



MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council
Held on Tuesday 23 April 2024**

Civic Centre, Council Chambers
24 Stuart Highway, Katherine NT 0850

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the first nations people of the Katherine township and surrounding council communities. We recognise the first nations culture as one of the longest surviving cultures in the world and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and future.

2 OPENING PRAYER

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

3 OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mayor Clark declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 23 April 2024 open at 12:00 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn - via videoconference
- Councillor Maddy Bower
- Councillor Amanda Kingdon
- Councillor Peter McDougall
- Councillor Kerrie Mott
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

OFFICERS

- Ms Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Emily Jones – Executive Assistant Governance (minute taker)
- Staff x 10

PUBLIC - 7

4.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any conflicts of interest.

Nil conflicts declared.

6 PRESENTATIONS FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES



UNCONFIRMED

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 26 MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-64

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 March 2024 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 6|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon

Discussion

It was queried why the Previous Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 26 March 2024 are unsigned by the Mayor. This process was removed in September 2022. CEO taken on notice.



8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-65

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council receive and note the Action update.

CARRIED 6|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath

AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon

9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-66

Moved: Councillor Mott; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for March 2024.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall,
Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Meeting with Northrop Grumman - Contractor for Tindal, was to discuss the American families coming to town and issues around their accommodation. The question was asked regarding if contracts will provide any support or donations to the community outside of Tindal. CEO taken on notice.

Briefing on Traffic Management Meeting with LGANT was about Council Staff needing to undertake training as the requirements for closing of roads will be updated.

Meeting with the Acting CEO of DIPL was in relation to the concerns that have been identified and raised due to no communication regarding projects happening in Katherine. There has been no further response since this meeting.

Meetings with public members are not recorded. Councillor requested that elected members are briefed on topics discussed with public members. Sharing conversations is at the discretion of those involved, not a right.

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-67

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

Attachments: 1. Letter - TFaHC - Letter from Acting CEO regarding Changing Places Grant - 2 April 2024 [10.1.1 - 2 pages]

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall,
Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Clarification that the correspondence is regarding a grant that is available for public amenity facilities.

10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-68

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

Attachments: 1. Letter - Jon Raynor - Response to Question at Council Meeting - 3 April 2024 [10.2.1 - 1 page]

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

11 PETITIONS

12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AGENDA)

Question	Response
Jon Raynor - Under 10.2 Outgoing Correspondence, you have voted on a letter which I have not received.	Letter was sent to the email address listed on the top of the letter. Confirmed that this is the best email address. Will follow up.
Jon Raynor - Are there going to be more houses built for the American RAAF Families that are coming over?	It is unknown, and cannot speak on behalf of RAAF
Jon Raynor - Has Katherine Town Council partitioned for the RAAF to have an open day for Katherine? There has been no open day within Katherine since 2004.	This was acknowledged, however cannot speak on behalf of RAAF.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

14.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-69

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the Month of March 2024.

CARRIED 6|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Mott

Discussion

Question of where the garden supplies were used from the transaction on the CEO Credit Card at Bunnings on 11 March. CEO taken on notice.

Full funding for the Aquatic Centre project has been sourced. Potential to advocate for more funding in the future for further works within the Aquatic Centre.

Acknowledgment of the improvement in sourcing grants.

As there is no grant officer, it was advised that various staff apply for the grants.

14.2 SECOND BUDGET REVIEW

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-70

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

1. That Council:

(a) Adopt the 2023-2024 amended budget as presented in this second budget review and included on the attached Revised Annual Budget Income & Expenditure, Annual Budget Operating Position, Capital Expenditure and Funding, Budget by Planned Major Capital Works.

(b) Authorise management to upload 2023-2024 amended budget as presented in the attached Financial Statements and the Capital Expenditure and Funding on Council's website.

CARRIED 5|2

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon and Councillor Mott

Discussion

No explanation offered for voting against the budget review by Councillor Kingdon or Councillor Mott.

