



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**Tuesday 10 December 2019
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 10 DECEMBER 2019**

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 past present and emerging.

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 Jon Raynor
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Peter Gazey
Alderman John Zelley
Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts

In attendance

Mr Allan McGill – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mrs Claire Johansson – Chief Operations Officer (COO)
Ms Rosemary Jennings – Executive Manager Community Services (XCS)
Miss Taylor Revitt – Communications Officer
Ms Sue Crammond - Minute Taker (EA)

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

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Alderman Matt Hurley (Leave of absence)

Leave of Absence:

Alderman John Zelley – 16 December to 6 January 2020

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Zelley

5.1 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 26 November 2019 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Tapp Coutts

5.2 That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Monday, 18 November 2019 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Miller – The Mayoral Business was missing from our previous meeting. I offer my apologies. However, I have caught up by providing the Mayoral Business for October through to 10 December, as part of these minutes.

7. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Alderman Toni Alderman Tapp Coutts – I believe I could have a possible conflict for item 13.7 – Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Limited - MoU, as I have recently accepted the position of Chairperson of GYRACC. Therefore, I feel I should abstain from voting at that particular item.

8. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

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

Mayoral Business from 23 October to 10 December 2019

ABC Grassroots x 2
Katherine High School Year 12 Presentation Evening
Meeting with Managing Director of ENI Australia
Meeting with Peter Wasley at Katherine Cemetery
Meeting with resident x 2
Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation
Mayors and Presidents Forum – Alice Springs
LGANT General Meeting – Alice Springs
LGANT AGM – Alice Springs
Special Meeting of Katherine Town Council – teleconference x 2
McArthur River Mine Meet & Greet – Darwin
Danny Murphy Exhibition
Interviews for Katherine Town Council CEO
Ministerial Advisory Council for Senior Territorians – Darwin
Elected Members Information Session – teleconference
Adventure Play Park Water Bubbler official opening
Meeting with DIPL – re signage
Katherine Town Council – open Forum for November
Katherine Town Council November Meeting
Police, Fire & Emergency Services meeting
Katherine High School Presentation Assembly
Creative Partnerships meeting – re Arts
Meeting with HPA CEO
Meeting with “Blues Festival” planner
CBD Project meeting x 3
Funeral for Norman Rosas
Interview with COTA for 50 Stories for 50 Years
Funeral for Christopher Dearman

Territory Brand and Population Advisory Committee – Darwin
McFarlane School end of year Assembly
Meeting with potential CEO for KTC
Development Consent Authority
Meeting with DIPL – re CBD
Meeting with DCM x 2
Katherine Emergency Committee meeting – teleconference
Big Rivers Regional Economic Development Committee
Funeral for Helen Peut
Meeting with Geoff Crowhurst and Andrew Philip
Katherine Inaugural Disability Awards presentation event
Nitmiluk Tours Board Meeting – Nitmiluk Park
Interview with Channel 7 – from the Mayor’s Chair
Elected Members Information Session
Meeting with RAAF personnel
Presentation to Indigenous Reference Group by BRREDC
Katherine Town Council Open Forum - December
Katherine Town Council Ordinary Meeting – December

THANK YOU TO INTERIM CEO ALLAN MCGILL

I take this opportunity to THANK Allan McGill for his support to Katherine Town Council since the resignation of our previous CEO Robert Jennings in July. I am so very grateful that Allan was available to support us through the time while we were seeking and going through the process to employ a new CEO. His knowledge, experience and guidance is very much appreciated by myself and the elected members especially. I also appreciate Allan’s ongoing support which he has offered should we need it. It is very reassuring. Thank you so much Allan – it has been fabulous having you back in Katherine.

THANK YOU TO SUE CRAMMOND

It’s the time of year for RAAF transfers and that means that we are also losing the CEO’s and my EA, Sue Crammond. Many thanks Sue for your support in many and varied ways. You have had your work cut out arranging travel, accommodation, meetings and the correspondence that was required from both the CEO and myself. I wish you all the very best for wherever life takes you and your family.

