

Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

Tuesday 24 July 2018 Ordinary Meeting 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Stuart Highway, Katherine

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. <u>PRESENT</u> Mayor Miller Fay Miller Deputy Mayor Miller Toni Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts (videoconference) Alderman Peter Alderman Gazey Alderman Matt Alderman Hurley Alderman Jon Alderman Raynor Alderman John Alderman Zelley
 - In attendance Mr Robert Jennings Chief Executive Officer (Chief Executive Officer) Ms Rosemary Jennings – Executive Manager Corporate & Community Development (EMCCD) Mr Jamie Craven – Executive Manager – Infrastructure and Environment Ms Sue Crammond – Minute Taker

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

4. <u>APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE</u>

- Apologies: Chief Operating Officer, Claire Johansson
- Leave: Mayor Miller Fay Miller 5 to 11 August 2018 Mayor Miller Fay Miller - 23 August to 17 September 2018 Alderman Peter Alderman Gazey – 24 August to 6 September 2018 Alderman Lis Clark – July to unknown

5. <u>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</u>

- File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes
- MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Raynor
- **5.1** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 26 June 2018 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6/0

- MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Gazey
- **5.2** That the Minutes of the Special Confidential Meeting of Council held on 22 June 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.

Host City of Palmerston elected members visit to Katherine Meeting with Member for Katherine x 2 ABC Radio interview x 2 International Engagement, Trade & Investment delegation Meeting with Kate Worden Cancer Council Fundraiser **Territory Day celebrations** Meeting with resident x 4 Meeting with Veolia Onshore Shale Gas Community & Business Reference Group – Meeting 1 – Darwin Austrade/Tourism Australia meeting Development Consent Authority Kalano Flexible Care Morning Tea NAIDOC March Meeting with Regional Health Network Meeting with Tu Tee Cattle Senate Enquiry re Mental Health

Elected Members Information Session x 2 Katherine Accommodation Action Group NAIDOC Carnival – Kalano Oval Chamber of Commerce Women in Business lunch Talking with Women - Because of Her We are - Finch Café Meeting with Commander Michael Hebb LGANT Executive meeting – teleconference **ABC Grassroots** Senate enquiry into PFAS Grant Funding announcement with Member for Katherine MIX 104.9 interview – Below the Berrimah Line Katherine Show x 2 days Meeting with Hon Warren Snowden and Jason Clare MP Food Ladder Open Day GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee – 1st meeting – teleconference Ordinary Council Meeting – July

ONSHORE SHALE GAS COMMUNITY & BUSINESS REFERENCE GROUP

The first meeting of the Reference Group was held in Darwin on 3rd July. The group consists of a very diverse representation from the community and industry right across the Northern Territory. Considerable time was spent discussing the Terms of Reference ensuring that all members of the group were in agreement.

It was agreed at the meeting that all communiques will come from the Chairperson.

<u>GISERA NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONAL RESEARCH ADVISORY</u> <u>COMMITTEE (GISERA – Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research</u> <u>Alliance - CSIRO)</u>

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held this morning via teleconference. It is planned that our next meeting this year will be face to face.

The two items for discussion were review of project proposals for A. Baseline measurement and monitoring of methane emissions in the Beetaloo subbasin, NT and B. Baseline assessment of groundwater characteristics in the Beetaloo sub-basin, NT.

Open and transparent Communications Plans for the wider public were emphasized by all members of the Advisory Panel as a priority and were endorsed.

As the findings from each study of the methodologies become available the information will be on GISERA website – in addition to the distribution of Fact Sheets.

FOOD LADDER

Congratulations to all involved with the open day last Saturday. It was an absolute pleasure to see so much produce in various stages of growth. Food Ladder is certainly "coming of age" and I believe the credit goes to RISE. Well done.

KATHERINE SHOW

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the 2018 Katherine Show – especially the volunteers who ensure this event continues each year. We are so very fortunate to have these volunteers – there are many country shows around Australia that no longer exist because of the lack of volunteers. Well done Katherine.

Mayor Miller – I am absolutely delighted to see the work at Foodladder. It is really worth a visit to see what they have achieved there. Foodladder is open all day, seven days a week and all are welcome to pop in. My congratulations to Rise Ventures who has been the leader on the Foodladder project. This is a fabulously successful project.