14.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-71

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council receive and note the Community Services Department report for the Month of March 2024.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

The unkempt lot audit is through the entire Katherine municipality with the inspections occurring more on residential and urban blocks.

Thank you to the library staff for all the hard work. It is a shame to see the library close for Health and Safety reasons.

Come & Try Sports Expo stall was manned by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

International Women's Day event was well received.

Clean Up Katherine Campaign was more successful running for the whole month in comparison to the 1 day. Congratulations to the community for the strong engagement. There were over 100 bags of rubbish collected, but how many people did these bags? CEO taken on notice.

NT Tourism Discount program finishes 30 April. This was an incentive given by the government. Currently there is no other plans to assist tourism, however happy to look at other programs

14.4 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-72

Moved: Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council receive and note the Corporate Services Report for the month of March 2024.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

There is no figure in the report for supplementary rates notice (multiple dwellings). Officers are still currently undertaking inspections, reviewing assessments and advising rate payers of the outcome. Update on the number of supplementary rates notice has been taken on notice.

Vetting process issuing overdue rates notices for small amounts (ie. 3 cents.). The rates system exports a data file that is sent to the printers. This data file will stipulate any amounts that are overdue because any outstanding amount, regardless of the amount, will still accrue interest. For any late payments of installments, rate payers are advised to call Council for an up-to-date payable amount. Officers understand that receiving paper notices regarding these small amounts overdue can be impractical and Council's messaging is to encourage rate payers to sign up to Ezybill for electronic notices.

There has been an increase in Waste Service Requests due to missing and damaged bins.

An update on the lease of the Meeting Place has been taken on notice.

14.5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-73

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Trembath

That Council receive and note the report of the Infrastructure and Environment Department for March 2024.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

If the Waste Management Facility (WMF) were to be relocated, the current location could become a transfer station. Approximately 10 years away from having to cap the facility. Council is looking how to utilise space at the WMF.

Majority of the cost of moving the dog pound to the WMF is being done through funding.

Nil further communications regarding the requests for SunCable to use the WMF.

Very exciting to see trees being planted at the RV Service Area. Great work to the team.

Great to see progress on Aquatic Centre and on track. Project is currently only to upgrade existing infrastructure.

Slashing after wet season has not been very swift due to failing machinery . Consideration of engaging a second contractor to undertake roadside slashing.

Installation of lockers are only in a trial phase. Once the trial is complete, feedback will be composed.

15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES MARCH 2024

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-74

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for March 2024.

CARRIED 6|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon

Discussion

Councillor Bower submitted activities for this month's report however these were not displayed. Will follow up for next month's meeting.

Elected Members responsibility to submit their activities attended each month.

Mayor provides a weekly update of upcoming events that Elected Members can attend.

17 LATE AGENDA

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Elected Members who are attending the ANZAC Day March are to meet in the middle of the strip. The Administrator and Ms Jones will be in attendance for this event.

Katherine Christian convention is being held at the Showgrounds from 3 to 6 May 2024. This is usually well attended by remote communities and Darwin, resulting in an increase of visitors in town.

Katherine Markets are on of a Saturday, come down and support the community.

Multicultural Festival is upcoming and to be held at YMCA.

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Clark; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

Members, pursuant with Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* gives power to the council to close a meeting to the public to discuss the following confidential items, in relation to matters referred to in regulations 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*. This means that all members of the public are now asked to leave the Council Chambers.

I now move a motion to close the meeting to public.

Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to public.

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 26 MARCH 2024

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part or the Council of Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (iii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(e) subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

20.2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

20.3 DIPL INDEPENDENT COMPLIANCE AUDITOR PILOT PROGRAM

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-78

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon



That Council:

- a. Endorse the participation of the Independence Compliance Auditor (ICA) trial;
- b. Not support the acceptance of stage 3 subdivisions and this to be reconsidered after the defect liability periods have been completed.
- c. Release the resolution to the public minutes

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall, Councillor Mott and Councillor Trembath
AGAINST: Nil

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 1:16 pm.

22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 23 April 2024 was declared closed at 1:18 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 28 May 2024.