

**MINUTES OF YARRABAH ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE YARRABAH ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023 AT 9.14AM**

PRESENT: Cr Brian Underwood, Cr Lucrecia Willett, Cr Kenneth Jackson, Cr Hezron Murgha.

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Wright (CEO), Mike Mair (Director Corporate Services), Preston Andrews (Director Works and Infrastructure), Leona Worrell (Acting Director Human Resources, Risk & Regulations – Minute Taker)

INTRODUCTION

TO NEW STAFF: At 9.08am the CEO introduced new staff to Councillors in attendance:-Terry Farrelly (Director Community Services) and Rani Sam-Johnson (Human Resources Officer)

1 MEETING OPEN

The CEO advised Council that Cr Ross Andrews (Mayor) would be late for the meeting due to other duties. Other matters Council should note was that there was Sorry Business today at 10am. Council determined that the meeting would adjourn at 9.45am -10.45am as a sign of respect.

The CEO also advised that Minister de Brenni was scheduled to visit at 1.30pm.

Deputy Mayor Underwood declared the meeting open at 9.14am.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed councillors and staff members present to the meeting.

One minute silence was observed to respect those who have passed away.

Councillor Willett opened with a word of Prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Deputy Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians from both Gunggandji and Mandingalbay Yidinji nations on whose country the meeting is being held today, their elders, past present and emerging still reside in Yarrabah.

Acknowledgment also offered to the other Trustees of this land (the PBCs), the stolen generations and for our historical descendants whose elders past present and emerging also call Yarrabah home and support progress in the Shire.

3 APOLOGIES

CEO advised Council that Cr Ross Andrews (Mayor) would be late for the meeting due to other duties. Councillors noted and accepted apology.

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**RESOLUTION 01:24/01/2023**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 December 2022 be adopted.

Moved: Cr Hezron Murgha

Seconded: Cr Kenneth Jackson

CARRIED 4/4

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Kenneth Jackson asked about the membership with TCICA. The CEO advised this is covered in his report and correspondence has been sent for considered in TCICA March 2023 meeting.

6 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST – COUNCIL / REGISTER UPDATES

The Deputy Mayor reminded the Councillors of the requirement to declare their conflicts of interest to the CEO prior to the meeting and called on all councillors to re-declare then now.

No declarations Made

7 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**7.1 CEO OPERATIONAL REPORT****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

Monthly Council meeting report on the operational and strategic performance of council business for months of December 2022 / January 2023.

CEO read to the report.

CEO advised that container exchange was planned to open in March. Funding had only been provided for Council to operate the facility: for 6 months 2/3 days per week. Council was seeking an option to lease operation of the facility to another community organisation such as Seahawks, due to impact of ongoing costs to Council.

Cr Lucrecia Willett inquired as to why Seahawks Club were not eligible for Social reinvestment Grant, due to the work they have already been doing with regards to promotion around Domestic Violence awareness. Further clarification to be obtained by CEO.

Cr Hezron Murgha asked if Bishop Malcom Park would be ready for Survival day – CEO was reassured by his team, it will be ready. Councillors noted the completion had already gone past the due date & contractors should be held accountable for any late completions. Cr Kenneth Jackson stated a penalty clause should be included in contractors contracts re completion of projects on time.

09.45am Mayor Ross Andrews entered meeting

RESOLUTION 02:24/01/2023

That Council accept the CEO Operational Report for the period to 20 January 2023.

Moved: Cr Brian Underwood

Seconded: Cr Lucrecia Willett

CARRIED 5/5

09.50am - Meeting adjourned for Sorry Business

10.30am - Meeting reconvened

10.30am – Director Corporate Services entered the meeting.

7.2 YASC MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Provide council with monthly financial report. This report covers the financial period 31 December 2022.

Director Corporate Services read to the report.

Cr Hezron Murgha suggested further training may be needed with regards to allocating resources for QBuild matters. CEO stated training has been provided through QBUILD a few times and would be ongoing as required, including actions in relation to productivity. Cr Kenneth Jackson noted that council is losing too much money in this area.

CEO advised that inquiries were being conducted with Wugu Nyambil for projects similar to Work for the Dole to assist in deliveries in some operational areas, including administration support and parks & gardens. This would allow participants practical experience whilst assisting deliveries in these areas.

Director stated more engagement with departmental heads this financial year with regards to preparing their respective budgets. This was identified by QTC in their initial assessment.

