesday 27 February 2018
Ordinary Meeting 6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Stuart Highway, Katherine

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD
AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2018**

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 Jon Raynor
Alderman John Zelle
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts

In attendance

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Claire Johansson – Director Corporate & Community
Services & A/Director of Works and Services
Ms Sue Crammond – Executive Assistant to CEO
(Minute Taker)

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

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Andrew Wilson – A/Operations Manager
Matthew Hurley - Alderman

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 23 January
2018 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 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 Vic Daly CEO and staff
Meeting with community member x 8
ABC TV Interview – 1998 Flood Anniversary
Meeting with Member for Katherine Sandra Nelson
Australia Day Ambassador and Nominees Dinner
Australia Day Ceremony
Chief Ministers Australia Day reception – Parliament House
An Evening with Samuel Johnson – Convention Centre
Big Rivers Regional Economic Development Committee
Meeting with Visitor Centre Manager x 2
Meeting with Acting Commander Lauren Hill
Katherine Emergency Committee meeting
Meeting with Housing
ABC Radio Interview x 4
Meeting with DLPE
Defence Expo – GYRACC
ALGWA National Board – teleconference
Meeting with Kerryn Smith – re Defence Procurement
What Primes Want – community information session
Meeting with Litchfield Mayor Maree Bredhauer
LGANT Strategic Planning and Executive Meeting/Parap
Parliament House visit – viewing sittings
Meeting with Her Hon The Administrator Vicki O’Halloran
– Government House
Special meeting of Katherine Town Council
Meeting with St Joseph’s Principal and staff member
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Presentation by Valuer General’s Department
Liquor Accord Meeting
Meeting with Minister Vowles – Parliament House
Meeting with Department of Tourism and Culture
Meeting with Chief Ministers Department CEO Jodie Ryan
ABC Grassroots
Teleconference with Senator Malarndiri McCarthy
Australian Tourism Awards – Optus Stadium Perth
Meeting with Linda Fazaldeen – NT Defence Community Co-ordinator
PFAS teleconference
Meeting with Rise Ventures

The 2018 Australia Day community celebrations were held at Godinmayin Yijards Rivers Arts & Culture Centre with Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey MC for the morning. Dylan Lewis was our 2018 Australia Day Ambassador.

The following were acknowledged for their community involvement.

Student Citizenship Award: Lola Jakob from Casuarina Street Primary School
Georgia Mcwhirter from Katherine South Primary School
Toby Gardiner from Clyde Fenton Primary School

Community Event of the Year: The Commemorative Anniversary of the 75th
Bombing of Katherine

Young Citizen of the Year: Phoebe Hooper

Citizen of the Year: Ann Reed

Keynote speaker for the morning was former Member for Katherine Mike Reed who gave a very interesting talk on the 1998 Katherine flood – at which time he was Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Deputy Chief Minister.

The Australia Day cake which represented the 2018 Australia Day Logo was made and beautifully decorated by Sue Crammond, EO for Katherine Town Council CEO Robert Jennings – and was cut by Ann Reed, Phoebe Hooper and Simmone Croft.

Thank you to 75 Squadron RAAF Tindal for the pleasure of the flyover – always a highlight of Australia Day.

Last Friday night I had the pleasure of attending the 2017 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards at Optus Stadium Perth. I have had the privilege and the very arduous task of being the Chairman of Judges for the Broilga Awards in the Northern Territory last year which follows with being a National Judge. Both lots of judging took many hours of my time and are voluntary – but very rewarding.

The Katherine region and top end should be very proud – with Kakadu National Park winning GOLD for Major Tourist Attraction, Nitmiluk Tours awarded BRONZE for Torres Strait Islander Tourism and Cicada Lodge awarded SILVER for Luxury Accommodation. (I was not a judge for local product.) Well done to be recognised by the industry for your tourism product. It's a big boost for our tourism.