CEO – Council were involved in this project by providing land for the facility. Council officers can organise a tour of the facility for elected members should they like to take the opportunity.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

NIL

10. <u>PETITIONS</u>

NIL

11. <u>QUESTIONS</u>

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

11.1 With Notice

NIL

11.2 Without Notice

NIL

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

NIL

13. <u>REPORT OF OFFICERS</u>

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - JUNE 2018

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

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Zelley

DM Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – Page 1 – I would like to note that I did not attend the Edith Farms Community Meeting on 26 May.

Alderman Alderman Gazey – The \$11.4 M grant funding received last month. I think it is worth a further mention. This is a great achievement for the Council and the community are going to see some good benefits realised as a result.

CEO – This is a real win for our community and demonstrates our partnership successes with NTG. Council's Masterplan and Katherine Great 8 documents were the main drivers to this achievement. We are now commencing the work plans for delivery of these projects. The CBD projects offer cultural and business focussed benefits for the town and the Sportsgrounds/Showgrounds

funding will provide a social and sporting win for the community. I have recently calculated the amount of grant funding coming into Katherine from Council's ability to partnership with NTG. That figure is to the value of \$60M over the past four years.

That it be recommended to Council:

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

CARRIED: 6/0

13.2 <u>MONTHLY REPORT FOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY</u> <u>DEVELOPMENT - JUNE 2018</u>

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

MOVED: Alderman Gazey / Alderman Raynor

Mayor Miller – 310 visitors completed the VIC survey this month. That is an improved figure.

XCDD – This represents 1.7% of visitors. Considering the amount of people coming through the centre, we are pleased with that result. I would also like to note that the VIC was \$24K off beating their top July record, with a week of trading to go. These consistent record-breaking sales figures are a real credit to the staff at the VIC.

CEO – This is great work, as evidenced on page 13 - Average sales per visitor is well up on previous years. Great results for the community and the tourist businesses particularly, in town.

Mayor Miller – Well done to VIC staff.

Alderman Gazey – Page 11 – Accuracy of visitor numbers - it will be excellent to have the future trends data come to reality.

That it be recommended to Council:

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

<u>CARRIED</u>: 6 / 0

13.3 <u>MONTHLY REPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT</u> <u>SERVICES - JUNE 2018</u>

- File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works and Services Division Reports
- MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Zelley

Mayor Miller – The Katherine Cemetery is looking extremely neat and tidy. The trees are pruned and there are no weeds around. This is a result of the work Allyson Croydon is doing there. Taking into consideration the disgraceful vandalism that occurred recently, the Cemetery is looking good. I personally thank Allyson for all her good work. Allyson has also been sighted performing

similar works on the gardens at the VIC. She should be commended for her proactive attitude.

CEO – I would also add that Allyson is working on the Town Square, which is also looking very good. As well as these works Allyson is performing an Acting Depot Supervisor role at present.

Alderman Zelley – Binjari – Page 16 - No rubbish was recorded for month of June?

XIE - Will take on notice. The zero June result may not be accurate.

Alderman Raynor – Sprinkler replacements are on par with July 2017. It is a lot in dollar value. What can we do about it?

Alderman Raynor - Good to see solar power data on the agenda. I also note the Facebook post including photos of the panel, published by Council. What time of day were the photos taken? Are the panels micro inverter panels? When will the panel sitting at the front of Council building be moved. This panel powers the building's entrance lights at night?

CEO – First two questions will take on notice. Question 3 is a priority matter and will be attended to as soon as practicable.

Mayor Miller – Sprinkler damage maybe managed better by looking at driving habits. We expect to see some improvement on this in the near future.

That it be recommended to Council:

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

<u>CARRIED</u>: 6 / 0

13.4 MONTHLY REPORT FOR FINANCE - JUNE 2018

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Financial Report

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts

Alderman Raynor – Page 31 – Repair of hydraulic controller etc for Traxcavator (\$7293.78)? Is this our new machine? If so, isn't that covered by warranty?

CEO – Will take on notice.

Alderman Zelley - Page 30 – Supply 200ltr ULP Drum – Dump (\$5018.89)?

