



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**Tuesday 23 April 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 23 APRIL 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 and 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
Alderman Peter Gazey
Alderman Matt Hurley
Alderman Jon Raynor
Alderman John Zellely

In attendance

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Mrs Claire Johansson - Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Ms Rosemary Jennings – Exec Mgr Corporate & Community Development (XCCD)
Ms Rebecca Mewburn – Minute Taker

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

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of Absence: Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts (21 to 28 April)

Apologies:

Deputy Mayor Lis Clark
Mr Peter Reeve – Executive Manager Infrastructure & Environment (XIE)
Ms Sue Crammond - Minute Taker (EA)
Ms Taylor Rivett – Communications Officer (CO)

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Alderman Hurly / Alderman Zellely

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

CARRIED 5 / 0

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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.

Mayoral Business 27th March to 23rd April 2019

Tourism Towards 2030 1 day Conference – Darwin

Chamber of Commerce lunch – Hon Vicki Chapman – Darwin

Meeting with Sonia Mackay – re Senior Retirement Village - Darwin

Purple Hat Day – Kintore Street School

Meeting with Police x 2

Meeting with community member x 4

Meeting with Channel 7 (Lily)

RAAF 98th Birthday Celebrations

Elected Members Budget Workshop - Saturday

Meeting with Litchfield Tourist Association – Deb Moyle

ABC Grass Roots Interview

NT Young Achiever Awards – Darwin

Top End Wedding preview

Community Forum – Rates

ABC Radio Interview

NT News interview

Youth Week Council Forum – St Josephs College student leaders

LGANT Mayors and Presidents Forum

LGANT Conference Dinner

LGANT General Meeting

GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee – Darwin

Elected Members Budget Workshop – Saturday

Meeting with Sam McMahon

104.9 Radio Interview – Beyond the Berrimah Line

Elected Members Workshop

Meeting with May Rosas and Adeline Chong – re Law & Justice Group

Meeting with Meg Geritz – re Youth Drop In Centre

CBD Draft Concept Meeting

Meeting with Tanya Plibersek and Warren Snowden– re Katherine Aquatic Centre

Meeting with Katherine Times

ABC Radio Interview – Katherine Aquatic Centre

Open Forum

Ordinary Council meeting

GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting No 2

On 12th April I attended the 2nd GISERA meeting in Darwin.

The items for discussion and action were review of project proposals;

- A. Characterisation of the stygofauna and microbial assemblages of the Beetaloo Sub-basin

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- B. Environmental monitoring and microbial degradation of onshore shale gas activity chemicals and fluids
 - C. Mitigating Fugitive Gas Emissions from Well Casings.

There was lengthy and interesting discussion for all three proposals with the outcomes to be published on the website for community interest and information.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

NIL

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. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – MARCH 2019

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

MOVED: Alderman Zelle / Alderman Gazey

Alderman Gazey: I think the rates forum went well and would like to note the amount of work put into it was great considering the short amount of time to inform community. It was a worthwhile effort, thanks to the CEO and officers for putting the information together to relay to community

Mayor Miller: It is important to explain to community why rates are important. It was great to have the information together to be able to make that explanation clearly and openly. The community was informed 3 years ago about the decision to begin this financial plan, thanks to executive staff for helping stick to the financial plan that was set out and working together and forward towards the targets in the municipal plan.

Alderman Raynor: Page 3 of CEO report regarding YMCA expenses will an update be available soon?

CEO: Yes, an update will be available in the next budget report.

Alderman Gazey: Regarding a question in the open forum tonight, about the impact on PFAS and other issues that could affect the unimproved capital value UCV and rates multiplier. I think it is important for the community to understand that changes to their property value will not mean rates will be cheaper. Is likely to mean the multiplier applied will increase.

That it be recommended to Council:

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of March 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

13.2 MONTHLY REPORT FOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MARCH 2019

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

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Zelley

Mayor Miller: You just can't predict Visitor Information Centres (VIC) outcomes, although the visitor numbers are down there is a 70% increase in overall spend per person. I don't like the look of the line-up of about eight rubbish bins out the front of the VIC, can we find a suitable place to relocate them?

Alderman Raynor: Are the bins used by the VIC only?

Mayor Miller: There are a combination of users. Maybe some can be removed or relocated?

Alderman Gazey: Maybe there could be an art competition to help beautify the bins, that way they can be left there to serve their current purpose.

Mayor Miller: That's a great idea.

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Corporate and Community Development Report for the month of March 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

13.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – MARCH 2019

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Reports

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Alderman Hurley

Alderman Gazey: Page 27 says total funds in the bank are about \$30 million how much is committed and how much is reserves that can be used for projects in the future asset management.

CEO: \$15 million in grants/committed funding and \$15 million in unrestricted reserves.

COO: If you refer to page 28, the amounts received specifically for asset upgrade are \$14 million from grants.

Alderman Zelley: Finance chainsaw? That seems an odd item for Finance.
COO: This is again a case of limited space to provide adequate descriptions of purchases. Depot required this chainsaw.
Alderman Raynor: Regarding the Weighbridge, there seems to be a lot of money outstanding. The current and 30 days debtors is up on some accounts, with \$26,000 outstanding over 30 days. When will this be followed up on?
COO: This matter has been referred to the finance manager for review. All accounts past 60 days are closed, other accounts will be sent to debt collection. We can't write off debt until after this process. Professional debt collectors are used.
Mayor Miller: Are there multiple operators in arears?
COO: Yes

That it be recommended to Council that:

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

CARRIED: 5 / 0

13.4 MONTHLY REPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2019

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

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Gazey

Alderman Raynor: I am surprised there is no damage to sprinklers.
Mayor Miller: Maybe no sprinklers were on, or they were not reported. If so next month's report might show differently.
Alderman Zelley: Has illegal dumping increased?
CEO: There seems to be no increase in illegal dumping.
COO: A rise in illegal dumping seemed to occur about two months before the change in fees came into effect.
Mayor Miller: I understand that the Lindsay Street Complex skip bin has been removed as this was an abused service.
COO: Yes, people were dumping a lot of green waste into the bins.
Mayor Miller: Would the use of wheelie bins avoid the /green and large objects being dumped.
Alderman Zelley: Can we put a padlock on the skip bin at Lindsay Street Complex to be utilised by Edith Farms residents?
Mayor Miller: This would not help as furniture and other items are just being left next to the bin. This will keep happening.
Alderman Gazey: Could we look at installing a bin with a reduced sized opening?
Mayor Miller: Lounges will still be left on the ground. We will need to consider other options.

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Report for the month of March 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

13.5 2018/19 Acquittal – Special Purpose Grant – Katherine Hot Springs

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Zellej

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the acquittal for the 2018/19 Special Purpose Grant be received and note and
2. The acquittal be forwarded to the Department of Housing and Community Development, Donna Hadfield, Manager Grants Program.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Deputy Mayor Clark

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Elected Member Information Sessions x 2

Cenotaph gardens x 3

Special meeting

Meeting with Allyson-depot

Clean up Australia Day.

Meet with architect - re Showgrounds

Katherine South Primary School - Medals presentation

Gamba presentation for EMs

CBD revitalisation meeting

Rise Meeting

Youth Week Activity Planning Meeting

Bombing of Katherine

Hydraulic fracturing Presentation

Citizenship Ceremony

98th RAAF Birthday

Budget Workshop

Rates Community Forum Workshop x 2

Rates Community Forum

Alderman Gazey

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

Elected Members Information Session x 2

Hydraulic Fracturing presentation

Budget Workshop

LGANT Dinner

Rates Community Forum Workshop x 2

Rates Community Forum

Tanya Pleversek* & Warren Snowden at Katherine Aquatic Centre

Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forums

Elected Members Information Session x 2

Hydraulic Fracturing presentation

Budget Workshop

98th RAAF Birthday Celebration – Tindal
EM Budget Planning workshops x 2
Isolated Children’s Parents’ Assoc Conference welcome drinks
Youth Week Planning Session
Youth Engagement and Flexible Learning Lunch
Rates Community Forum Workshop x 2
Rates Community Forum
Art Exhibition Opening GYRACC
Kath Regional Community Engagement Meeting – Top End Health
Youth Week Mock Council Meeting - St Joseph’s Students & KTC
LGANT Conference & LGANT Dinner
Katherine Region of Writers Planning Meeting x 3

Alderman Raynor

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 1
Hydraulic Fracturing presentation
Budget Workshop
Rates Community Forum

Alderman Zelley

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 1
Hydraulic Fracturing Presentation
Australian Institute of Corporate Directors (AICD) Training Course
Budget Workshop

Alderman Hurley

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
Elected Members Information Session x 2
Hydraulic Fracturing Presentation
Rates Community Forum Workshop x 2
Rates Community Forum

15. LATE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no late agenda items

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

Alderman Raynor: Notice leave 3rd - 8th May. Thursday ANZAC dawn service will commence at 6am, with the march down the main street stepping off at 9am, heading to the Cenotaph for unveiling. Fly past will be at 10am. The commanding officer of Squadron 75 might be tasking pilots to do something special.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

NIL

18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The fifth Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2019 will be held on Tuesday 28 May 2019.

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 6:22 pm.

Fay Miller

MAYOR MILLER OF KATHERINE

Officer Title Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COO	Chief Operating Officer
XCCD	Executive Manager Corporate and Community Development
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