

# TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

# **ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES**

of the Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, Lands Building, Nemingha Room, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth

25 JUNE 2024

PAUL BENNETT GENERAL MANAGER

# **ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, Lands Building, Nemingha Room, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2024 at 6:30PM

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PRESENT: Cr Russell Webb (Mayor), Cr Phil Betts, Cr Bede Burke, Cr Judy

Coates, Cr Stephen Mears, Cr Brooke Southwell, Cr Marc

Sutherland, Cr Mark Rodda, Cr Helen Tickle.

IN ATTENDANCE: The General Manager, Director Liveable Communities, Director

Regional Services, Director Water and Waste and Executive Manager

- Creative Communities and Experiences

# 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NIL

# 2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Ben Hopkins – Spoke in support of the Motion

9.4 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL - INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR 2024/2025

Daphney Mandel - spoke to the recommendation

10.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL TOURISM PRECINCT STRATEGY & BUSINESS CASE

Peter Gill – spoke in opposition of the recommendation

9.4 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL - INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR 2024/2025

Peter Gill – Spoke in opposition of the recommendation

# 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Sutherland/Cr Burke

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 and Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 June 2024, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

#### 141/24 RESOLVED

# 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr Marc Sutherland declared a conflict of interest in Item 8.1 — Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee' of the Business Paper, for the reasons that he is on the NAIDOC Committee and the report discusses road closures during NAIDOC week. Cr Sutherland further declared that this was a less than significant, Non-Pecuniary interest and he would remain in the Chamber and participate in the debate.

# 5 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

# 6 NOTICE OF MOTION

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CR MARK RODDA - TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND OPENNESS

### MOTION

# Moved Cr Rodda/Cr Mears

That council develop a policy framework and procedure for recording interactions between council staff, councillors, lobbyists, developers, builders, their agents and real estate agents and in particular

#### **MOTION DEFEATED**

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DECISION	THE DECISION
1. Cr Stephen Mears	<ol> <li>Cr Phil Betts</li> </ol>
2. Cr Mark Rodda	<ol><li>Cr Bede Burke</li></ol>
	<ol><li>Cr Judy Coates</li></ol>
	<ol><li>Cr Brooke Southwell</li></ol>
	<ol><li>Cr Marc Sutherland</li></ol>
	6. Cr Helen Tickle
	7. Cr Russell Webb

### **OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS**

# 7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL ON-SITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Rachel Mann, Senior Environmental Health Officer

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Southwell/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Council On-Site Wastewater Management Plan", Council:

- (i) approve the draft "Tamworth Regional Council On-Site Wastewater Management Plan" for public exhibition for a period of 28 days; and
- (ii) receive a subsequent report to a future ordinary meeting of Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition prior to adoption of the final plan.

#### 142/24 RESOLVED

7.2 DEFERRAL OF SECTION 64 HEADWORKS CHARGES FOR SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENTS - POLICY UPDATE

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

**AUTHOR:** \ Benjamin Mobilio, Senior Development Engineer

#### **MOTION**

### Moved Cr Burke/Cr Rodda

That in relation to the report "Deferral of Section 64 Headworks Charges for Subdivision Developments - Policy Update", Council:

- (i) endorse the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Policy for a period of 28 days;
- (ii) in the case there are no further changes requested to the Draft Revised Policy or no negative submissions received, authorise the adoption of the Revised Policy.

# 8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 5 June 2024

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Steven Marshall, Strategy, Assets and Design Engineer

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Betts/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 5 June 2024", Council:

- (i) approve the extension of the bus zone directly out the front of Calrossy Boarding House at 24-34 Tribe Street, North Tamworth by 12m to create enough storage room for two buses;
- (ii) approve the NAIDOC march along Peel Street and White Street in Tamworth and its associated traffic impacts along adjoining streets, from 9:30am to 10.30am on 12 July 2024; and
- (iii) approve the 'A Winters Night' event and the closure of Peel Street, Tamworth, from Bourke Street to Brisbane Street, from 11:00am to 10:00pm on 10 August 2024.