XCCD – I suspect this a monthly bill, not just for the supply of a drum. Will take on notice.

Alderman Raynor – Has suitable training has been provided on the new Traxcavator?

XIE – The new machine operates very much the same as the old machine. At time of delivery, induction and handover sessions were conducted. I can look into the requirement for any specific training and if there is a need for any staff to be additionally trained.

That it be recommended to Council:

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

<u>CARRIED:</u> 6 / 0

13.5 OVERDUE DEBTORS REPORT – JUNE 2018

File: Finance / Debt Collection

MOVED: Alderman Raynor / Alderman Zelley

Mayor Miller – Very good results in the reduction of our debtors has been occurring recently.

Alderman Raynor – Page 40-41 Avdata – I am finding it hard to understand why Avdata cannot find the owners of the aircraft that landed. The "Call Sign" should be directly attached to the owners of the aircraft.

XCCD – The Avdata process works on time and actions. In some instances, the debt owed is less than the recovery fee and when this occurs is not viable for Council to make a recovery claim. However, I can provide further information to elected members.

Alderman Gazey – We can still pursue bad debts even after the write-off has occurred. Is there any way of recording the bad debtor names so they are flagged if they want to do business with the Council again?

XCCD – Yes, we flag them. For example, the weighbridge bad debtors have had their accounts closed. They can no longer use the weighbridge other than paying at the time of use.

Alderman Raynor – Does that include a caveat on the person or just the company name?

XCCD – A reference check is required to open an account. This should allow us to pick up the name connections.

That it be recommended to Council that Council:

- 1. The table below be considered to represent the list of bad debts. The finance team has made all reasonable efforts to recover the debt amounts by complying with Council's debt recovery procedures. The reasons behind each debt to be considered as unrecoverable is mentioned in the notes section.
- 2. The Elected Members authorise these debtors be written off as bad debts.

	Debtor Number	Total Amount of Debt	Financial Year the debt relates to	Date sent to debt collectors	Notes
1	3221/03	\$6.08	2017-2018	Nil	The debtor was very abusive towards staff when he was contacted about the unpaid invoice and indicated that he is not going to pay the debt. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.
2	3637/03	\$30.40	2016-2017	Nil	No contact details in the system. The letters we sent came back as they are no longer in the address provided. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.

3	4459/03	\$4,014.00	2015-2016	9/06/2016	Debt collectors advised us that the company has gone into liquidation and cannot recover the debt.
4	4588/01	\$52.50	2017-2018	Nil	No response to the calls and the emails. Haven't been replying to the letters. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process. After the debt collection, TDC charges another 10% of the collected amount.
5	4597/01	\$236.50	2017-2018	10/04/2018	Debt collector failed to communicate with the Debtor. The next step is to take legal action. The Debt Collectors recommended to write the debt off as the first course of legal action in fees would be more than the debt itsef.
6	AD 720- 035-873	\$10.00	2017-2018	Nil	Avdata advised that they do not have any contact details as it is an aircraft landing Fee at the Tindal Airport. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.
7	AD 720- 035-892	\$23.99	2017-2018	Nil	Avdata was unsuccessful in collecting the debt amount. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.
8	AD 720- 035-161	\$32.10	2017-2018	Nil	Avdata was unsuccessful in collecting the debt amount. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.
9	AD 720- 035-623	\$10.78	2017-2018	Nil	Avdata was unsuccessful in collecting the debt amount. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.
10	AD 720- 035-375	\$44.36	2017-2018	Nil	Avdata was unsuccessful in collecting the debt amount. It is not worth sending the debt collectors as TDC charges \$33.00 upfront to start the debt collection process.
11	AD 720- 032-957	\$337.32	2016-2017	4/04/2017	Debt collected failed to communicate with the Debtor. The next step is to take legal action. The Debt Collectors recommended to write the debt off

					as the first course of legal action in fees would be more than the debt itself.
12	AD 720- 033-473	\$37.07	2017-2018	18/07/2017	Debt collected failed to communicate with the Debtor. The next step is to take legal action. The Debt Collectors recommended to write the debt off as the first course of legal action in fees would be more than the debt itself.
13	AD 720- 033-492	\$47.63	2017-2018	18/07/2018	Debt collected failed to communicate with the Debtor. The next step is to take legal action. The Debt Collectors recommended to write the debt off as the first course of legal action in fees would be more than the debt itself.
14	AD 720- 035-375	\$3,381.42	2014-2015	14/08/2014	Debt collectors failed to make contact with the debtor and have not received any payments since 2014.
	Total	\$8,264.15			