I would like to wish all the elected members, staff and the residents of Katherine a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I trust it will be a restful and safe one for wherever you are with family and friends. I look forward to 2020 when we will see the long awaited completion of some of our projects which will be of great benefit to our community.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TABLED

Leave of Absence Mayor Miller – 15 Dec 201 – 15 Jan 2020
Deputy Mayor Raynor Acting Mayor during this period.
Annual Report for GYRACC
Annual Report for Katherine Museum and Audited Financial Statements

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 FINANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Reports

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Clark

That Council resolve that:

Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of November 2019.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.2 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW POSITION AND ALLOCATION OF UNALLOCATED FUND RESERVES REPORT

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Clark

Alderman Clark – Reserve funds being separated in the financial statements and noted for particular items, i.e. WMF, makes it so much easier to see what the breakdown is and how much we have put aside for the purpose.

Alderman Gazey – Considering a comment made at the Open Forum about the \$1.5M transfer from the CBD and whether we can top that project back up from reserves? I think we can look for other avenues for that top up rather than from the reserves.

Alderman Clark – Pg 13 – There are two items listed for the Hot Springs turtle. Why are they separate? Pg 14 – There is \$10K listed for the Adventure Play Park shade sail. We are replacing the sails with a hard shelter?

COO – The Turtle funding is itemised as per the Municipal Plan and there are two (2) different sources of revenue. The shade sail is an amount toward the sportsgrounds.

XCS – Pg 14 – It's a carry forward from last financial year.

Council resolve:

That Elected Members endorse:

1. An additional \$1,350,000 transfer from unallocated fund reserves to the 2019/20 budget
2. Reallocate Other Reserves of \$8,052,775 to:
 - a. Waste Management Facility Reserve \$5,000,000
 - b. Capital Renewal Reserve \$3,052,775
3. Establish a contingency reserve of \$1,000,000
4. Establish an election reserve of \$100,000 (increasing by \$30,000 per annum)

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.3 KATHERINE SPORTSGROUNDS BUILDING REVEVELOPMENT APPROVAL

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: /

Alderman Tapp Coutts – We just need to move ahead with this project. We have the money from the NTG, given in good faith that we would get the project done. The Sports Advisory Committee has approved the plans – we need to move on this.

Alderman Zelley – We are still \$800K short, plus an additional \$300K for the oval works. We are still spending a lot of extra money on this project and I am concerned the budget is very much exceeded.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Pg 16 – Secondary Design Phase. Is that dropping the ceiling by 600mm.

Alderman Zelley – No, that's the reducing the concrete slab depth.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – I agree with Alderman Tapp Coutts - we need to commence this project. But I agree also with Alderman Zelley that the extra money is a concern. I would prefer the money go to the oval, not the building. After all, the oval is what the sporting clubs use most.

Alderman Clark – This has been a long drawn out process. I am concerned the planning people don't seem to be listening and we are still way over budget when we asked for a project which is under budget. I agree with all the Aldermen so far. Project estimates are high, but they could potentially come down as we get firm tender prices. However, it is still hard to decide on what we should do.

Alderman Gazey – The community expect an improved building. But how improved is a point of view. The original building was too grand. The grounds are important, and Council has committed money to their completion, so it will happen. I would prefer a recommendation that doesn't have a dollar figure and to go out to tender. That will determine the real cost of the building.

Mayor Miller – I have heard the concerns and fully support your comments. The architects plans were possibly grander than required, but I am not sure if they were given a figure to work to, to begin with. I agree that we need to go out to tender to determine the real price. We don't have to accept a tender if it is not affordable. But we need to get the building built and I would like to have that done before 30 June 2020.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – The NTG gave us the money so we would deliver a good project. We would love to deliver, so let's go to tender.

Alderman Gazey – I would like to recommend we remove Point 3 of the recommendation.

Motion put to remove Point 3 of the recommendation.

3. That the Council allocate \$800,000 as a contribution to the total cost of the project and that those funds be taken from available cash reserves.

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Deputy Mayor Raynor

CARRIED : 6 / 0

That Council resolve that:

1. The report be received and noted.
2. Having consulted with user groups and other stakeholders, the Council now endorses the Sportsground development project consisting of a new / replacement building.
3. That the Council approve the project to be released to tender.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.4 KATHERINE MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Clark

Alderman Gazey – Once the decision to work together was made, things started to happen. Now that a partnership agreement is in place, funding is secured. It's a good outcome for both the Museum and Council.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – It was never ever about closing the Museum. It was about working toward a positive outcome and we are achieving that.

