



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**Tuesday 23 January 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 23 JANUARY 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 Matt Hurley
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)

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

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Andrew Wilson – A/Operations Manager

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Zelle / Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 13 December
2017 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Report on Occupation Licence Over Randazzo Car Park, Lot 3023, was laid on the table at the November Ordinary Meeting of Council, to be presented at the December meeting. Further work has been completed by Council and representatives from the Dept. of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL). Some concerns remain over the site's condition and further discussion with DIPL is required. Once these concerns have been addressed, Council will have a finalised report presented to Council.

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 Cancer Council NT
ABC Radio interview – re POSI's
Meeting with Tourism NT Marketing Manager Tony Quarmby
Meeting with Consul of Indonesia
Meeting with Police Commander Hollamby
NT News interview –re POSI's x 2
Support Letter for Katherine business
Meeting with Senator Scullion and advisors
Meeting with Gorge Health and Federal Ministerial advisors
Community Open Forum hosted by Senator Scullion
Australia Day Awards judging
Meeting with agencies facilitated by RedCross – re Suicide Prevention
Meeting with Acting CEO Chamber of Commerce NT – Brian O'Gallagher
Chamber of Commerce Business at Sunset
Meeting with resident x 2
Elected Member Information Session

This Friday we will be celebrating Australia Day and commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the 1998 Katherine Flood.

I encourage everyone to attend the activities that are planned for the day – including the ceremony at Godinmayin Yijards Rivers Arts and Culture Centre (GYRACC) beginning at 9am. Our Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year will be announced during the morning's program.

Guest speaker is Mike Reed who was Member for Katherine and Minister for Police Fire and Emergency Services at the time of the 1998 flood. While we were very unfortunate to have experienced so much devastation at that time, we were also extremely fortunate to have the support of Mike Reed in the Northern Territory Government in assisting Katherine to get back on track.

Our Ambassador this year is our 2017 Citizen of the Year Dylan Lewis who is the founder of Mental Mates for Mates and I look forward to listening to his journey to this point.

Point of Sale Interventions (POSI): – Behaviour in the town has deteriorated rapidly since the re-introduction of the BDR and tapering off of POSIs. Katherine Police Cmdr Matthew Hollamby has been approached in the past, with regard to the retention of POSIs at all liquor outlets within the town and we were given assurances that they would endeavor to keep them in place. The evidence I have gathered today suggests that POSIs are not in place and this is very disappointing.

Along with Alice Springs Council, we are seeking to meet with Chief Minister Gunner and other Ministers with regard to reinstating POSIs permanently for Katherine and Alice Springs. More immediately, we will be seeking some clarification from A/Cmdr Central Command, Lauren Hill on the commitment by PFES Katherine to the POSIs.

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

12.1 EDITH FARMS ROAD UPGRADE TO AN ALL-WEATHER SURFACE

MOVED: /

MOTION: That Katherine Town Council continues to:

Lobby and seek through the NT and Federal Governments, as a matter of urgency, funding to upgrade the roads in the Edith Farms area to “all weather” capability.

Alderman Raynor – Residents of Edith Farms have discussed with me their concerns around roads and the rubbish removal at Edith Farms. Access to these areas relies on there being an all-weather surface on the roads. Rubbish removal vehicles are heavy and the current state of Edith Farms

roads means there is a high propensity for heavy garbage trucks to become bogged during the wet season. I understand the condition of roads throughout the Municipality is currently being addressed by Council and I would like to push for Council to lobby for additional money from the Federal Government to prioritise this project. I would also like to note that Edith Farms Road provides access through to the Daly River area and improvements to the surface will also provide greater usage by tourists.

Mayor Miller – Should this motion be lain on the table? There is need for further discussion as there are many areas, not just Edith Farms Road, that may benefit from an upgrading of the road surface.

DM Gazey – Could we amend the Motion to read “*Lobby and seek through the NT and Federal Governments, as a matter of urgency, funding to upgrade the roads in the Edith Farms area and other priority roads within the Municipality to “all weather” capability.*”?

Alderman Raynor – Considering the discussions here tonight, I am agreeable to amend the Motion as stated above by Deputy Mayor Gazey.