6/0

FLORINA AND GORGE ROADS

CARRIED:

13.6 TENDER 18/04 MODIFIED PROPOSAL – SHOULDER WIDENING

File: Tenders / Works / Shoulder Widening Florina and Gorge Roads

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts

Alderman Raynor – Where on Florina and Gorge Roads is the widening happening?

XIE – Florina Road – Widening will occur from the Lily Ponds for a distance of approximately 900m. Gorge Road – from Bullock Creek to end of Council's area of responsibility.

Alderman Raynor – Does the widening include the turn off to Fenix Park on Florina Road?

XIE – No. The owners of this area are responsible for their driveway section. However, our works may include a metre or so of the driveway.

Alderman Zelley – Page 43 and Page 46 – Downer Edi Works tender pricing is stated as two different figures on these pages. Can this be explained?

XIE – It is a GST inclusive price quoted on page 46 and a non-GST price on page 43.

Alderman Raynor – Can we be advised on who initially did the works on Florina Road?

XIE – Will take that on notice.

Alderman Gazey – I would ask the relevance of that question. All tenderers have scored well in the tender documents.

Alderman Raynor – Road has had subsidence issues from the time it was put in, so I am just curious.

Alderman Raynor – Have we put a local loading on the tender?

CEO – Local loading weight is provided on page 46. It is the intent of Council officers to bring a tendering process review to Council in due course.

XIE – Local loading is set at 15%. In this case we have considered the information provided in the tender and noted the contributions they make locally. Some of their activities may not necessarily be well known. A business having a local base of business is factored in. We could review the value of the Local Loading for future tenders.

Alderman Raynor – I am leaning toward Downes Graderways being awarded the contract.

CEO – We are currently following Council policy on awarding of tenders. If the elected members would like to review that process, we can do so.

That it be recommended to Council that:

 That the proposed works modification to Tender T18/04 – Shoulder Widening Florina and Gorge Roads, be awarded to Downer Edi Works at a cost of \$602,641.81 (GST exclusive).

<u>CARRIED:</u> 5 / 1

Alderman Raynor is recorded as the against vote.

13.7 <u>TENDER 18/06 – SWEEPING OF URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL STREETS</u> INCLUDING KERBSIDE WEED ERADICATION

File: Tenders / Works / Sweeping of Urban and Industrial Streets Including Kerbside Weed Eradication

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That Tender T18/06 – Sweeping of Urban and Industrial Streets Including Kerbside Weed Eradication, be awarded to Advance Sweepers at their submitted schedule of rates price of \$72,240.83 (GST inclusive).

CARRIED: 6/0

14. <u>REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES</u>

Deputy Mayor Miller Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts EMIS Ordinary Meeting of Council Open Forum Senate Enquiry into Mental Health Kalano NAIDOC Family Festival Regional Community Advisory Group – Dept Heath 3 x Meetings Koulla Roussos, May Rosas Mandy Tootal re Flood project Iconic Arts Trail Meeting Katherine Region of Writers - Library Meeting with CEO Katherine Show PFAS Senate Inquiry at GYRACC Alderman Alderman Gazey EMIS Ordinary Meeting of Council Open Forum

Alderman Clark EMIS Ordinary Meeting of Council Open Forum

Alderman Alderman Raynor EMIS Ordinary Meeting of Council Open Forum Range Arnold Funeral Katherine Show Rate Payer discussion

Alderman Alderman Zelley Ordinary Meeting of Council Open Forum EMIS Katherine Show

Alderman Matthew Alderman Hurley Ordinary Meeting of Council EMIS Open Forum

15. LATE AGENDA ITEMS

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Alderman Gazey

15.1 LGANT NOMINATIONS FOR LGANT EXECUTIVE

- File: Community Relations / Committees / Elected Member Representatives on Council
- MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Zelley

Alderman Gazey – I found my attendances at the AGM and other LGANT meetings during 2017-18 to be very beneficial in my roles as a Deputy Mayor and an Alderman. Therefore, I would like to nominate as Executive Member - Municipals.