That Council resolve:

That the Partnership Agreement between Katherine Town Council and the Historical Society of Katherine Inc be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.5 INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION PLANS

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Clark

That Council resolve:

That the Council note the consultation document in relation to Infrastructure Contribution Plans as presented to CEOs in October/November 2019 and awaits further information as the proposal is developed.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.6 KATHERINE DIRT KART CLUB – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SHOWGROUNDS OCCUPANCY

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Zelley

Alderman Gazey – This is another good outcome for the Council and the Dirt Club, if this passes tonight. The Dirt club have come to Council, presented their ideas, followed up and are now looking to have the track included in the showground designs. It has been a good process.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – 6.2.2 Tyres – Are we still going to have tyres used in this manner, in light of the current situation with the tyre fire and EPA?

CEO – The EPA are saying they are still trying to work their way around what they will require in the future with tyres. So, it's a little bit of an unknown at present.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – What happens if this comes back and the EPA say no, you need to get rid of the tyres?

Mayor Miller – Council would have to advise the Dirt Club of any mandatory decisions made and any remediation/removal actions required will be at their expense for the tyres in question.

CXS – Yes, that's correct. If legislation changes that affects Council premises, we write to whomever is the occupant, that changes have occurred and advise them to act.

Alderman Clark – The Dirt Club people have been attending the Advisory Committee meetings for over twelve (12) months. They have presented to Council on their plans and I commend them for their patience in getting to this point. They are so excited to get building and get their Club up and going.

That Council resolve:

That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute a five (5) year Memorandum of Understanding with the Katherine Dirt Kart Club to 10 December 2024.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.7 KATHERINE REGIONAL CULTURAL PRECINCT LIMITED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: /

Alderman Clark – I believe we need to lay this report on the table, so we can be provided further information. The question is, do we still need to provide the annual funding.

Mayor Miller – We do need to check that with the Northern Territory Government.

Motion put to lay the report on the table till February 2020.

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Deputy Mayor Raynor

That Council resolves that:

The Report, Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Limited Memorandum of Understanding be lain on the table to enable the provision of further information on Council's obligation to provide funding. The matter will be readdressed at the February Ordinary Meeting of Council.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

Alderman Tapp Coutts abstained from the discussions and the voting, declaring a conflict of interest.

13.8 NT LIQUOR ACT – PERMITS TO CONSUME ALCOHOL

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Alderman Clark

CEO – On 1 October 2019, the *Liquor Act* changed. The changes mean that every time Council issue a permit for consumption of alcohol at a Council owned premises, the event will need to be published beforehand in the Government Gazette, the cost of which is \$150.00. I have spoken to the Licencing Board and have also been seeking some legal advice on how Council can implement these new laws and minimise the impact on Council and on community groups holding events. I was hoping to present some results tonight, but it is not as simple a solution as we had initially hoped for.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Are we able to gazette a venue/area for say a year?

CEO – We thought we'd be able to do is, but we don't know what's possible until the legal advice has been received. The other point to note is, there are different rules for groups supplying alcohol at a cost to event participants and those providing alcohol as part of their event, at no cost.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Should we write to the Liquor Licensing Board to explain the hardships these new rules will place on community groups? It will not only mean a financial impact (as Council would have to pass on the cost of the gazette advertising to the applicants) but will also require community groups to plan events well into the future to ensure the gazette advertising can occur weeks prior. It really is going to complicate things.

Motion put to amend the recommendation by adding a Point 2 – to write to the Liquor Licencing Board.

MOVED: Alderman Tapp Coutts / Mayor Miller

That Council resolve:

1. That the Council note the report and consider further information that will be tabled at the meeting on 10 December 2019.
2. To write to Liquor Licensing on the impost and costs of administration created by the new policy.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.9 NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AGREEMENT - DRAFT

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Gazey

That Council resolve:

That the Council note the Draft Northern Territory Justice Agreement 2019/2025.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.10 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING – REGIONAL FLEXIBLE GRANT AGREEMENTS

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Zelley

That Council resolve:

1. Council accept the grant funding offer of \$7,633.50 (GST exclusive) from the Department of the Chief Minister for the 2019 School Holiday Program.
2. Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to affix the common seal and sign the Agreement.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.11 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIONS

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Zelley

Alderman Gazey – Can I get some clarity around the meeting with Craig Rowe? I was under the impression he would be doing the consultation and providing a report to Council.

