



Clarence City Council Annual General Meeting 2022

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BLIGH STREET, ROSNY PARK, ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with the Mayor (Cr B Blomeley) in the Chair and with Councillors:

A Ritchie (Deputy Mayor)
H Chong
J Darko
E Goyne
D Hulme
B Hunter
R James
T Mulder
J Walker
B Warren; present

APOLOGIES:

W Kennedy (Leave of Absence)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer
(Mr I Nelson)

Chief Financial Officer
(Ms J Murrell)

Group Manager Engineering Services
(Mr R Graham)

Manager City Planning
(Mr R Lovell)

Manager Communication and Strategic Development
(Mr C Paske)

Executive Officer to the CEO
(Ms J Ellis)

The Meeting closed at 7.27pm.



Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor made the following declaration:

"I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay respect to elders, past and present".



1. OPENING

The Mayor declared the Meeting open at 7.00pm.

2. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILLORS

The Mayor introduced the Councillors present at the Meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Kennedy (Leave of Absence)

4. MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Refer to agenda.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Decision: **MOVED** Cr Walker **SECONDED** Cr Mulder

“That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 6 December 2021, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



6. ANNUAL REPORT

A. ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

- **GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Mayor tabled the Annual Report and provided a general overview of Council's challenges, achievements and highlights which occurred during the year.

The Mayor conveyed his appreciation to councillors, both those recently elected and councillors during the previous term of Council. The Mayor also acknowledged the contribution of the former Mayor Doug Chipman. On behalf of Council the Mayor thanked the Chief Executive Officer, his staff and the many volunteers for their support to the Clarence community.

B. PRESENTATION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Chief Executive Officer provided a summary of the operational activities of the council over the past 12 months. He expressed his appreciation to all staff for their efforts and contribution. The CEO also acknowledged the former Mayor, Doug Chipman, for his years of service, support and leadership. Finally, the CEO expressed his thanks to the former Deputy Mayor and Councillors for their support, decision making and leadership over the past year.

C. PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL'S 2021/22 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Financial Officer gave a detailed overview of the Financial Statements in the Annual Report and Council's overall financial performance.

The Mayor invited questions on the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Cr James asked the following questions:

- **Question 1**

You mentioned about the 14.5 million dollar loan that was granted to council. We didn't utilise that over the last 3 years I understand?

ANSWER

(Chief Financial Officer) It has been part of the capital program on many different projects so some of those projects have been finished but others are continuing.



PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL'S 2021/22 FINANCIAL REPORT /contd

Question Cr James contd

So did we invest that money into any short term deposits for that time?

ANSWER

We did invest so we are earning interest on that money.

Question contd

So in other words we will pay it back but we have earned interest over the time?

ANSWER

Correct.

- **Question 2**

On page 75 of the report there is a total reserve made up of a number of those line items of 390 million dollars. Given that we may need a bucket of money for stormwater infrastructure is there any one of those that could be designated and this of course is a big ask, we have to consider a budget to even meet some of those outstanding projects in relation to stormwater?

ANSWER

(Chief Financial Officer) It depends on the project and whether it's renewal funding and if some of it is renewal funding we can use the renewal reserve so that is what they were built to help in that regard. New funding is not sourced from reserves so we would have to find another resource for that.

D. SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

The Mayor advised the Meeting that there were no submissions on the Annual Report received prior to the meeting.

E. DISCUSSION ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

As there had been no submissions no discussion occurred in respect to this item.



F. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

Decision: **MOVED** Cr Ritchie **SECONDED** Cr Goyne

“That the 2021/22 Annual Report and 2021/22 Financial Report be received”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The Mayor advised that there had been no Motions on Notice received prior to the Annual General Meeting.

8. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Mayor advised that there had been no Questions on Notice received prior to the Annual General Meeting.

9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr James

Question 1

There has been extensive reconstruction within the Planning Department and there has been a number of new appointments to planning. Has that been completed and do we have a full complement?

ANSWER

(Manager City Planning) We have funding for the required number of staff however we do have some vacancies caused by resignations and long term ill health. We are not at full complement but we do have the required number of full time positions.

**Question 2**

We do have a council meeting programmed for 19 December. Will council give some consideration to:

- a. That meeting being open to the public for deliberations in relation to any matters;
- b. Will council be considering amongst other things any other issue which may be discussed in relation to a buy back of the land at Kangaroo Bay?

ANSWER

(Chief Executive Officer) The meeting on the 19th is an ordinary council meeting so it will be open to the public in the usual way other than any matters that need to be dealt with in closed meeting. Specifically to your question in relation to the Chambroad matter that will be dealt with in open council.

Cr Hulme

I am curious about the financial challenges that are facing council being in a high inflation environment and am interested if we have a sense for how the inflation in both capital and recurrent costs for council in the environment compares to CPI inflation?

ANSWER

(Chief Financial Officer) The CPI is a problem for council for the budget process. We have an Enterprise Agreement linked to CPI and many contracts are linked to CPI, so we are forecasting CPI at the moment, which is only a guess, at anywhere between 5-6% so it is a significant factor for us to consider in the this part of the budget process.

Question contd

I understand that in terms of our recurrent expenditure a lot of that is salaries linked to CPI but also in terms of capital costs do we have a sense of how inflation in council's capital cost is tracking is that above CPI or below CPI?

ANSWER

(Chief Financial Officer) I had a conversation with one of the engineers the other day and they were saying that what they are tracking and some of the tenders coming in are higher than CPI. That is why for the 2022-2023 year we had the extra funding for any higher tenders and we may need to look at doing something similar for 2023-2024.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 7.27 pm.