MOVED: Raynor / Hurley

AMENDED MOTION: That Katherine Town Council continues to:

Lobby and seek through the NT and Federal Governments, as a matter of urgency, funding to upgrade the roads in the Edith Farms area and other priority roads within the Municipality to “all weather” capability.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

12.2 EDITH FARMS AREA WASTE COLLECTION

MOVED: Raynor /

Alderman Raynor – In light of the above amendment, I would like to start small with the roll out of wheelie bins to Edith Farms Road residents. It was this group of residents who approached me regarding their wishes and at this stage, they are my priority.

CEO – There will be a rateable impact on residents in this area with the addition of a waste levy. We note with the provision of these services to residents, and we acknowledge that Edith Farms are not the only residents who may want to have this services, that it is beginning to feel more like a policy decision for Council. It is an important and impactful decision for both the residents and Council. We need to be in consultation with the resident, manage the financial implication for Council i.e. bin purchases, the contract expansion negotiations and how the delivery of this service is rolled out and over what timeframe.

Mayor Miller – Alderman Raynor, are you happy if Council consider this a policy matter? It will have costs associated for both the residents and the Council, as just advised by the CEO.

Alderman Raynor – Yes, I believe Council need a policy on this.

CEO – Thank you Alderman Raynor. There are certainly many considerations to be accounted for. One of the major being, what are the trigger points re finances. This is an important issue and we are keen to progress it.

Alderman Raynor – If it does lay on the table tonight, what would be timeframe for resubmission to Council?

DCCS – The current Waste Collection Contract is being reviewed. At this stage, any addition to services would become a variation to contract. There is some portion of work involved to get that information across to the tenderers.

CEO – We will work hard to get a Report ready for the February Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Mayor Miller – Would you be happy with just the financial figures before next meeting?

Alderman Raynor – Yes, but I would like to see this progressed as soon as possible.

MOTION: That the Katherine Town Council, as soon as possible:

1. Issues a “Wheelie Bin” to all rateable properties in the Edith Farms area that is accessible via an “all weather road” and provides a weekly removal service.
2. Provides a service for those rateable properties located on a “non all weather road” until such time as a normal rubbish removal service is to be provided.

MOVED: Raynor /Tapp Coutts

The decision is to lay the Motion on the table to allow for further discussion. A Report will be provided at the February Ordinary Meeting of Council.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

Mayor Miller - Thank you Alderman Raynor for bringing these motions to the Council.

13. REPORT OF OFFICERS

13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - DECEMBER 2017

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

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

Alderman Hurley – Page 3 – Nature strips mowing - who is responsible for mowing of strips outside their boundary lines?

Mayor Miller – The nature strip outside of a property’s boundary is either a Council or NT Government portion of land.

Alderman Clark – Dogs seem to be getting more problematic.

Mayor Miller – Our contracted Ranger Will Green is doing an exceptional job with the dogs in town. Traditionally there are always more issues with dogs and other animals over the Christmas/New Year period with many absentee owners.

CEO – Ranger Will Green is doing excellent work. An Employee from the Council’s Depot has stepped into a Ranger role on a temporary basis and we are actively advertising for a fulltime Ranger. We can look at the budget to see if there are any further measures we can take to improve the situation.

DM Gazey –. What is the nature of the Streetlight requests?

DCCS – Lights are not working. These were requests with regard to our new lights and we are investigating the cause of the failures. However, we believe the most likely cause is old infrastructure speaking to the new technology.

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of December 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.2 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017

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

MOVED: Clark / Hurley

DM Gazey – The reported “Average Sale/Person” doesn’t add up?
DCCS – Your mathematics is correct Alderman Gazey. The reported figure should read \$7.12
Alderman Clark – These are the best results in years and the VIC staff should be commended for their efforts.
Mayor Miller – Absolutely. The staff is doing an incredible job.

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Corporate and Community Services Division for the months of December 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.3 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2017

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

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

That the report of the Works and Services Division Report for the month of December 2017 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: Gazey / Clark

Alderman Hurley – On page 19, what are the “reimbursements”?
DCCS - Reimbursements occur where Council facilities are hired by a third party. A good example is the showgrounds during show month. Council pay the electricity bill, but the cost of electricity consumed by the Show over the period, is invoiced back to the Society by Council.

Alderman Clark – Macs Hire – Did Council purchase a concrete rake?
DCCS – Council hired a concrete rake for a period of two days.
Alderman Clark – Neil Mansell Freight – Delivering 1 pallet to Bunnings?
DCCS – This should read “delivered from Bunnings”. The items were delivered to Council, not delivered by Council.
Alderman Clark – The payment for 90 new seats for the Showgrounds was made in 3 progress payments. These were replacement chairs for the cracked and deteriorated grandstand seating and we welcome the new seats.
Alderman Raynor – Page 25 - Aerostart - Why does the Council require this?
CEO – will take on notice.
Alderman Raynor – Page 26 - Tradelink - Supply Septic tanks and fittings?
DCCS – These were a number of items purchased in relation to works at the Showgrounds. Payment was made utilising Rodeo Ground funding.
Alderman Raynor – Patow - Towing Adelaide River to Katherine.
CEO – My car developed a fault just outside of Adelaide River. The vehicle was returned to Katherine for repairs.
Alderman Zellely – Page 25 - Repairs to Track Loader. Seems a lot of money for hoses?
CEO – Yes, they are expensive machines to repair. Hopefully the new machine will save us having to make these sorts of repairs.

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of November 2017.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.5 DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE PROPERTY

File: Property Management / Disposal / Asset Disposal Auctions

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Gazey

DM Gazey – Do the Ipads have chargers and are they worth retaining?
Mayor Miller – If they do, we should keep them, unless they don't fit any other Ipads. We will investigate that.

That it be recommended to Council:

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to dispose of the non-functioning items as listed above.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.6 NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT ON COMMITTEES – NT GRANTS COMMISSION

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Nominated Mayor Miller for the position.
Alderman Clark seconded the nomination.
Mayor Miller – I am happy to accept the nomination, but I believe the Commission will be looking for a candidate from another area.

That it be recommended to Council:

1. Determine if a nomination is to be made; and
2. Endorse the nominated Mayor/Alderman through a formal resolution
3. Notify LGANT of the nominated representative(s)

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.6 NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT ON COMMITTEES – EASA Board

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Zelle

There were no nominations from the Council for the position on the EASA Board.

That it be recommended to Council:

1. Determine if a nomination is to be made; and
2. Endorse the nominated Mayor/Alderman through a formal resolution
3. Notify LGANT of the nominated representative(s)

CARRIED: 6 / 0

14. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Deputy Mayor Gazey

EMIS

Community Forum with Minister Scullion

Australia Day Awards Judging Panel

Showground Advisory Committee

Alderman Clark

EMIS

Australia Day Awards Judging Panel

Showgrounds Advisory Committee

PFAS Community Walk-in Session, Knotts Crossing

Council Christmas party.

St Joseph's Awards Evening

Domestic Violence Framework

Katherine High School Awards

Alderman Raynor

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Open Forum

EMIS x 2

Community forum with Minister Scullion

Alderman Tapp Coutts

EMIS

Community Forum with Minister Scullion

Alderman Zelle
Ordinary Meeting of Council
Open Forum
EMIS
Community Forum with Minister Scullion
Sportsgrounds User Group
Australia Day Awards Judging Panel

Alderman Matthew Hurley
Ordinary Meeting of Council
EMIS
Open Forum
Australia Day Awards Judging Panel

15. LATE AGENDA ITEM

NIL

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

DM Gazey – Edith Farms residents wanted a skip bin rather than a wheelie bin? I would like to hear from the residents regarding their preferences prior to the February Council Meeting so I can have an informed opinion. I therefore encourage the residents to contact the Aldermen.

Alderman Hurley – Deterioration of Social Behaviour. There are other places where drugs and alcohol is being sold and I have been told the Police know but are not doing anything about it. Could Mayor Miller have this discussion with the Katherine Commander of Police?
Residents are paying a bin fee and not getting collection.

Mayor Miller – There are two levels of Waste Management Levies. The first is \$310.00, which covers bin collection services, the upkeep of and access to the town's Waste Management Facility (WMF) (dump). The second waste management levy is \$110.00 and covers the resident's access to the WMF. Those not getting a bin collection would be on this second levy. Is this what they are referring to?

Alderman Hurley – Possibly.