### 144/24 RESOLVED

# 9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE OFF FOR 2023/2024 - FILE NO

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER Seon Millsteed, Revenue Accountant

### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Coates/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report "Sundry Debtor Write Off for 2023/2024", Council approve the writing off of sundry debtors totalling \$654,307.54 in accordance with Section 131 and 213 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

#### 9.2 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS MAY 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

**Robyn Barnes, Accountant** 

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Tickle/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report "Council Investments May 2024", Council receive and note the report.

#### 146/24 RESOLVED

# 9.3 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023/2024 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - MAY 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

Reference: Item 9.5 to Ordinary Council 29 June 2023 - Minute No

146/23

#### **MOTION**

### Moved Cr Southwell/Cr Coates

That in relation to the report "Annual Operational Plan 2023/2024 Budget Variation Report - May 2024", Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in ATTACHED refer ANNEXURE 1 to the report.

# 9.4 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL - INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR 2024/2025

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

Anna Russell, Manager - Strategy and Performance

Reference: Item 9.1 to Ordinary Council 14 May 2024 - Minute No

95/24

Item 8.3 to Ordinary Council 28 May 2024 - Minute No

110/24

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Betts/Cr Tickle

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Council – Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents for 2024/2025", Council makes the following determinations:

- (i) in relation to ordinary rates, Council adopts the Special Variation Scenario of 18.5% (inclusive of a 4.9% rate peg increase) annual maximum rate peg, as approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART);
- (ii) in accordance with Section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the ordinary rates for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, refer ANNEXURE 2:
- (iii) in accordance with Part 9, Division 5, clause 211(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council approves expenditure and vote funds as detailed in DRAFT Our Delivery Plan 2023-2025 and Our Annual Plan and Budget 2024/25 as per the Special Variation Scenario;
- (iv) Council authorises the affixing of the Seal of the Council to all Loan Documents relating to 2024/2025 loan funding for:
  - Skywalk;
  - Aquatic Centre;
  - Digital Transformation;

as detailed in DRAFT Our Delivery Plan 2023-2025 and Our Annual Plan and Budget 2024/25, and DRAFT Statement of Revenue Policy 2024/25, refer ANNEXURE 1 and ANNEXURE 2;

- (v) in relation to water supply charges; in accordance with Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the charges for Water Supply Services in 2024/2025, refer ANNEXURE 2 (as per below amendment (xii));
- (vi) in relation to sewerage service charges; in accordance with Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the charges for Sewerage Services in 2024/2025, refer ANNEXURE 2;
- (vii) in relation to waste management charges, in accordance with Section 496 and Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make

- and levy the annual charges for Waste Management Services in 2024/2025, refer ANNEXURE 2;
- (viii) in relation to stormwater management service charges, in accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and impose the charges for the purpose of construction of Stormwater Management Services identified in Council's Urban Area Stormwater Management Plan(s), refer ANNEXURE 2:
- (ix) in relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council make and impose the maximum charge for interest of 10.5% on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993;
- (x) in relation to the exhibited fees and charges; fees and charges for the actual use of services provided by Council as detailed in DRAFT Our Delivery Plan 2024/2025 and Our Annual Plan and Budget 2024/2025 be adopted in accordance with Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, refer ANNEXURE 3.;
- (xi) in accordance with Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council adopt DRAFT Our Delivery Plan 2023-/2025 and Our Annual Plan and Budget 2024/25 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 1, DRAFT Statement of Revenue Policy 2024/25 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 2, and DRAFT Our Fees & Charges 2024/25 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 3 subject to the removal of all Base Case Scenarios to reflect the recommendations outlined in this report;
- (xii) Amend page 20 of ANNEXURE 2, DRAFT Statement of Revenue Policy 2024/2025 to reflect water consumption charges in 2024/2025 that are 4.9% higher than the water consumption charges levied in 2023/2024 financial year and as tabled at the Council meeting; and
- (xiii) Note that the current budget incorporates a new Aquatic Centre. Since preparing this budget, a grant application to the Federal Government for \$15M was not successful. The budget will need to be amended to reflect this change and any adopted alternate course of action in the 2024/2025 financial year. Any loan funding in excess of the \$15M contained in the IP&R documentation will require separate approval by Council.

# COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION

- 1. Cr Phil Betts
- 2. Cr Bede Burke
- 3. Cr Judy Coates
- 4. Cr Brooke Southwell
- 5. Cr Marc Sutherland
- 6. Cr Helen Tickle
- 7. Cr Russell Webb

# COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST** THE DECISION

- 1. Cr Stephen Mears
- 2. Cr Mark Rodda

# 9.5 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBER TO THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Burke/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report "Appointment of External Member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee", Council appoint Mr Glenn Inglis as an external independent member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a four year period from 17 September 2024.

#### 149/24 RESOLVED

# 10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

# 10.1 2024/2025 REGIONAL EVENTS MARKETING SUPPORT PROGRAM

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES
AUTHOR: Linda Bridges, Coordinator Visitor Economy

#### MOTION

### Moved Cr Betts/Cr Sutherland

That in relation to the report "2024/2025 Regional Events Marketing Support Program", Council:

- (i) \support the recommended events as noted within the body of this report; and
- (ii) approve the allocation of funds as outlined in the body of the report.

#### 10.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL TOURISM PRECINCT STRATEGY AND BUSINESS CASE

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES AUTHOR: Linda Bridges, Coordinator Visitor Economy

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Sutherland/Cr Burke

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Tourism Precinct Strategy and Business Case", Council;

- i) defer the report and hold a Councillor workshop; and
- ii) present a further report to a future Council meeting for determination.

#### 151/24 RESOLVED

# 11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

At 7.49pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public to make representations as to whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

The General Manager advised the Chairperson that no written public submissions or representations had been received as to whether or not part of the Meeting should be closed to the public. The Chairperson asked any members of the Council whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Southwell/Cr Mears

That the confidential reports as listed be considered in a Meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

#### 152/24 RESOLVED

#### TENDER T073/2024 - 83-97 BRISBANE STREET SUBFLOOR RENEWAL

**DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES** 

AUTHOR: Claire Turnor, Projects Engineer

Mark Gardiner, Manager - Project Planning and Delivery

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(g) of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and advice concerning litigation, or advice as comprises a discussion of this matter, that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

#### T076/2024 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE DRAIN AND SEWER JETTING 4x2 TRUCK

**DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES** 

**AUTHOR:** Stephen Groth, Technical Officer - Fleet and Workshops

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)ii of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council.

CARDBOARD PROCESSING AGREEMENT - COUNCIL AND OPAL PACKAGING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

**DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE** 

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)i of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

PROPOSED LEASE TO TAMWORTH CRICKET INCORPORATED OF PART OF LOT 23 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 95995 AND PART OF LOT 22 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 95995

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Samuel Eriksson, Sports and Recreation Strategy Officer

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c) of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

#### **CLOSED COUNCIL**

# **Confidential Reports**

# (Section 10A(2) of The Local Government Act 1993)

Where it is proposed to close part of the Meeting, the Chairperson will allow members of the public to make representations to or at the meeting, before any part of the Meeting is closed to the public, as to whether or not that part of the meeting should be closed to the public.

The Chairperson will check with the General Manager whether any written public submissions or representations have been received as to whether or not that part of the meeting should be closed to the public.

The grounds on which part of the Council meeting may be closed to public are listed in Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 and are as follows:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals other than Councillors,
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed;
  - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
  - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
  - (iii) reveal a trade secret,
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,
- (f) matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property,
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.
- (h) during the receipt of information or discussion of information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440.

Section 10A(3) of the Act provides that Council, or a Committee of the Council of which all the members are councillors, may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public.