CEO – Council expected this too and we asked for it to be completed by December 2019. However, at this date, Mr Rowe hasn't managed to deliver the report. But we are still not at the end of December so it may be forthcoming. The deadline for the exercise to be completed is August 2020. Attached to the Council report is the draft documents for your comments. If you are happy with the questionnaire, we can progress it with him.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – The questionnaire is just a tick and flick and is the same document as last time the review was conducted. Having replied to one of these before, it is not a hard exercise. Council need to ensure it gets it out to all points and can help people understand the change of names, i.e. Alderman to Councillor, what impacts changing to Wards could have etc.

Mayor Miller – It has been suggested that in the next cycle, we will be going to Wards. I would prefer not to go with them, as the current system, with no Wards is, in my opinion, more democratic.

That Council resolve:

- A. That the Council endorse the draft consultation paper and commence a community consultation process in April 2020.
- B. That the results of the consultation be presented to the Council in May 2020.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.12 BIG RIVERS REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Alderman Gazey

That Council resolve:

Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.13 BIG RIVERS WASTE CAMPAIGN GRANT FUNDING

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Alderman Tapp Coutts

CEO – There is a question of ownership over "*Jeremy The Junk Man*". This was developed through Katherine Regional Arts (KRA). We are awaiting authorisation to use this icon.

Alderman Gazey – Will this authorisation be at no cost? Or will Council be paying for the icon out of the funding for each year the campaign runs?

Alderman Tapp Coutts – If KRA paid for the icon, then they own it.

Alderman Gazey – Therefore we need to seek clarification from KRA on evidence of ownership and any costs, either lump sum or ongoing.

CEO – Council will ask the questions. KRA are totally behind this project, but I can't guarantee the free use of "*Jeremy the Junkman*" until we get a confirmation letter from KRA. If we need to pay for the use, we will have to use some of this grant funding.

That Council resolve:

1. Council accept the grant funding offer of \$49,658.40 (GST Inc) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the Big Rivers Waste Campaign 2020.
2. Council authorise the Mayor and CEO to affix the common seal and sign the Agreement.

CARRIED: 5 / 1

(Alderman Gazey – I am voting as "not in favour", as I would like clarification on whether there will be a fee for the use of "*Jeremy the Junkman*".)

**13.14 KATHERINE SHOWGROUNDS & MULTIPURPOSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL USER GROUP MINUTES – 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Tapp Coutts

That Council resolve:

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Katherine Showgrounds and Multipurpose Centre Advisory Committee meetings be received, and its recommendations endorsed.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**13.15 MINUTES OF THE KATHERINE SPORTSGROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING – 19 NOVEMBER 2019**

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agenda 2019

MOVED: Alderman Zelley /Alderman Clark

That Council resolve:

1. That the Minutes of the Katherine Sportsgrounds Advisory Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2019 be received and noted.
2. That the formal decision by the Katherine Sportsgrounds Advisory Committee to endorse Item 5.1A of the minutes, Modified Design of the Proposed Sportsgrounds Pavilion, be tabled and accepted by Council.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

ALDERMEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Deputy Mayor Jon Raynor
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session
Norman Rosas Funeral

Alderman Lis Clark
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session

Alderman Peter Gazey
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session
Historic Society Annual General Meeting

Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Elected Members Information Session

Katherine Museum AGM

Former KTC Alderman Norman Rosas Funeral

Launch Katherine Hospital Public Art

Alderman Lunch at Katherine Club

GYRACC Board Meeting

KTC – Briefing CEO appointment

Meeting with CEO elect

Katherine Region of Writers @ Katherine Library

Alderman John Zelley

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Elected Members Information Session

Alderman Matt Hurley

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

15. LATE AGENDA ITEMS

Motion put to accept the late agenda items into the meeting.

MOVED: Alderman Gazey/ Alderman Clark

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.1 SHOW CAUSE LETTER – NT EPA

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agendas

MOVED: Alderman Clark / Alderman Tapp Coutts

Alderman Tapp Coutts – The Katherine Times have published a media release headed "Katherine's Tyre Fire Could Cost \$6 M". This is mischievous reporting to put that out there when we don't have any idea what it will cost until the EPA make some decisions. This type of reporting is scare mongering and done without knowledge or even having spoken to Council.

