



**ORDINARY MEETING
MINUTES**

21 FEBRUARY 2024

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00pm.

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

A minutes silence was observed to pay respect to Councillor Steve Heywood, a sitting Councillor who passed away on Wednesday 7 February 2024.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Daniel Linklater
Councillor Brian Beaumont
Councillor Steve Cooper
Councillor Peter Crisp
Councillor Tim Elstone
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Jo Rodda

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
George Kenende (Acting Director Health and Planning)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant to General Manager)
Hannah Nicholas (Business Support Officer)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Council Resolution

That Council notes the apology from Cr MacAllister.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr Cooper

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nichols advised that she had a less than significant pecuniary interest in Item 9.5 and 9.6 as the Wentworth Bowling Club is mentioned and she is the president.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 24 January 2024 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 24 January 2024 be confirmed as amended.

Moved Cr Crisp, Seconded Cr Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/24/54

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Hannah Nicholas - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The Outstanding Actions report provides details of activities raised at previous Council meetings that remain outstanding.

Officer Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the list of outstanding matters as at 14 February 2024.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the list of outstanding matters as at 14 February 2024.

Moved Cr Cooper, Seconded Cr Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/24/55

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Mayoral report

Moved Cr Linklater, Seconded Cr Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

Mayoral Minute

That Council request a ministerial order to dispense of the need to have a by-election under Section 294 of the *Local Government Act 1993* following the passing of Cr Stephen Heywood.

Moved Cr Linklater

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I would like to place on record our gratitude for the life and contribution of Cr Stephen Heywood. Steve was a strong and passionate advocate for all rural issues but always based his decision-making on what was best for Wentworth Shire. Steve was first elected to Council in 2016 and was re-elected in 2021 and served on multiple committees, until he lost his health battle recently. Cr Heywood will be remembered as a gentleman and will be missed by his fellow Councillors, Council officers, and all who knew him. On behalf of Council, I extend our sincere condolences to Andria, Jason & Kylie, Shannon and their families.

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Cr Nichols gave a verbal report on the Australia Day Event held at the Coomealla Club on 25 January 2024.

Cr Rodda gave a verbal report from the Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc meeting regarding their Why Not Winter in Wentworth campaign.

Cr Rodda gave a verbal report from the Australian Inland Botanic Garden meeting in relation to the Magenta Art Prize.

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

File Number: RPT/24/56

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Hannah Nicholas - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
Circular 24-01
2. Meetings
As listed
3. Upcoming meetings or events
As listed
4. Other items of note
Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr Cooper

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 REQUEST FOR FUNDING - SPORT AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

File Number: RPT/24/103

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Sport Aircraft Association of Australia for their annual Ausfly 2024 event to be held at the at the Wentworth Aerodrome on 22 - 23 March 2024. This is the first year the event will take place in Wentworth. The Association is requesting financial support of \$25,000 from Council toward the event.

Recommendation

That Council nominate a level of support for the event as listed within the options section of the report

Council Resolution

That Council allocate \$25,000 of funds to the Sport Aircraft Association of Australia toward the Ausfly 2024 event and approve a budget variation for \$25,000 on the proviso that the event organiser complete a set of requested criteria including visitor data, an event acquittal and inclusion of the Wentworth Shire Council in their promotional material and advertising.

Moved Cr Rodda, Seconded Cr Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2023

File Number: RPT/24/63

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of January 2024 were \$291,395.00. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 67.06%. For comparison purposes 63.72% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2023. Council currently has \$44,674,246.38 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the Monthly Finance Report.

Moved Cr Rodda, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2023

File Number: RPT/24/67

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.5 Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Summary

As of 31 January 2024, Council had \$40 million invested in term deposits and \$4,674,246.38 in other cash investments. Council received \$143,739.65 from its investments for the month of January 2023.

In January 2023 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 4.73% and it currently has \$9,535,581.71 of internal restrictions and \$33,120,672.44 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the monthly investment report.

Moved Cr Crisp, Seconded Cr Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 DECEMBER QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - SECOND QUARTER 2023 - 2024

File Number: RPT/24/66

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Bryce Watson - Accountant

Summary

A full analysis of Council's Income, Operating Expenditure and Capital Expenditure has been undertaken. Several variations have been identified against the original budget as outlined in this report. Council's revenue and expenditure is reviewed on a quarterly basis to identify any potential areas requiring a variation.

In the December Quarter the result of net variances if approved are an unfavourable operational variance of \$2,550,000 and a favourable capital variance of \$4,086,000 resulting in a total favourable budget variation of \$1,536,000.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Note the 2023/2024 Second Quarter Budget Review
- b) Approve the proposed revised 2023/2024 Changes to Operational and Capital Expenditure.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Note the 2023/2024 Second Quarter Budget Review
- b) Approve the proposed revised 2023/2024 Changes to Operational and Capital Expenditure.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6 QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: RPT/24/68

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civic leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Strategy: 4.2 A strong, responsible and representative government

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council develops a Four Year Delivery Program and a One Year Operational Plan which details the actions to be undertaken by Council to implement the strategies established in the Community Strategic Plan.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that progress is reported to Council with respect to the principal actions detailed in its Operational Plan at least every six months. To better align with the Quarterly Budget Review Process, the Operational Plan progress report is also compiled on a quarterly basis.

Recommendation

That Council notes the report

Council Resolution

That Council notes the report

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr Cooper

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.7 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/24/73

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Annette Fraser - Team Leader Customer Service

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth Shire is a great place to live
 Strategy: 2.4 A well informed, supported and engaged community

Summary

Council has provided an allocation of \$200,000.00 for the 2023/24 financial year for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. In this financial year, \$112,974.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemptions from the Application" process.

The total value of requests granted so far under delegated authority is \$2,817.00 and the total value of requests granted in full is \$46,864.42

The total value of requests received for the 1 November 2023 – 29 January 2024 funding application period totals \$4,816.00, which if granted in full would leave a balance in the financial assistance program of \$32,528.58.

Financial Assistance Program starting balance 2023/24	\$200,000.00
Annual fees & charges annual exemptions granted	\$112,974.00
Granted under delegated authority to 30 October 2023	\$ 1,553.00
Value of approved requests August 2023 Council Meeting	\$ 33,374.80
Value of approved requests November 2023 Council Meeting	\$ 13,489.62
Granted under delegated authority 1 November 2023 – 29 January 2024	\$ 1,264.00
Available balance as at 30/1/2024	\$ 37,344.58
Request applications received 1 November 2023 – 29 January 2024	\$ 4,816.00
Remaining balance if all approved	\$ 32,528.58

Recommendation

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, makes appropriate recommendations on the level of funding to be provided to each of these applications from the Financial Assistance program.

Council Resolution

That Council having considered the request for financial assistance from the Wentworth

Rowing Club approve the amount of \$3,700.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr Rodda

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Resolution

That Council approves a fee waiver subject to the available location and conditions as specified by the User Groups being suitable to the Mildura Horse Complex.

Moved Cr. Crisp, Seconded Cr Cooper

CARRIED

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Beaumont, Cooper, Crisp, Elstone, Linklater and Rodda.***

Against the Motion: ***Clr. Nichols.***

9.8 WENTWORTH CIVIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT BUDGET

File Number: RPT/24/94

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.1 Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries

Summary

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 October 2022 Council considered a report in relation to the acceptance of tenders for the Wentworth Civic Centre Redevelopment project and the adoption of the approved project budget.

As part of the project budget review process, it has come to the attention of the Project Control Group that there was a discrepancy between the project parameters that GSD and CPM were working within and the budget figure that Council was using to monitor the progress of the project.

A review of the Council report of 26 October 2022 identified that the conclusion of the report recommended that Council approve a budget with an upper limit for \$650,000 inclusive of GST for the nominated provisional items within the GSD summary document however, this was inadvertently left out of the final Council resolution.

To resolve the issue a resolution from Council is required to account for the \$650,000 of provisional items that was left out of the original Council resolution. This will ensure proper alignment between the intended budget and the project parameters.

Recommendation

That Council amend the Wentworth Civic Centre Redevelopment Budget by \$650,000 GST inclusive to account for the nominated provisional items.

Council Resolution

That Council amend the Wentworth Civic Centre Redevelopment Budget by \$650,000 GST inclusive to account for the nominated provisional items.

Moved Cr Rodda, Seconded Cr Crisp

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.9 LIFTING OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONE - WENTWORTH DISTRICT ROWING CLUB ANNUAL EASTER REGATTA

File Number: RPT/24/95

Responsible Officer: George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning
Responsible Division: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: George Kenende - Acting Director Health & Planning

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving Region
Strategy: 1.2 Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination

Summary

Council has received a request from the Wentworth District Rowing Club to lift the alcohol-free zone for the Rowing Club and immediate lawn area for one event.

The Wentworth District Rowing Club has sought approval for the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in past years for community events.

There have been no incidents or problems in past events that would warrant Council refusing the temporary lifting of the alcohol-free zone as requested.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) In accordance with Section 645 of the Local Government Act 1993, suspends the operation of the alcohol-free zone in the area of the Wentworth Rowing Club and Lawns as shown on the map attached to this report for the periods 29 March 2024 from 5pm to 10pm, 30 March 2024 from 12pm to 10pm and 31 March 2024 from 12pm to 8pm.
- b) Advertises the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in a locally circulated newspaper and Councils website
- c) Advises the NSW Police of the details of the suspensions of the alcohol-free zone.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) In accordance with Section 645 of the Local Government Act 1993, suspends the operation of the alcohol-free zone in the area of the Wentworth Rowing Club and Lawns as shown on the map attached to this report for the periods 29 March 2024 from 5pm to 10pm, 30 March 2024 from 12pm to 10pm and 31 March 2024 from 12pm to 8pm.
- b) Advertises the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in a locally circulated newspaper and Councils website
- c) Advises the NSW Police of the details of the suspensions of the alcohol-free zone.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr Cooper

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.10 PROJECT & WORKS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2024

File Number: RPT/24/75

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Jamie-Lee Kelly - Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Strategy: 3.2 Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Summary

This report provides a summary of the projects and major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Department which have been completed during the months of January 2024 and the planned activities for February 2024.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in January 2024 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Council Resolution

That Council receives and notes the major works undertaken in January 2024 and the scheduled works for the following month.

Moved Cr Rodda, Seconded Cr Beaumont

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 INTEGRATED WATER RECYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cr Tim Elstone requested an update on the Integrated Water Recycle Management Plan.

The Director of Roads and Engineering advised that the issues paper will be presented to Council in March. The draft Strategy will be presented to Council in October.

10.2 FOOTPATH IN MURRAY STREET

Cr Brian Beaumont requested that consideration be given to a footpath in Murray Street.

The General Manager advised that the Murray Street footpath will form part of the Murray Street development.

10.3 LIVINGSTONE DRIVE GREENSPACE

Cr Jo Rodda advised that the sprinkler system in the greenspace area in Livingstone Drive has been damaged and this has been reported to Council but not fixed.

11 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:53pm.

NEXT MEETING

20 March 2024

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CHAIR