CARRIED: 6/0

MOVED: Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts / Alderman Zelley

Nomination for Mayor Miller as Vice President Municipals and Executive Board Member - Municipals if unsuccess at Vice President.

CARRIED: 6/0

MOVED: Alderman Hurley / Alderman Gazey

Alderman Raynor – I would like to nominate for Executive Member - Municipals.

CARRIED: 6/0

That it be recommended to Council:

- 1. That it supports the nomination of Mayor Miller Fay Miller to the position of Vice President Municipals on the LGANT Executive and Executive Board Member Municipal, if unsuccessful in the Vic Presidency role.
- 2. That this and any other nominations to the LGANT Executive, as noted above, be presented at the LGANT Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED: 6/0

15.2 <u>CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL</u> FOR AUGUST 2018

MOVED: Alderman Zelley / Alderman Gazey

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the date of 21 August 2018 be noted as the new date for the August 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

CARRIED: 6/0

15.3 <u>KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR</u> <u>ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/2019</u>

MOVED: Alderman Raynor / Alderman Zelley

That it be recommended to Council:

1. It is proposed that the meeting cycle for December 2018 be as follows:

December 2018

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 11 December 2018

2. That the Council offices be closed as follows:

Civic Centre Library Depot & Inspectorate	25 December 2018 until the 2 January 2019 inclusive 25 December 2018 until the 2 January 2019 inclusive 25, 26 and 27 December 2018 and 1 January 2019
Visitor Information	25, 26 and 27 December 2018 and 1 January 2019
Centre	28 December 2018 until 31 December 2018 inclusive – opening hours 10.00am till 2.00pm
Waste Management Station	25 December 2018

3. That the Visitor Information Centre reduce operating hours as follows:

Visitor Information Centre 28 December 2018 until 31 December 2018 inclusive – opening hours 10.00am till 2.00pm

<u>CARRIED</u>: 6 / 0

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

Alderman Raynor – Under Mayoral Business, I note you attended the Katherine Accommodation Action Group meeting this month. Can you provide some feedback on that meeting?

Mayor Miller – The issues are the same as they have been for the last twelve years. The biggest problem we face is the lack of housing availability. The resolution for this is very difficult and a long way off. Our main topic of discuss this month was *Homelessness Week* and the activities we are planning around that.

Alderman Raynor – I don't have an answer but does the group see a way forward?

Mayor Miller – Council can only lobby the NTG and Federal governments. Once the current money they have allocated to housing projects has been expended, it may provide a temporary easing of the situation, but we will continue with the campaigns for more work in this area.

Alderman Gazey – During Katherine Show weekend there was an increase in alcohol issues and ambulance call outs around town. We have visitors coming into the town who are now commenting that Katherine has gone backwards in recent times. They also comment that the Policing presence did seem to have a positive effect. As a community, we know it has been the only effective measure for the town. Are there any updates on the recommencement of Policing in bottle shops?

Mayor Miller – We have met with the new Commander of Police who will commence in Katherine in September 2018, and we have expressed our concerns on the deterioration of the behavior in town. He has assured us he will address the situation when he takes up position. I also have a meeting with Police Commissioner, Reece Kershaw, in Darwin next week to discuss this and other matters relating to Katherine.

Mayor Miller – I would like to offer my congratulations to all the volunteers at the Katherine Show. The amount of work they do guarantees we still have this yearly event. The volunteers are the backbone and we are very lucky they continue to come forward each year. Some other small towns have not been so lucky and they no longer have a country show. Kathy Highett and Anna Kerwin deserve our thanks for their tremendous work. Henry Higgins also gets a mention for his efforts on the microphone over the weekend and for every other person who worked so hard to ensure we had a successful Show, we are truly grateful.

Mayor Miller – Thank you Deputy Mayor Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts for attending via video link tonight. Deputy Mayor Tapp Coutts – This new technology and its availability to us is very much appreciated.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

NIL

18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The eight Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 21 August 2018.

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.29 pm.

Fay Miller MAYOR MILLER OF KATHERINE

Abbreviations

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