The final report of The Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review by Justice Riley was released in October 2017. There are over 200 recommendation in this report which I personally support. Today the Northern Territory Govt issued a press release endorsing in full 186 of the recommendations and 33 in principal.

Tonight I will be seeking the endorsement of the elected members to accepting the recommendations in full with the view of putting a motion to the next LGANT General Meeting in April for all councils to endorse.

This is the first comprehensive Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review undertaken in the Northern Territory that can make a difference in addressing the problems of alcohol abuse right across the Territory.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

- Letter received – Deputy Chief Minister Nicole Manison – Appointment of Representative to Development Consent Authority. Dated 01 December 2017.
- Letter received – The Hon Greg Hunt, Minister for Health – PFAS Community Support Package for Katherine. Dated 02 February 2018.
- Letter received – Minister Ken Vowles - Minister for Primary Industry and Resources – Confirmation of receipt of Council's submission to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of the Northern Territory. Dated 05 February 2018.

MOVED: TAPP Coutts/ Clark

CARRIED: 6 / 0

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 - JANUARY 2018

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

MOVED: Clark / Gazey

Alderman Tapp Coutts – More information that is being provided is appreciated.

Alderman Clark – Page 12 – Typographic error; there were 13 outstanding requests.

That it be recommended to Council:

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

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.2 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2018

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

MOVED: Gazey / Zellej

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Corporate and Community Services Division for the months of January 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.3 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY 2018

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

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

Deputy Mayor Gazey – Page 20 – No broken sprinklers were recorded but there was a cost associated for the month? Is that cost for servicing or purchasing?

DCCS – Probably a purchase - will take on notice.

Alderman Clark – Litter on the increase by almost 4000kg over last year. What is that a result of?

DCCS – We have collected more in recent months – will need to confirm why that is.

Mayor Miller – Cenotaph installation – what is Council's position if there is a crack in stone?

CEO – Council Officers are aware of the cracking. The manufacturer has been made aware of the "fault" and has accepted liability. They have agreed to cover cost of replacement under "warranty". However, the issue now is to work out how and when to replace the stone, taking into consideration the events and dedication ceremony planned for the cenotaph.

Alderman Raynor – Confirmed the stone will be replaced before the dedication of the area is scheduled to occur.

Alderman Clark – Page 23 – There is a very high number of dogs being impounded. What are the reasons behind this, i.e. given Kerri Mott's story at the Open Forum?

Mayor Miller – We have an extremely good Ranger who is actively removing roaming dogs from the streets. Recently, he chased a dog back into its yard and tied the gate shut so the dog could no longer escape. Unfortunately, the dog's owner did not appreciate the Ranger's effort to save him the impound fee!

CEO – Our contracted Ranger has proven to be an excellent appointment for Council and is now training our newly appointed Ranger(s). The Christmas season has notoriety for recording the highest incidents of dog related problems each year. We should see incidents reduce in the coming months.

Deputy Mayor Gazey – The community has been vocal about their dislike of roaming dogs, so this is good work. The Council's Doggy Day and microchipping program has possibly contributed to the good rate of return of dogs to owners.

Alderman Raynor – Page 23 – Graph should read January 18 instead of January 2017. Can we change that for next reporting period?

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Works and Services Division Report for the month of January 2018 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Financial Report

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

Alderman Raynor – It appears we are still buying lots of hoses for the tractors? Is this machine worth the expenditure?

CEO – We are expending money repairing this machine as we need to keep it serviceable until the new machine arrives.

Mayor – Did we decide to keep this old machine as a spare?

CEO – Yes, Council agreed to that. However that decision was on the basis of the machine being in good working condition. If it continues cost too much in maintenance, we can reconsider our position.

DCCS – The latest update for delivery of the new machine is sometime in April/May.

Alderman Raynor – Can we get a further update on the delivery date?

DCCS – Yes, that can be done and provided to EMs.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Page 31 – Animal Infringement Debtors - Do we write that debt off?

CEO – We are currently working with debt collectors who, where possible, are developing payment plans with debtors. Some of the outstanding debt will eventually be recovered by Council and some will not. It is a work in progress and we will continue to monitor the situation.

That it be recommended to Council:

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

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.5 Acquittal – 2016/17 Library Operational Funding

File: Finance / Grant Funding / NT Library

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

That it be recommended to Council:

That the acquittal for the 2016/2017 Library Operational Funding be received and noted and the acquittal be forwarded to Northern Territory Library, Department of Tourism and Culture – Arts and Museums.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.6 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING POSITION AND ADVOCACY

File: Community Relations / Resources Sector Correspondence

MOVED: Clark / Raynor

Alderman Raynor – Why was the second recommendation in the Motion “*That the Katherine Town Council will support a total ban on Unconventional Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction in the greater Katherine Region*” dropped? We are only asking for support for a total ban?

CEO – As stated in the Officer’s Report, the decision was based on feedback KTC Officers received after communications with adjoining regional Council’s revealed they had “not formally debated their position on fracking” and “Council may choose to adopt a position at a latter [sic] date, however at the moment there is no formal decision”.

Deputy Mayor Gazey – We Aldermen are representatives of the Katherine municipality. If other Councils around us have a documented opinion we can, if requested, support that. However, as KTC Aldermen we should only be commenting on the Katherine municipality.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Yes, I agree with Deputy Mayor Gazey, if other Councils ask for our support that’s a different matter. KTC Officers have contacted other Councils and they have responded that they don’t have a position at this time. We cannot speak for them.

CEO – Council can direct me to keep in contact with the adjoining Councils to keep abreast of any decision to adopt a position on fracking and relate that back to the Elected Members.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Has fracking been brought up at BRREDC?

Mayor – Not at this stage.

Alderman Zellely – We should only be concerned with our boundaries and not crossing into other regional areas. We are about the Katherine Municipality and its residents.

Mayor – We have to get back to the recommendation and that is that we represent the views of Katherine and speak only about our boundaries. If at a later date other Councils do ask us for support, we can consider offering that support.

Alderman Clark – I agree, we can support other Councils if or when they ask for that support.

That it be recommended to Council:

1. Resolve to write to the current Minister for Primary Industry and Resources to request the Northern Territory Government to place a legislative ban on all unconventional oil and gas exploration and extraction in the Katherine Electoral Boundaries.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.7 OCCUPATIONAL LICENCE OVER LOT 3023

File: Works / Reports / Reports 2018 / OCM General Reports

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

Deputy Mayor Gazey – Bollards and wheel stops are an ongoing maintenance item. Is there monetary assistance from DIPL if they require more than usual maintenance or they start to become expensive to repair/replace?

CEO – There is a twelve months defects liability clause. Bollards are unlikely to be severely damaged, however, DIPL have committed to some funding in instances where excessive damages/replacements are required.

Alderman Raynor – Have the challenges with the area identified earlier been rectified?

CEO – The wear and tear from turning wheel motions were causing issues, but the surface now seems to have settled down. Damaged bollards have been replaced. Council will continue to monitor the area throughout the defects period and liaise with DIPL where necessary.

That it be recommended to Council to:

1. Endorse the 12 month Occupational Licence and prior to the expiration, review and consider a five (5) year renewal.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.8 DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE PROPERTY – MINOR PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

File: Works / Reports / Reports 2018 / OCM General Reports

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Zelle

Mayor Miller – What are we doing with equipment we are writing off?

DCCS – Will be disposed of as waste. It is not a cost effective exercise to sell these items.

That it be recommended to Council to:

The Elected Members approve the disposal of the above listed minor plant and equipment.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.9 NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT ON COMMITTEES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Zelley / Clark

Alderman Clark – Why does the Disciplinary Committee want ten people?
Deputy Mayor Gazey – The Committee want to develop a pool of people that they can call on. This will enable different people to sit on the committee. It also allows for the convening of those meetings in a timely manner and the subsequent ability to deliver decisions on matters promptly.

Alderman Zelley and Alderman Tapp Coutts were nominated and accepted their nominations.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

That it be recommended to Council to:

1. Determine if nomination(s) are to be made; and
2. Endorse the nominated Mayor/Aldermen and
3. Notify LGANT of the nominated representative(s).

CARRIED: 6 / 0

14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Deputy Mayor Gazey

EMIS x 2

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Australia Day Ambassador Dinner

Australia Day Rehearsal

Australia Day Ceremony

Special Meeting of Council

Big Rivers Hawks and Hawthorn Football Team Visit

Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) LGANT

Alcohol Review – Delivered Mayor's message

Showgrounds Advisory Committee

Presentation by the Valuer General

Alderman Clark

EMIS x 2

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Defence Welcome to Katherine Expo

Showground Advisory Committee

Special Meeting of Council

Travelling Film Festival

Rise Ventures Meeting

Australia Day Ambassador Dinner

Australia Day Rehearsal

Australia Day Ceremony

Meeting with Laura Little, Rise Ventures

Presentation by the Valuer General

Alderman Raynor
EMIS x 2
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Rise Meeting
Australia Day Ceremony
Presentation by the Valuer General
Audit Committee

Alderman Tapp Coutts
EMIS x 2
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Special Meeting of Council
Australia Day Ceremony
Australia Day Ambassador Dinner
DYRACC Board Meeting
Australian Institute of Corporate Directors (AICD) LGANT
Meeting with CEO on Katherine Public Art Strategy

Alderman Zelle
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
EMIS x 2
Special Meeting of Council
Australia Day Rehearsal
Australia Day Ambassador Dinner
Australia Day Ceremony
Presentation by the Valuer General

Alderman Matthew Hurley
Ordinary Meeting of Council
EMIS
Open Forum

15. LATE AGENDA ITEM

MOVED: Miller / Clark

Mayor Miller moved to accept the Late Agenda items to the meeting.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.1 DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE PROPERTY – VEHICLE, MAJOR PLANT & EQUIPMENT

File: Works / Reports / Reports 2018 / OCM General Reports

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

Deputy Mayor Gazey – Was Orange County Auctions approached? Why was Manheim selected?

DCCS – Orange County Auctions were approached but they did not return a schedule. Manheim were chosen as they represented the least amount of risk

for the Council. Cost for transportation of items to Darwin is included in the scheduling.

That it be recommended to Council to:

The Elected Members approve the disposal of the above listed vehicle, major plant and equipment through auction, appointing Manheim Pty Ltd as the Auctioneers.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.2 EDITH FARMS AREA ROAD UPGRADE TO AN ALL-WEATHER SURFACE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Notice of Motion Officer
Comments

MOVED: Raynor / Clark

Alderman Raynor – Edith Farms Road is an alternative way to Daly River. Considering the recent flooding event at Daly, this could provide another way out of the area. I acknowledge this is not a quick fix and we may not get anything done during the next 5 years, but we must start the process now.

Alderman Clark – This has been an ongoing issue for 9.5 yrs. It does take a long time and other priorities do compete for money.

Mayor Miller – Until NTG are working from their side, we probably won't see much happening in this space.

CEO – We recently sent a letter to the NTG asking for support with upgrading of this and other priority roads within the municipality.

That it be recommended to Council to:

1. Strategic prioritising occurs to determine the prioritisation of lobbying for road upgrade funding.
2. Discover evidence of the evaluation criteria: supporting economic growth, providing equitable access, integrating land use planning, improving asset management and improving road safety, applied by funding body.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.3 EDITH FARMS AREA WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Notice of Motion Officer
Comments

MOVED: Raynor / Zelle

Deputy Mayor Gazey – At the previous Council meeting I asked residents to make their thoughts known to me on this topic. None came forward. I then approached a few seeking their opinions. One of those has submitted a response but the other resident did not follow up. We need to achieve a level of community consultation, which we haven't fully explored. Some consultation was achieved in town, but it did not reach out to the Edith Farms area. We need to put this on our "To Do" list.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – What about the option of an online survey, and/or a letterbox drop?

Mayor Miller – Ex-Alderman Rose has said in the past, that the online connectivity isn't great in the Edith Farms area.

Deputy Mayor Gazey – I would prefer we conduct this consultation face to face.

CEO – We could potentially achieve better consultation results using several different methods of engagement. However, I believe face to face is an important part of the equation.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – My preference is face to face, accompanied by a written survey.

Alderman Raynor – This a good start. But achieving face to face can be a challenge.

Mayor Miller – There still seems to be a split between what the residents want. Some prefer the kerbside waste collection whilst others prefer the skip bin approach. We need to achieve some consistency of opinion before we act.

CEO – There is a high dollar value attached to provision of these services. Council needs to consider that side of the equation as well.

Mayor Miller – This all comes back to the need for community consultation.

Alderman Zelle – Another consideration with skips are, who is going to clean up around the skip bin? Anecdotally, there is an increase in rubbish being left around skips or spilling out.

That it be recommended to Council that prior to introducing a waste collection and disposal service to the Edith Farms area:

1. Community consultation occurs to determine the level of service including the quality, function and demand for service, together with the cost of service.
2. Council forms a strategic view and policy on the introduction of additional services.
3. A policy is formulated on the level of service for waste collection and disposal.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.4 Katherine Town Council Alcohol Review/Temporary Beat Location Position

File: Government Relations / Reviewing / Northern Territory Government Regulations and Acts / Reviews

MOVED: Gazey / Tapp Coutts

Deputy Mayor Gazey – I have read a lot of this report and it does address the issues and considers the many different target areas. It moves to a health model rather than a police model. Future positive aspects for improvements are contained in the report. However, until they are working, POSIs are the only measure that has proven to work for Katherine. POSIs have had a long lasting positive impact on quelling alcohol related behaviours in the town.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – The medial release by Minister Fyles today, announced NTG supports 186 of the recommendations and gives “in principal support” to a further 33.

Mayor Miller - Only one they are not supporting outright is Sunday Trading. Minister Fyles rang to notify me of the press release prior to its public release. I would like to congratulate the NTG for supporting the 186 recommendations so quickly and for their in principal support for the further 33 recommendations. This means those 33 are still are up for debate, we are not

sure which recommendations they are, but we will continue to monitor NTG's position.

Adlerman Tapp Coutts – Could we copy MLA Nelson on Council's support with the recommendation voted on by Council tonight?

That it be recommended to Council that prior to introducing a waste collection and disposal service to the Edith Farms area:

1. Council supports the over 200 recommendations contained within the *Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report*.
2. The Point of Sale Intervention (POSIs) program be retained indefinitely in Katherine township until an equally successful program is identified.
3. Council resolve to take these recommendations to LGANT for their support as part of the LGANT General Meeting in April 2018.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

NIL

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Mayor Miller moved a motion for the meeting to be closed to the public.

Members, Council has resolved to use Section 65 (2) of the *Local Government Act* to discuss and resolve confidential issues which come before it. Section 65 (2) states that Council is able to close a meeting, which means that all members of the public and press will be asked to leave the Council Chambers, to discuss specific issues in relation to matters referred to in regulations 8 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

Deputy Mayor Gazey - Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to the public to discuss issues relating to matters as stipulated in regulations 13 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Mayor Miller called for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Deputy Mayor Gazey - Your Worship, I move the motion that the meeting be open to the public.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

Meeting opened at 7.45 pm.

18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The third Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 27 March 2018.

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE