



MINUTES
of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
held on
WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2012
in the
ALEXANDRA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
commencing at
6.00 pm

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The Chief Executive Officer formally opened the meeting.

The following apologies have been received:

Hon. Wendy Lovell MLC, Minister for Housing, Donna Petrovich MP, State Member for Northern Victoria, Sophie Mirrabella MP, Federal Member for Indi, Cindy McLeish MP, Member for Seymour.

1. PRAYER & RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

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

2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence tendered.

Present:

Crs C Challen, A Derwent, J Kennedy, B Magner, M Rae, C Ruhr, J Walsh

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Margaret Abbey
General Manager - Sustainability: Michael Chesworth
Executive Director, Reconstruction and Recovery: Dimitri Scordalides
General Manager Corporate & Community Services: Rob Cherry
General Manager Infrastructure Services: Tamara Johnson
Manager Community Services: Naomi McNamara
Manager Corporate Services: Jennifer Lewis
Manager Customer & Communications: Damien Cocks
Manager Development and Environmental Services: Matt Parsons
Manager Economic Development: Bob Elkington
Manager Finance: Stephen Mortensen
Manager Infrastructure Operations: Peter Cownley
Manager Infrastructure Assets: John Canny
Manager Program Delivery: Mark Leitinger

3. SWEARING IN OF ELECTED COUNCILLORS

(Refer Encl 3a and 3b)

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1995*, an election was held on Saturday 27 October 2012 to elect a new Council for the Murrindindi Shire.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* the Councillors-elect are required to either take the oath or affirmation of office. The Chief Executive Officer will proceed to administer the swearing in of the Councillors-elect, as prescribed under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

3.1 Oath of Office

'I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people in the municipal district of Murrindindi and faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1989* or any other Act to the best of my skill and judgment.'

3.2 Affirmation of Office

'I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people in the municipal district of Murrindindi and faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1989* or any other Act to the best of my skill and judgment.'

Christine Challen took the Oath of Office.

John Kennedy took the Oath of Office.

Bernie Magner took the Oath of Office.

Andrew Derwent took the Affirmation of Office

Cris Ruhr took the Affirmation of Office

John Walsh took the Affirmation of Office

Margaret Rae took the Oath of Office.

4. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON

Under the provisions of *the Act*, the Mayor of the municipality must take the chair of all meetings of the Council at which she or he is present. As the Mayoral position became vacant at 6.00am on 27 October 2012, the Chief Executive Officer will call for a motion for appointment of an acting Chairperson.

Recommendation:

That Councillor ... be nominated.

Cr Derwent nominated Cr Cris Ruhr for the position of temporary Chairperson

Cr Ruhr accepted the nomination.

RESOLUTION:

Cr A Derwent / Cr J Walsh

That Councillor Cris Ruhr be appointed temporary Chairperson.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Ruhr temporary Chairperson.

Cr C Ruhr assumed the Chair.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides for the election of the Mayor after the fourth Saturday in October and no later than 30 November each year.

The Acting Chairperson will call for nominations and if there is only one nomination received, then that Councillor is declared elected as Mayor.

In the event of there being more than one nomination, the Acting Chairperson will conduct an election. The election will be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Local Law 3 which incorporates its Code of Meeting Procedure.

The election is to be conducted by show of hands. Once declared, the elected Mayor will take the Chair and preside over the remainder of the meeting.

The process of election of the Mayor will take place in accordance with the provisions of s.13 of Council's *Governance Local Law No.3*, and legislative changes requiring election by open ballot.

On election of the Mayor, the Acting Chairperson vacates the Chair and the Mayor assumes the Chair.

Recommendation:

That Councillor be elected as Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council for 2012 – 2013 (or 2012-2014).

Cr Derwent nominated Cr John Walsh for the position of Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council.

Cr Walsh accepted the nomination.

RESOLUTION:

Cr A Derwent / B Magner

That Cr J Walsh be appointed Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council for 2012-2013.

CARRIED

The Acting Chairperson declared Cr Walsh the Mayor of the Murrindindi Shire Council for 2012-/2013.

Cr Walsh assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The process of election of the Deputy Mayor will take place in accordance with the provisions of s.6 of Council's *Local Law No.3 (Meeting Procedure)*.

Recommendation:

That Councillor be elected as Deputy Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council for 2012 – 2013 (or 2012-2014).

Cr Challen nominated Cr Margaret Rae for the position of Deputy Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council.

Cr Rae accepted the nomination.

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Challen / J Kennedy

That Councillor Margaret Rae be appointed Deputy Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council for 2012 – 2013.

CARRIED

The Mayor declared Cr Rae the Deputy Mayor of the Murrindindi Shire Council for 2012/2013.

7. YEA CEMETERY TRUST – APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The Yea Cemetery is located in the township of Yea and is administered by all Councillors as Trustees of the Yea Cemetery Trust.

Prior to the announcement of the elections on 27 October 2012 a meeting of the Yea Cemetery Trust was scheduled for Monday 12 November 2012. Good governance requires that Council appoints new Trustees to the Yea Cemetery Trust prior to that meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Councillors be appointed as Trustees of the Yea Cemetery Trust.

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Ruhr / C Challen

That the Councillors be appointed as Trustees of the Yea Cemetery Trust.

CARRIED

Before closing the meeting, Cr J Walsh addressed the Council and gallery:

“Firstly I want to thank the Councillors for providing me with the privilege of again being the Mayor of the Shire of Murrindindi. It is a great honour.

I am a firm believer in the Shire and its on-going viability. A day as beautiful as today only re-enforces that the Shire is a great place to be with great attributes, capabilities and opportunities. If our communities work together we can leverage these inherent advantages to ensure we improve our social well being, and our long term economic future.

Certainly there are major challenges ahead. But I am confident with the work that has gone on in Council over the past year to revamp the organisation and with a new team of Councillors providing fresh ideas and enthusiasm and with contributions from, and the support of, the whole community, we as a Shire will meet all the challenges and together we will be proud of Murrindindi and its achievements over the next four years.

To the partners, friends and family members of Councillors here today, I want to thank all of you in advance for the support I know you will give to our Councillors. To the CEO, General Managers and staff, I know you are aware of the tasks ahead. I look forward to your on-going support and I thank you for it. There is a lot of work to be done but there are major rewards to be gained. So let’s take a moment tonight to celebrate our new Team and then its head down tail up and we’ll get stuck right into advancing a happy vibrant Murrindindi.”

There being no further items of Business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS

CHAIRPERSON
