



ORDINARY MEETING

MINUTES

25 JULY 2023

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**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 232 BOLSOVER STREET, ROCKHAMPTON
ON TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 9:02AM**

1 OPENING

- 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

2 PRESENT

Members Present:

The Mayor, Councillor A P Williams (Chairperson)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor N K Fisher (via video-link)
Councillor S Latcham
Councillor C E Smith (via video-link)
Councillor C R Rutherford
Councillor M D Wickerson
Councillor D Kirkland
Councillor G D Mathers

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Cheesman – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr P Kofod – General Manager Regional Services
Ms M Taylor – Chief Financial Officer
Mr A Russell – Executive Manager Strategy and Planning
Mr A Pont – Manager Parks
Mr A Collins – Manager Project Delivery
Mr J Kann – Manager Officer of the Mayor
Mr M O’Keeffe – Manager RRWR (via video-link)
Ms A Brennan – Coordinator Legal and Governance
Ms L Bellward – Curator Rockhampton Zoo (via video-link)
Ms A Davies – Grants and Policy Advisor
Ms G Parsons – Coordinator Resource Recovery Strategy (via video-link)
Ms K Walsh – Committee Support Officer
Ms L Foley – Committee Support Officer

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

Meeting Adjourned**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

9:05AM

That the meeting be adjourned for a 10 minute recess.

Moved by: Mayor Williams**MOTION CARRIED**

9:07AM Councillor Mathers attended the meeting.

Meeting Resumed**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

9:15AM

That the meeting be resumed.

Moved by: Mayor Williams**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 11 July 2023 be confirmed.

Moved by: Councillor Wickerson**Seconded by: Councillor Kirkland****MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Cherie Rutherford informed the meeting:

I, Councillor Cherie Rutherford declare that I have a declarable conflict of interest in **Item 11.4 – Bad Debt Write Offs**. I will be dealing with this declarable conflict by leaving the room and staying away from the place where the meeting is being held when this matter is being discussed and voted on.

6 BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

7 PUBLIC FORUMS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

8 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Nil

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

10 COUNCILLOR/DELEGATE REPORTS

10.1 COUNCILLOR DISCRETIONARY FUND APPLICATION - NORTH ROCKHAMPTON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB INC

File No: 8295

Authorising Officer: Nicole Semfel - Acting Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Justin Kann - Manager Office of the Mayor
Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer

Author: Megan Careless - Executive Support Officer

SUMMARY

This report requests Council's consideration and approval for an allocation from Councillors' Councillor Discretionary Fund for the North Rockhampton Senior Citizens Club Inc to host events during Seniors Month (October 2023).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council approves the allocation of \$300 from the following Councillor Discretionary Funds: Councillor Neil Fisher, Councillor Grant Mathers, and Councillor Cherie Rutherford; \$200 from Councillor Donna Kirkland and \$150 from Councillor Ellen Smith to assist the North Rockhampton Senior Citizens Club Inc in hosting three (3) events during Seniors Month in October.

Moved by: Mayor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Latcham

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11 OFFICERS' REPORTS

11.1 ROCKHAMPTON BOTANIC GARDENS AND ZOO AMENITIES OPTIONS

File No: 14700
Authorising Officer: Peter Kofod - General Manager Regional Services
Author: Andrew Collins - Manager Project Delivery

SUMMARY

Consideration of alternatives for amenities at the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Zoo.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council progresses to construct Option 1 "Master Planned Amenities Option", as detailed in the report, subject to the Building Better Regions Fund grant funding remaining substantially intact.

Moved by: Councillor Rutherford
Seconded by: Mayor Williams

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.2 GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM - GRANT APPLICATION

File No: 12534
Authorising Officer: Angus Russell - Executive Manager Strategy and Planning
Author: Ann Davie - Grants and Policy Advisor

SUMMARY

This report provides information about the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program and the proposed application for funding the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Zoo Lemur Enclosure project.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council seeks funding through the Growing Regions Program for the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Zoo Lemur Enclosure project.

Moved by: Councillor Rutherford
Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.3 HOMELESS CONNECT ANNUAL EVENT

File No: 11550
Authorising Officer: Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author: Kerri Dorman - Administration Supervisor

SUMMARY

An update on the annual Homeless Connect Event held at the Robert Swarten Pavilion on Thursday 18 May 2023 is provided for Councillor's information.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the report be 'received' and Council confirm its commitment towards the 2024 Annual Homeless Connect Event with a proposed date of Thursday 4 July 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Wickerson
Seconded by: Councillor Kirkland

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.4 BAD DEBT WRITE OFFS

9:42AM

Councillor Rutherford having earlier declared a conflict of interest in **Item 11.4 – Bad Debt Write Offs**, left the place at which the meeting was held, including any area for the public and stayed away while the matter was discussed and voted on.

File No: 1117
Authorising Officer: Ross Cheesman - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Author: Marnie Taylor - Chief Financial Officer

SUMMARY

The Chief Financial Officer presents a schedule of amounts considered to be uncollectable that have been waived as per 5.4 of the Debt Recovery Policy Version 11, Adopted 19 July 2022.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the debts contained in the schedule within the report be received by Council, as these have been written off as bad debts.

Moved by: Mayor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Wickerson

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillors Williams, Wickerson, Fisher, Mathers, Smith, Kirkland and Latcham voted in the affirmative.
Councillor Rutherford did not participate in the vote.

9:44AM Councillor Rutherford returned to the meeting room

**11.5 WHOLE OF COUNCIL CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR PERIOD
ENDING JUNE 2023**

File No: 1392
Authorising Officer: Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer
Author: Ross Cheesman - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Deputy Chief Executive Officer presenting the Whole of Council Corporate Performance Report for period ending 30 June 2023 for Councillor's information.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the Whole of Council Corporate Performance Report for period ending 30 June 2023 be "received".

Moved by: Mayor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Rutherford

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND - ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS

File No: 8291
Authorising Officer: Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer
Author: Ross Cheesman - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Endorsement of motions for consideration at Local Government Association of Queensland Inc Annual Conference to be held in Gladstone from 16 to 18 October 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council endorse the following motions, as detailed in the report, for consideration at the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc Annual Conference to be held in Gladstone from 16 to 18 October 2023:

1. Department of Transport and Main Roads Entrance Standards;
2. Waste Levy and Advance Payment Review;
3. Continuation of the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (QCRC) Program and associated initiatives;
4. Supporting the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions; and
5. Approved Deemed Weights.

Moved by: Councillor Fisher
Seconded by: Councillor Kirkland
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR DREW WICKERSON - TRAVEL TO BRISBANE TO ATTEND TALISMAN SABRE CLOSING CEREMONY

File No: 10072
Responsible Officer: Nicole Semfel - Acting Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Justin Kann - Manager Office of the Mayor
Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Councillor Drew Wickerson has indicated his intention to move a Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25 July 2023 regarding travel to Brisbane on 4 August 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Councillor Drew Wickerson be approved to attend the Talisman Sabre 2023 Closing Ceremony and Reception, on behalf of Mayor Tony Williams, to be held in Brisbane on 4 August 2023.

Moved by: Mayor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Fisher
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

14 URGENT BUSINESS QUESTIONS**14.1 MCLEOD PARK DRAINAGE**

File No: 15335

Responsible Officer: Peter Kofod – General Manager Regional Services

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That a report be prepared on the channelisation of the drain at McLeod Park to an Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Mathers

Seconded by: Councillor Rutherford

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15 CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, for the reasons indicated.

16.1 Regional Economic Futures Fund Stakeholder Advisory Group

In accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

16.2 Legal Matters Report - 1 April to 30 June 2023

In accordance with section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

Moved by: Mayor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Kirkland

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

9:55AM

THAT pursuant to s5.12 *Council Meeting Procedures* the meeting moves into Closed Session and be closed to the public.

Moved by: Mayor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Smith

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

10:22AM

THAT pursuant to s5.12 *Council Meeting Procedures* the meeting moves out of Closed Session and be opened to the public.

Moved by: Mayor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Mathers

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

10:22AM

That the meeting be adjourned, to resume at 10.35AM

Moved by: Mayor Williams**Seconded by: Councillor Kirkland****MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

10:36AM

That the meeting be resumed.

Moved by: Mayor Williams**MOTION CARRIED**

Members Present:

The Mayor, Councillor A P Williams (Chairperson)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor N K Fisher (via video-link)
Councillor S Latcham
Councillor C E Smith (via video-link)
Councillor C R Rutherford
Councillor M D Wickerson
Councillor D Kirkland
Councillor G D Mathers

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Cheesman – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr P Kofod – General Manager Regional Services (via video-link)
Ms M Taylor – Chief Financial Officer (via video-link)
Mr A Russell – Executive Manager Strategy and Planning
Mr J Kann – Manager Office of the Mayor
Ms A Brennan – Coordinator Legal
Mr T Pegrem – Coordinator Workforce Relations, Ethics and Payroll
Ms K Walsh – Acting Senior Committee Support Officer
Ms L Foley – Committee Support Officer

10:37AM

Councillor Neil Fisher informed the meeting:

I, Councillor Neil Fisher have a declarable conflict of interest in **Item 16.2 – Legal Matters Report**. The conflicted party was a Senior Pastor in the church that I have been involved with. I will be dealing with this declarable conflict by leaving the meeting while the matter is discussed and voted on.

10:37AM

Councillor Fisher having declared a conflict of interest left the meeting via video-link.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**10:38AM**

THAT pursuant to s5.12 *Council Meeting Procedures* the meeting moves into Closed Session and be closed to the public.

Moved by: Mayor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Rutherford

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**10:55AM**

THAT pursuant to s5.12 *Council Meeting Procedures* the meeting moves out of Closed Session and be opened to the public.

Moved by: Mayor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Wickerson

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

16.2 LEGAL MATTERS REPORT - 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2023

File No: 1392
Authorising Officer: Damon Morrison - Manager Workforce and Governance
Ross Cheesman - Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Author: Allysa Brennan - Coordinator Legal and Governance

In accordance with section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

SUMMARY

Presenting an update of current legal matters that Council is involved in as at 30 June 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the legal matters report containing updates on legal matters for Rockhampton Regional Council as at 30 June 2023 be received.

Moved by: Mayor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Kirkland

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillors Williams, Kirkland, Mathers, Wickerson, Rutherford, Smith and Latcham voted in the affirmative.

Councillor Fisher did not participate in the vote.

16.1 REGIONAL ECONOMIC FUTURES FUND STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

File No: 11092
Authorising Officer: Ross Cheesman - Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Author: Angus Russell - Executive Manager Strategy and Planning

In accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide advice to Council on the Regional Economic Futures Fund Central Queensland Stakeholder Advisory Group and to recommend project proposals to be advanced through this program.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT the recommended project proposals outlined in the report be considered and endorsed.

Moved by: Mayor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Wickerson

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Fisher was not in attendance and did not participate in the vote.

17 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:58am.

SIGNATURE

CHAIRPERSON

DATE