Alderman Clark – Tyres were used for a number of purposes throughout the years without any concern from anyone on environmental factors. Fire breaks were in place and all the circumstances around the tyre fire are still being considered as part of an independent investigation by Council. This is being conducting through a qualified consultant.

Deputy Mayor Raynor – I am still interested to know how those tyres caught fire. The size of the fine is a concern but is an unknown quantity at this point. I go back to my question of approval for Katherine Dirt Club MoU. They have tyre walls as part of their safety mechanisms at their proposed track. It is a concern for me.

Alderman Gazey – Why are we asking for an extension on the submission date? Could that be detrimental to our case?

CEO – We are requesting this extension for several reasons; this is the last Council meeting of 2019 and the next meeting won't be until the 28 January; many staff are away and Council will be closed for several days over the Christmas/NY period; it could be difficult to get a quorum of elected members at the January Council meeting (considering the EMs leave of absence applications) to look at and approve Council's response.

Mayor Miller – We may also find it difficult over this period to obtain accurate legal advice. We need to develop a history of these tyres to get our response to the EPA. Council have nothing to hide and have been very responsive to the EPA, right from the get go.

Alderman Gazey – The request for extension should include statements on our high level of cooperation with the EPA, on our efforts to seek information around the circumstances of the tyres being located there and what we have done this since the fire on 1 July.

That Council resolve to:

Receive and note the information contained within the report.

Request an extension until end of February for Council's submission to the NT EPA.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.2 Recruitment of CEO

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agendas

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Clark

Alderman Gazey – I was a part of the CEO selection panel. The process was conducted in a considered and professional way. The panel knew what we were looking for and we haven't just appointed someone for the sake of appointing someone. The referee reports and other general information received about the selected individual was all good and the panel is very confident the candidate chosen is the right one for the role.

Mayor Miller – My thanks to the panel members – it was a long process. But I believe Ian will be a good CEO for Katherine Town Council. I am grateful for Allan McGill and Stephen Blackadder's guidance during this process. It has been quite challenging, but we are confident we have made the right decision.

That Council resolve that:

- A. Having completed a comprehensive recruitment process, the Council hereby offers the position of Chief Executive Officer, Katherine Town Council to Ian Malcolm Bodill and that an employment contract based on the following be executed –
 - 1. Total remuneration package be based upon the package that applied to the previous CEO.
 - 2. Contract term of two years.
 - 3. A probationary period of six months with regular reviews within that six months period.
- B. The Mayor be authorised to negotiate with Mr Bodill and reach agreement on an employment contract within the parameters referred to above and to execute that agreement with the seal affixed if considered necessary.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

15.3 **APPOINTMENT OF CEO**

File: Local Governance / Ordinary Meeting of Council / Agendas

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Clark

Deputy Mayor Raynor – Can we change the dates to extend Allan McGill's contract to the 29 January, rather than the 27 January. This will ensure we always have a CEO in place.

MOVED: Deputy Mayor Raynor / Mayor Miller

CARRIED: 6 / 0

That Council resolve that:

- A. The appointment of Mr Allan Raymond McGill as Chief Executive Officer be extended to 29 January 2020.
- B. Pursuant to *Section 100* of the *Local Government Act*, the Council hereby appoints Mr Ian Malcolm Bodill to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Katherine Town Council from 30 January 2020.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

17. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I have contacted the Heritage Council in regard to Knotts Crossing Cemetery, but as yet, have had no replies. I also downloaded from their website, the list of registered heritage sites in Katherine. There are eleven (11) noted, but Knotts Crossing Cemetery is not one.

Mayor Miller – Do we need to write to the Heritage Council to get the Cemetery listed?

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I think that would be a good idea. I am also going to visit the contractors working near the Wheel Shrinkage Pit in Emungalan Road, to ensure they are aware of the heritage listing and to take care of the area.

Mayor Miller – Could the COO take up the writing of the letter to Heritage Council please. Thank you to Aldermen Alderman Tapp Coutts and Alderman Clark for their good work on this matter.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – I would like to note that I will not be participating in Australia Day celebrations this year. My state written below:

"Your worship I would like to advise that I will not be participating in the Australian Day Celebrations this year.

I want to pay my respects to the First Nation people and our local indigenous community in acknowledging that the 26th of January is not a day of celebration for them, and indeed, that for many it is seen as 'invasion day'.

I won't go on about my reasons as it is a very sensitive issue and Council has to do what it has to do because Australia Day is also very important in our community and acknowledges the wonderful contributions of school children, youth community organisations and individuals who are the ticking heart of Katherine.

As Councillors/Elected members we must listen and represent all sectors of our community and I feel as a person who grew up with the Indigenous people of this community, some of whom I am related to and many who are my life long dearest friends, that I do not want to participate in Australia Day which causes much distress to this sector of Katherine." Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts.

Alderman Zelley – I was approached by Casuarina Street Primary School about the old childcare building at their site and the future possibility of it being used by the school.

Mayor Miller – The school need to talk to Council Officers to discuss their requirements.

XCS – The current lease on that building is in place till February 2020.

Alderman Zelley – Can we get a report to Council, so we know where it is at and then the School can make an appointment to speak with Council Officers.

Mayor Miller – COO, can you please look into having a report prepared.

Alderman Clark – I would like to mention the good work done by Rise Ventures in painting up the Welcome to Katherine signs on the Stuart and Victoria Highways. It has made a huge difference. Rise are looking at other projects around town.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Could we get a letter of thanks sent to Rise Ventures.

Mayor Miller – Can we get a letter completed please COO.

Alderman Gazey – I will be attending the Australia Day celebrations, as a Council representative. It is not celebrating an invasion, it is celebrating Australia as a combined Nation. Further discussions are being held on the appropriateness of the date and we will await the outcome from that. But, it would be good to encourage First Nations people to be a part of this celebration. I do acknowledge the other side of the discussion, but I don't think there will be a resolution for many years to come.

Mayor Miller – We do live in a democracy. I was elected to represent the community and Australia Day in Katherine is about acknowledging the community. People are moving away from what Australia Day is about, regardless of where you come from, it is a celebration of what it is to be an Australian. We also welcome new citizens on that day. For me, it has nothing to do with an invasion. But the discussion will go on for years.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – 40% of our town is Aboriginal. I am representing them.

Mayor Miller – The proposed amended to the Planning Act Scheme, PA2019/0332 on two person brothels in residential areas has recently been released. Alderman Gazey and I spoke about the effect this will have on Local Government (LG) organisations at the recent Development Consent Authority meeting. It puts the responsibility to "police" these brothels onto Councils. A piece opposing these changes, written by Independent MLA, Gerry Wood, confirms it will be LGs responsibility to monitor these establishments. How are Councils going to do that?

Alderman Gazey – On hearing Mr Wood's letter, it seems there will be restrictions on where these establishments are, none will be allowed near places of worship and schools. Regardless of the types of business being run, these areas are where parking issues often arise. In my opinion it is the parking issues, rather than a moral issue that may be the biggest problem.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – These businesses are like any other type of home business, what's the difference?

Mayor Miller – The difference is LG Officers don't have to go in and see if there are two or three hairdressers operating from a single residence. Under this scheme, we will have to check to see who is working out of this brothel establishment to ensure there are only two workers operating there and further, that businesses are not located where they shouldn't be. We need to consider this further. The compliance checking is the issues for LGs.

Alderman Clark – This should stay with the NT Government to check for compliance, not with LGs.

Mayor Miller – I suggest you all read the amendment and soon, as the consultation period ends very shortly.

Alderman Gazey – I have been contacted by a Katherine resident who said he couldn't explain to a tourist why Katherine township doesn't have Christmas decorations up. There are some flags erected along the main street, but we have community support to provide better Christmas decorations in the future. We should consider this.

18. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

NIL

19. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The first Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2020 will be held on Tuesday 28 January 2020.

Mayor Miller – Before I close the last meeting for 2019, I would like to thank the staff for all the work that has been done this year. I thank the community for coming to our meetings and engaging in discussions with us at the Open Forums. Again, I thank Sue Crammond and Allan McGill for their efforts for Council. Your support has been very much appreciated and we wish you well.

I wish everyone one a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

20. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.



Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE

Officer Title Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COO	Chief Operating Officer
XCS	Executive Manager Community Services
XIE	Executive Manager Infrastructure and Environment
MCERS	Manager Compliance Environment & Regulatory Services
MIE	Manager Infrastructure & Environment
PM	Project Manager
MCFAS	Manager Customer Finance Administration Services
MVIC	Manager Visitor Information Centre
CO	Communications Officer
EA	Executive Assistant
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
SO	Sustainability Officer
GO	Governance Officer