CEO – All residents are welcome to call the Council to get an explanation of their Rates Notice.

Alderman Clark – There has been a notable increase in antisocial behavior, even in Woolworths supermarket. I am hoping these issues can be sorted and alleviate before the onset of the next tourist season. The town is already suffering from the stigma of PFAS and the antisocial behaviour and litter around the place caused by bottles and other debris will be a further deterrent to tourists. There doesn't seem to be any visible measures in place to assist alleviate these problems.

Edith Farms do have a dump truck going past to Pine Creek on a weekly basis. The expense providing them a weekly curbside collection would be more than utilizing this truck. However, we would need to know if that Pine Creek truck could fit the rubbish or would they have to be emptied and then revisit Edith Farms.

Alderman Raynor – I put forward a "Motion Without Notice":

Motion without Notice

Recommendation:

The Katherine Town Council writes on behalf of the residents of Katherine and the Katherine Region to the current Minister for Primary Industry and Resources stating:

1. That we request, the Northern Territory Government places a legislative ban on all Unconventional Oil and Gas exploration and extraction in the Katherine Electoral boundaries, and;
2. That the Katherine Town Council will support at total ban on Unconventional Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction in the greater Katherine Region.

Alderman Raynor – This was a pledge to the constituents and we need to move on it now. We can do this as we are a Council and we are asking the Northern Territory Government to do this.

MOVED: Raynor / Tapp Coutts

Mayor Miller – After having a quick review of this Motion, do we want to lay this item on the table?

Alderman Hurley – I would like for it to be voted on now.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – We should only talk about the Municipality of Katherine and not implicate other Councils by using the term “Katherine Electorate” and “Katherine Region”.

Alderman Raynor – We are not saying we want a total ban on fracking. We are saying we “support a total ban”.

Mayor Miller – We need to focus on what we want for our municipal boundary. We can’t speak for other municipalities. It is a personal opinion for the greater Katherine region to decide upon.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – It needs to be reworked and worded with associated documentation for reference.

CEO – We should discuss with other Council before we vote on this. We might need to look at it with regard to legislation.

Alderman Raynor – We send letters of support for many things. We are saying “we support a total ban”. Is this not the same?

Mayor Miller – I suggest we need to have the discussion with the other Councils before we vote on any Motion. We can organize the meetings with those Councils but we cannot make an assumption that they are against fracking or would support a ban.

DM Gazey – Thank you Alderman Raynor for bringing this forward. I do have some concern about the wording and would prefer it be laid on the table to enable further discussion with other Councils. This Council has made our position known with regard to fracking. A thorough Report to Council for the February meeting is my preferred option.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – We cannot be presumptuous about what other Councils want. Roper Gulf is very much involved with fracking and it is a very contentious issue. It is not our place to get involved in that.

Alderman Clark – I am in agreement with Alderman Tapp Coutts. For the Katherine municipality I support this, but would like to see meetings with the other Councils to assess if they are keen to support such a Motion.

Mayor Miller – If our two neighbouring regional councils are against it, then we need to think about it too. But we must have the discussion with them

first. I would like to get more information to ensure we have got it right before voting on a Motion.

Alderman Raynor – I am prepared to put the Motion on the table providing it does come back to the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February and that the other Council's opinions are sought, to provide us with a complete picture.

The decision is to lay the Motion on the table for further discussion and decision at the February Ordinary Meeting of Council.

MOVED: Raynor / Tapp Coutts.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

GENERAL BUSINESS Cont.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – Items to think about for next meeting.

- Lobbying for a low security prison farm.
- Support services for persons returning to Katherine after serving a prison sentence to assist them reintegrate into the community.

Alderman Zelle – Neighbourhood Watch - Would like to have their Neighbourhood Watch stickers adhered to Council's Wheelie Bins.

CEO – The method of distribution needs to be thought through.

Alderman Zelle – Street Art would be a good addition to the town.

Alderman Tapp Coutts – A public arts strategy is currently under consideration and a proposal will soon be available for viewing.

Alderman Hurley – I wish to submit my leave of absence for the period 19 February – 4 March 2018.

Alderman Raynor – I wish to submit my leave of absence for the period 13 April – 01 May 2018.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

NIL

18. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The second Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 27 February 2018.

19. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.



Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE