



MINUTES
of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
held on
WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2015
in the
ALEXANDRA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
commencing at
6.00 pm

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1. PRAYER, OATH & RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The meeting was opened with Prayer and reading of the Oath and Reconciliation Statement.

2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

REF: SF/306

Requests for leave of absence have been received from Cr J Kennedy and Cr Ruhr.

Recommendation:

That the requests for leave of absence received from Cr J Kennedy and Cr C Ruhr be accepted.

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Challen / Cr B Magner

That the requests for leave of absence received from Cr J Kennedy and Cr C Ruhr be accepted.

CARRIED

Present:

Crs M Rae (Chair), A Derwent, C Challen, B Magner, J Walsh

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Margaret Abbey

General Manager Corporate and Community Services: Michael Chesworth

General Manager Infrastructure and Development Services: Elaine Wyatt

Manager Business Services: Andrew Bond

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REF: SF/783

No disclosures declared.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**4.1 QUESTIONS OF COUNCIL**

There were no questions of Council.

4.2 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

Jack Russell spoke to his submission for five minutes and requested an extension of time. His request for an extension of time was denied by Council.

5. OFFICER REPORTS

5.1 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS FOR COUNCIL BUDGET 2015-2016

REF: D15/6291

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with a summary of the submissions received in relation to the Council Budget 2015-2016.

Recommendation:

That Council hears the submission received in relation to the Council Budget 2015-2016.

Background:

At a Special Meeting of Council on 8 April 2015, the Draft 2015-2016 Budget was endorsed for public consultation in accordance with Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Submissions were sought from the public and the budget documents were made available at Council Offices and on Council's website.

Advertisements were placed in the relevant weekly newspapers in the Shire, with submissions due by 5pm Thursday 14 May 2015.

At the time of preparing the agenda, one submission was received by Council.

Council Plan/Strategies:

This process is part of the required process for adoption of the 2015-2016 Council Budget.

Legal/Policy Issues:

The process complies with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There are no financial considerations regarding the consideration of submissions.

Consultation:

The Council Budget 2015-2016 was advertised for public consultation and submissions in the following publications:

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date (s)
Alexandra Standard	15-Apr-15
Yea Chronicle	15-Apr-15
Marysville Triangle	16-Apr-15
North Central Review	14-Apr-15
Website	14-Apr-15
Copies at Council offices: Alexandra, Kinglake, Yea and also Eildon Resource Centre & Marysville Visitor Information Centre	14-Apr-15

Discussion:

One submission was received in relation to the Draft 2015-2016 Budget.

Following consideration of the submission, the submitter will receive a reply in respect of the matters identified.

Summary of Submissions:**Submitter 1**

The submission raises many questions, those specifically related to the budget include:

- What is the effective rate increase for fiscal year 2015-16 with the inclusion of the new differential rates (7.85%)?
- Where is it shown that 2% for funding existing and additional infrastructure maintenance and replacement is shown in the future funds accounting?
- What is the current equity held to enable the proposed budget deficit in the 2015-2016 year?
- What is the budgeted amount for additional review and savings from the proposed review of community and users of public facilities?
- What Calculation is being used for the proposed impact of rate capping and requirement that Council contains costs for non-essential services for 2015-16 fiscal year?
- How does Council propose to budget with only a stated 4% rate increase available for operating costs for 2015-16?
- Why has council refused to apply uniform rating instead of the 5 different levels of rate proposed?
- Why does Council apply the Municipal Charge for administrative costs, which is also part of, and factored into operating costs, whilst other Councils do not?
- How many rate assistance programs for disadvantaged or aged or unemployed ratepayers are currently in place?
- How many ratepayers are currently on concessions for payment of rates?
- Why is it that Council does not comply with Local Government Act S223 to require all submission available for public inspection and with names deleted?
- How does Council propose to contact all or every submission to the draft budget?

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council hears all submissions received for relevance. Responses to these queries submitted and the discussion raised by the submitter tonight will be prepared for inclusion in the agenda for the Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on 27 May 2015 for Council's consideration of the 2015-16 Budget.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr C Challen

That Council hears the submission received in relation to the Council Budget 2015-2016.

CARRIED

5.2 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS FOR COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 (INCLUDING STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN) SECOND YEAR REVIEW

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with a summary of the submissions received in relation to the 2013-2017 Council Plan Review and Strategic Resource Plan.

Recommendation:

That this report be received.

Background:

On 8 April 2015, Council endorsed the 2013-2017 Council Plan Review and Strategic Resource Plan for public consultation in accordance with Sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Submissions were sought from the public and the documents were made available at Council Offices and on Council's website. Advertisements were placed in the relevant weekly newspapers in the Shire.

Council Plan/Strategies:

This process is part of the required process for adoption of the 2013-2017 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

Legal/Policy Issues:

The process complies with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There are no financial considerations regarding the consideration of submissions.

Consultation:

The 2013-17 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan were advertised for public consultation and submissions in the following publications:

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date (s)
Alexandra Standard	15-Apr-15
Yea Chronicle	15-Apr-15
Marysville Triangle	16-Apr-15
North Central Review	14-Apr-15
Website	14-Apr-15
Copies at Council offices: Alexandra, Kinglake, Yea and also Eildon Resource Centre & Marysville Visitor Information Centre	14-Apr-15

Discussion:

At the time of preparing the agenda, no submissions were received in relation to the Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan Review and SRP.

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council gives consideration to formally adopting the 2013-2017 Council Plan Review and Strategic Resource Plan at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 27 May 2015.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr B Magner
That this report be received.

CARRIED

There being no further items of Business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS

27 May 2015

CHAIRPERSON

R. I. Rogers
C