



Etheridge Shire Council

CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM



**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

ATTENDANCE

Cr. Barry Hughes
Cr. Laurell Royes
Cr. Joe Haase
Cr. Tony Gallagher
Cr. Cameron Barns

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Renee Bester, Executive Assistant

OPEN GALLERY

Mr Aaron Gallagher

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.46 am and welcomed all in attendance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

"We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the history, cultural practice, and traditions, of their people."

PRAYER

"We ask that today you give us wisdom to make good decisions to benefit our communities. Help us see what will benefit our shire and give us hearts to serve others. Amen".

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Mayor Hughes congratulated Councillors on their exemplary performance throughout the last 4 year term.

Congratulations –

Council wish to congratulate Roderick Prior on his Master's World Championship Title.
Council wish to congratulate Judith Zahner for graduating from James Cook University with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering Honors. In addition, Judith was the recipient of the Port of Townsville Limited Prize in Engineering.

Condolences –

Council wish to send their condolences to the family and friends of Terry Walsh, a past employee of Etheridge Shire Council.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 21st February 2024

Correction of error:

Business Arising – #23.07.21 – Cr Royes requested an update on the land negotiation.

Amendments to Resolution #24.02.10:

Include an Executive Summary – Council received correspondence from The Hitching Post for the use of Council owned land within Georgetown adjacent to the Terrestrial Centre for the operation of a coffee van.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.01
5/0

Amend the Resolution – That Council advise the author of the letter that the application is subject to a permit under Subordinate Local Law 1 – Schedule 8 'Commercial Use of Local Government controlled areas and roads' being submitted and the set fee being paid, then the complete application will be considered by Council.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.02
5/0

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes including the amendments of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 21st February 2024 be amended to include the above.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.03
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes

#24.02.02 – Request update on the provision of meals to Etheridge Cares including communication to the executives of the organization.

Cr Haase

#24.02.16 – Request update on addressed issues for the Georgetown Student Hostel

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting for Morning Tea at 10.24am.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10.46am.

ATTENDANCE

Ken Timms, Renee Bester and Aaron Gallagher left the meeting at 10.45am.

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 10.47am to discuss (e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government under section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 which states that:

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss the sale of land.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.04
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolve to come out of closed session at 10.59am.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.05
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Ken Timms and Renee Bester returned to the meeting at 11.00am.

RESOLUTION

A verbal update on the recent grievance complaint was presented to Council.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.06
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Laurie Hawker entered the meeting at 11.05am.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a petition from Georgetown State School for the construction of a skate/bike park for all children.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to:

- a) Advise Georgetown State School of Councils receipt of the petition
- b) Consider the proposal in the 2024/25 budget process

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.07
5/0

Director Corporate Services

1. Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges and receives the Director of Corporate Services' Briefing Report.
2. Recognise ADCS Neil Crotty's efforts in the funding received by HIF

MOVED: Cr. Barnes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.08
5/0

2. Financial Performance (Actual vs. Budget) for the period 1 July 2022 to 29th February 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires the Chief Executive Officer to present a Financial Report of its accounts to the Local Government at least monthly.

RESOLUTION

That Council pursuant Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, resolve to adopt the monthly Financial Report the period ending 29th February 2024, as presented.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.09
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the meeting at 11.21am and returned to the meeting at 11.23am.

Renee Bester left the meeting at 11.56am and returned to the meeting at 11.58am.

Laurie Hawker left the meeting at 12.03pm

Raju Ranjit entered the meeting at 12.04pm.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

3. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Engineering Services' Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.10
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting for Lunch at 1.12pm.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1.43pm.

CHAIR

Mayor Barry Hughes left the meeting at 1.55pm and Deputy Mayor Royes accepted position of Chair. Mayor Barry Hughes returned to the meeting at 1.58pm and resumed position of Chair.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

4. Application for Renewal of Lease – Lot 30 ET39

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the Department of Resources requesting Council's views or requirements that the department should consider and/or that may affect the future use of the land, in relation to the land described as Lot 30 on ET39 – 2024/000780, with the current lease expiring on 8th March 2025.

RESOLUTION

That Council advise the Department of Resources that with regard to the renewal of this lease:

- Council has no objections to the renewal of lease for Lot 30 on ET39 – 2024/000780.
- Councils preference is for a 20 year term trustee lease

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.11
4/1

VOTE

Cr Royes voted against the above agenda item.

ATTENDANCE

Ken Timms left the meeting at 2.23pm and returned to the meeting at 2.26pm.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

5. Construction of footpath and kerb/gutter – St George Street, Georgetown

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council invited to three contractors from Local buy and external contractors and received from all the invited contractors . The quotations were assessed based on the experience, previous performance, and prices.

RECOMMENDATION

Due to Caretaker Period provisions this matter was deferred to next Council Meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

6. Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.12
/0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Royes - Neem Tree Infestation - Health risk in Einasleigh and minimisation of the rapid spread of Neem Trees along the Copperfield River. Refer on to Bio-security

Cr Royes - Mosquito Fogging Subsidy - Use of personal fogging machines and proposal of the assessment of a "Shire wide Subsidy"

Cr Royes - Location of Tourism Pavilions - lack of community consultation/consideration. Refer to proposed changes regarding Consultation Policy.

Cr Royes - Urgent Works needed at Einasleigh Refuse Area to service the annual large public event, Easter at Einasleigh.

Cr Royes - Mesh fencing to alleviate the spread of rubbish (and counteract town maintenance hrs) Mt Surprise & Einasleigh

Cr Royes - Council awareness of their role in minimising the spread of invasive and detrimental weeds. (Prolific establishment of Grader Grass on new GDR works West of Tallaroo turn-off.) Referred to Lands Officer and Bio-Security

Cr Royes - W4Q

- Request a copy of (previous round)2020/2021 W4Q Grant applications (and acquittal documentation)
- Request a copy of (current round) 2021 - 2024 W4Q Grant application (and current status (budget VS works completed)

Cr Royes - Georgetown Town fence

Cr Royes - Helicopter exhibit in Terrestrial Centre

Cr Royes - Urgent action to ensure the Lynd Community Building is able to be used by community members including grocery truck

Cr Royes - Community Grants Position - Proposed budget allocation for a "General Community Grants Position."

Cr Royes - Tertiary education/up-skilling Council Bursary

Cr Haase - Has a date been set for wet hire contractors meeting and briefing? And at what point will the new list begin to be used?

Cr Gallagher – Query as to why depth markers have been put on the downstream side of the Etheridge and the Delaney rivers. Referred and answered by Engineer.

Mayor - Correspondence received from Valerie Gray regarding the provision for suitable outdoor exercise equipment in Forsayth. Noted for 2024/25 Budget consideration.

Cr Barns - Councils Advocacy on behalf of shire residents to Government departments and advocacy policies for Council (eg. Dept Env Sc - Mt Surprise Bore water, Southern and Northern road approaches signage warnings on the Einasleigh River crossing Lyndhurst, advocacy letter to TMR for better signage to allow for adequate warning for drivers to stop due to narrow causeway and flood section)

ATTENDANCE

Cr Barns left the meeting at 3.47pm and returned to the meeting at 3.50pm.

John Barns entered the Meeting Gallery at 3.56pm.

Cr Haase left the meeting at 4.44pm and returned to the meeting at 4.46pm.

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges the receipt of the documents received from Shannon Zohl on behalf of the Mt Surprise Community Meeting held 6th March 2024 and advise the community that Council has commenced taking steps to address the progression of issues raised.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.03.13
5/0

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 4.50pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2024.

B.G. Hughes *29/4/24*

MAYOR

DATE