Cr Lucrecia Willett noted available positions advertised for Housing staff and recommended that new/existing staff must not have a debt with Council. CEO noted and agreed that this would be implemented.

Mayor Ross Andrews asked about the costings for the W4Q4. CEO advised that final costings were yet to be supplied and would be made available for Council consideration shortly.

RESOLUTION 03:24/01/2023

That Council accept the 31 December 2022 Finance Reports as tabled.

1. Operating results
2. Current Debtors:
 - Trade Debtors & Creditors,
 - Housing Debtors
3. Capital works
4. Balance sheet
5. Cash position
6. Status of Commercial leases
7. Areas of Interest Report
8. Grants Report

Moved: Cr Brian Underwood

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 5/5

12.15pm - Director Corporate Services left the meeting

12.15pm - Meeting adjourned

1.00pm - Meeting reconvened

7.3 HUMAN RESOURCES - OPERATIONAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to Council the status/activities of Human Resources areas for the month up to 20 January 2023.

The Acting Director read to the report.

RESOLUTION 04:24/01/2023

That Council accept the report of the Acting Director, Human Resources, Risk & Regulations, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Kenneth Jackson

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 5/5

1.26pm - Meeting adjourned for visit of the Honourable Michael de Brenni, Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement.

2.56pm - Meeting reconvened.

Deputy Mayor requested minutes reflect that Mayor Andrews and Councillor Willett were absent as they were still involved with Ministerial visit. As a quorum existed, the meeting would continue.

7.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES - OPERATIONAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Council an overview of operational activities undertaken within the Department of Community Services for the following period, December 2022 to January 2023.

In the absence of the Director, Community Services, the CEO read to the report.

RESOLUTION 05:24/01/2023

That Council accept the Acting Director of Community Services Operational Report, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Kenneth Jackson

Seconded: Cr Brian Underwood

CARRIED 3/3

7.6 QUEENSLAND TREASURY CORPORATION - BUDGET FORECASTING AND SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek formal Council endorsement of engagement with the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) to conduct Budget Forecasting and sustainability review.

The CEO advised Council that QTC had commenced their review, including workshops with Councillors and managers. As part of the engagement, a formal resolution was required by Council endorsing this engagement.

RESOLUTION 06:24/01/2023

That Council resolve to

1. Endorse the Budget and Forecast Review Project to be undertaken by Queensland Treasury Corporation.
2. Authorise retrospectively the CEO to sign on behalf of Council any documents required to facilitate this engagement.

Moved: Cr Kenneth Jackson

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 3/3

3.18pm Meeting adjourned

3.46pm Meeting reconvened. Mayor Andrews and Councillor Willett returned to meeting.

7.9 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM:

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – ■■■■■■■■■■.

Council discussed application. Councillors could not confirm the aboriginality of the applicant.

RESOLUTION 07:24/01/2023

That Council resolve, in relation to the application for confirmation of Aboriginality/Community Affiliation as submitted by ■■■■■■■■■■

1. not accept the application as submitted. The CEO is instructed to advise the applicant and refer the matter to the relevant PBC for determination.

Moved: Cr Brian Underwood

Seconded: Cr Lucrecia Willett

CARRIED 5/5

7.10 CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY / COMMUNITY AFFILIATION APPLICANT FORM:

[REDACTED]

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Present information to council from community resident seeking Confirmation of Aboriginality endorsement consideration. Applicant – [REDACTED].

Councillors discussed the application and advised the applicant is known and aboriginality can be confirmed.

RESOLUTION 08:24/01/2023

That Council resolve, in relation to the application for confirmation of Aboriginality/Community Affiliation as submitted by [REDACTED]

1. To accept the application as submitted

Moved: Cr Kenneth Jackson

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 5/5

7.7 NEW POLICY - HOUSING POLICY**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek Council endorsement of a new Housing Policy.

Cr Lucrecia Willett suggested that there was a need for an engagement officer to assist in recuperating rentals, ensuring engagement with the tenants, door to door action is needed. CEO advised that this process would be implemented by the Housing Manager.

Council discussed draft policy presented. Amended to include:

- Exit inspection in social or transition housing, where available tenant needs to be present at time of inspection & sign inspection report.
- Where tenant is moving into new social housing, possession of the new premises will not be provided unless report is signed by them.
- Applications reviewed every 12 months, ensuring contact details & circumstances are still valid and respond within 30 days of receiving updated form.

RESOLUTION 09:24/01/2023

That Council resolve to

1. Endorse the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Housing Policy, effective 24 January 2023.

Moved: Cr Brian Underwood

Seconded: Cr Kenneth Jackson

CARRIED 5/5

7.8 CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENTAL RESTRUCTURE TO ORGANISATIONAL CHART**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To present to Council a recommendation for the endorsement of a new Organisational Chart, reflecting a re-alignment of management and other responsibilities.

Mayor Ross Andrews requested that the minutes reflect that he was away at the time of the workshop of the organisational chart options with Councillors. CEO confirmed the Mayor did not participate in the workshops, but options had been discussed with the Mayor by phone.

RESOLUTION 10:24/01/2023

That Council resolve to endorse the Organisational Chart – Option 2, as presented by the CEO, effective 24 January 2023.

Moved: Cr Kenneth Jackson

Seconded: Cr Lucrecia Willett

CARRIED 5/5

7.5 WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE - OPERATIONAL REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to Council the status/activities of Works & Infrastructure Department areas for the month up to 20 January 2023.

Director Works & Infrastructure read to the report

Cr Kenneth Jackson asked about household fencing to control dogs in community, the CEO stated the Housing team will need to enforce the 2 dog policy per household & it is the tenants responsibility to ensure the dogs are secured in their compound.

Cr Lucrecia Willett brought up about a walk around the Council buildings, as she missed out on the last one. CEO to facilitate this in the near future.

Cr Lucrecia Willett asked if the Contractors had cultural awareness inductions due to disturbances during funerals in community. The CEO stated contractors engaged by council did receive inductions as to appropriate behaviour during sorry business. Recent event resulted from contractors engaged by other organisations.

RESOLUTION 11:24/01/2023

That Council accept the report of the Director – Works & Infrastructure, tabled as read.

Moved: Cr Brian Underwood

Seconded: Cr Hezron Murgha

CARRIED 5/5

CORRESPONDENCE**8.1 CORRESPONDENCE - REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2023 SPORTS SEASON****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform Council of correspondence received on 12th January 2023 from Ashleigh Schrieber, Secretary, Yarrabah Seahawks Senior Rugby League Club, requesting sponsorship for replacing goal post padding for the 2023 season and beyond.

Councillors discussed this matter. Although Councillors believed they were in a position to make a decision, as they all had some association with the YSSRL club to avoid any perceived conflict, the CEO was requested as to options available.

The CEO advised that Council may consider referring this matter to the CEO for determination.

RESOLUTION 12:24/01/2023

That Council:-

1. Note the correspondence tabled as read.
2. Refer the decision of this matter to the CEO.

Moved: Cr Kenneth Jackson

Seconded: Cr Brian Underwood

CARRIED 5/5

The CEO thanked Council and advised that in line with the provisions of the Community Grants Policy for organisations, a donation of \$1,000.00 would be granted to Seahawks to assist with the replacement costs of goal post padding.

8.2 CORRESPONDENCE - REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP – YARRABAH CRICKET TEAM**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform Council of correspondence received from Sergeant Andrew Guest of Yarrabah PCYC, on behalf of Chantal Gordon, Eunice King and Tia Singleton, for financial assistance to participate in an under 13 cricket carnival in Ingham.

CEO advised that prior to the meeting he had spoken with Sergeant Guest of the Yarrabah PCYC. The applicants had participated in the carnival and represented the community in an admirable way. Local fundraising had managed to obtain some offset of costs, but they were still deficient to the amount of \$800.00.

Council may wish to consider that this application be treated under the provisions of the Community Grants Policy.

RESOLUTION 13:24/01/2023

That Council:-

1. Note the correspondence tabled as read.
2. Authorise the CEO to donate \$800.00 to assist with the financial burden outstanding.

Moved: Cr Brian Underwood

Seconded: Cr Lucrecia Willett

CARRIED 5/5

8 STRATEGIC PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Councillors to provide updates on Meetings and Trips and other information for the meeting.

9 MATTERS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mayor asked Deputy Mayor Underwood to confirm status of his driver's licence as his duties may require him driving a Council vehicle from time to time to attend to Council duties. Deputy Mayor advised that he had a letter confirming he is now licenced. CEO requested copy of letter from Deputy Mayor, to be placed on file until Deputy Mayor was in a position to provide a copy of licence.

10 CLOSE OF MEETING

Date for the next Council Ordinary Meeting is Wednesday 15 February 2023.

The Mayor thanked the councillors and staff for their participation and attendance at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 5.33pm pm.



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MAYOR