Section 10B(3) of the Act provides that if a meeting is closed during discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in section 10A(3) of the Act), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting (other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is matter referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act).

Section 10B(1) of the Act provides that a meeting is not to remain closed to the public during the receipt of information or the discussion of matters referred to in section 10A(2):

- (a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and
- (b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret - unless the Council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest section 10B(4) of the Act states it is irrelevant that:

- (a) a person may interpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may:
  - (i) cause embarrassment to the Council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
  - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the Council or committee.

#### **Resolutions passed in Closed Council**

It is a requirement of Clause 253 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 that any resolution passed in Closed Council, or Committee be made public as soon as practicable after the meeting has ended. At the end of Closed Council or Committee meeting, the Chairperson will provide a summary of those resolutions passed in Closed Council or Committee.

# 12 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORTS

#### 12.1 Tender T073/2024 - 83-97 Brisbane Street Subfloor Renewal

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Claire Turnor, Projects Engineer

Mark Gardiner, Manager - Project Planning and Delivery

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Coates/Cr Betts

That in relation to the report "Tender T073/2024 - 83-97 Brisbane Street Subfloor Renewal", Council:

- (i) note the project update and the details of the tender;
- (ii) approve an allocation of up to \$1 million from the Buildings Reserve to fund the works;
- (iii) note that, subject to an acceptable outcome from the tender, the General Manager will award a contract under delegation; and
- (iv) authorise the Council seal be affixed to the construction contract.

#### 153/24 RESOLVED

12.2 T076/2024 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE DRAIN AND SEWER JETTING

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Stephen Groth, Technical Officer - Fleet and

Workshops

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Burke/Cr Rodda

That in relation to the report "T076/2024 - Supply and Delivery of One Drain and Sewer Jetting 4x2 truck", Council:

- (i) award the tender to Double R Pty Ltd (ABN 61 116 529 938) for the purchase price of \$329,475.32 exclusive of GST;
- (ii) allow an additional \$9,883.50 exclusive of GST for the optional jetting unit storage pod; and
- (iii) accept the tender from Pickle's Auctions Pty Ltd (ABN 32 003 417 650) in the amount of \$18,636.37 exclusive of GST for the purchase of the trade truck and jetting unit.

#### 154/24 RESOLVED

#### 12.3 CARDBOARD PROCESSING AGREEMENT - COUNCIL AND OPAL PACKAGING

#### **AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

#### **MOTION**

#### Moved Cr Mears/Cr Southwell

That in relation to the report "Cardboard Processing Agreement - Council and Opal Packaging Australia Pty Ltd", Council enter into an Agreement with Opal Packaging Australia Pty Ltd for the processing of Old Corrugated Containers (cardboard) as set out in the report and the draft Agreement attached.

#### 155/24 RESOLVED

12.4 PROPOSED LEASE TO TAMWORTH CRICKET INCORPORATED OF PART OF LOT 23 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 95995 AND PART OF LOT 22 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 95995

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Samuel Eriksson, Sports and Recreation Strategy

Officer

#### **MOTION**

### Moved Cr Betts/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report "Proposed Lease to Tamworth Cricket Incorporated of Part of Lot 23 in Deposited Plan 95995 and Part of Lot 22 in Deposited Plan 95995", Council:

- (i) authorise the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate the terms of a new lease to Tamworth Cricket Incorporated as set out herein; and
- (ii) authorise the affixing of the Seal of Council to the lease document and any other associated documentation.

# 13 RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

#### **MOTION**

### Moved Cr Southwell/Cr Burke

That Council move into Open Council.

#### 157/24 RESOLVED

At 7.58pm the meeting moved back into Open Council.

In accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice, Section 14.21, the Chairperson provided a summary of the resolutions passed in Closed Council.

Closure: There being no further business the Ordinary Meeting of Council concluded at 7.59pm.

Cr Russell Webb, Chairperson Tuesday, 9 July 2024

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