



MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING
17 MAY 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 PERSONS PRESENT 4

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE..... 5

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF..... 6

4. STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL SHIRE PLAN..... 7

5. 2016/17 DRAFT BUDGET 9

6. MEETING CLOSED..... 10

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Ashford', written in a cursive style.

Signed: Leigh Ashford Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

BUDGET MEETING

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR

ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY, 2016 AT 6.00PM

President of the Shire Council Andrew Turner declared the meeting open at 6.00pm and welcomed all in attendance.

1 PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor	President Andrew Turner
Councillor	Vice President Bruce Jones
Councillor	Sue Bulmer
Councillor	Max Corliss
Councillor	Dave Gray
Councillor	Ewan Crook

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Leigh Ashford
Finance Manager	Melissa Kerr
Senior Administration Officer	Aleyshia Kim

PERSONS PRESENT

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th May, 2016
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

This report is to table, for Council's record, any apologies and requests for leave of absence received from Elected Members for the Budget Meeting held 17th May, 2016.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

COMMENT

Council can choose to accept the apologies or requests for leave of absence as presented, or not accept them. Apologies or requests for leave of absence that are not accepted by Council will be recorded as absence without notice.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

As per the Local Government Act s.39 (1) A person ceases to hold office as a member of a council if the person:
(d) is absent, without permission of the council, from 2 consecutive ordinary meetings of the council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple majority

NOTE

That Council notes that there are no apologies of absence for the Budget Meeting held 17th May, 2016.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th May, 2016
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

Elected Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council at a meeting of the Council or a meeting of a Council committee by:

- 1) In the case of a matter featured in an officer's report or written agenda item by disclosing the interest to the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised
- 2) In the case of a matter raised in general debate or by any means other than the printed agenda of the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised. Under disclosure, the Member must abide by the decision of Council on whether he/ she shall remain in the Chambers and/ or take part in the vote on the issue. The council may elect to allow the Member to provide further and better particulars of the interest prior to requesting him/ her to leave the Chambers.

Staff Members of the Council are required to disclose an interest in a matter at any time at which they are required to act or exercise their delegate authority in relation to the matter. Upon disclosure the Staff Member is not to act or exercise his or her delegated authority unless the Council expressly directs him or her to do so.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

COMMENT

Not applicable.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act s73 & s74 (Elected Members).

Local Government Act (2008) s107 Conflict of interest (Staff Members).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Conflict of Interest – Code of Conduct.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple majority

NOTE

That Council notes that there are no declarations of interest for the Budget Meeting held 17th May, 2016.

4 STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL SHIRE PLAN

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th May 2016
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Strategic Plan 2016-2021 & Annual Plan 2016/17 Community feedback forms

SUMMARY

The current Strategic and Annual Shire Plan has been reviewed in accordance with the legislation. The community has been requested to comment on the existing Strategic Plan and these comments have been taken into consideration. The Strategic Plan continues to reflect the goals, objectives and aspirations of the community that were developed in 2013. It has been updated to include the changes in the operating environment over the last 12 months.

The proposed Annual Shire Plan incorporates the changes to the Strategic Plan, Service Delivery Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, the requirements in the Act and the draft Budget. Ten Year works plans are also included. It should be noted that due to the dynamic nature of the local government environment and the lack of long term commitments from the Territory and Federal Governments, these documents lose their relevance quickly. They need constant review and they generally require major changes annually.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act requires Council to have a Shire Plan for its area. This must be developed or revised at least once during the Council's Term of Office. The Plan must contain the following:

- Service Delivery Plan
- Budget
- Include or reference the Strategic Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Constitutional arrangements currently in force
- Opportunities and challenges
- Possible changes to the Administrative and Regulatory framework
- Possibilities for improving local government services
- Performance indicators

Council is also required to review the Shire Plan between 1 April and 31 July annually. It is required to adopt it and forward to the Department prior to 31 July 2016.

Council is required to prepare a draft of the plan and publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the area inviting submissions on the draft plan for a period of 21 days. It must make revisions to the draft it considers appropriate in light of the submissions prior to adopting the Plan

Council can consider the Annual Budget separately to the Shire Plan and its adoption amends the last version of the Shire Plan.

COMMENTS

Comments received through the Consultation Process were as follows:

Two requests were received to alter the preliminary capital road works program. The alteration proposed to incorporate renewal of approximately 300m of very poor sealed road immediately west of Adelaide River and delay the resealing program on Coach Rd north by one year. This is not an unreasonable request.

There were concerns that the administration cost is high and represents a large proportion of rate income. The administration costs cover a myriad of areas including governance, compliance, finance, building and depot maintenance and operations, customer service and council. Administration costs represent approximately 32% of the annual operational budget. This is higher than the Darwin and Palmerston which are in the mid-20s. This reflects their advantages of economies of scale.

There were contrary views regarding the Batchelor Pool. Some community members were concerned about the high operation cost of the pool, however other views suggested that the pool provided one of the few recreational opportunities within the shire and represented a major part of decisions to live in the area.

Questions were raised regarding the need for the provision of all the public toilets, particularly in relation to measuring any tangible benefits that arise from the public toilets to the overall community.

There was a concern that Council is providing many non-core services that are not appropriate for a small and scattered population.

It was suggested that engagement with ratepayers needs to be improved. Meetings disadvantage people living on the outskirts of the Shire. Council should investigate video conferencing and electronic forums.

CONSULTATION

An invitation to comment was made through the Council website, Facebook, newsletter and 3 community information sessions.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 22, 23 & 24

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan provides the guidance document for Council's decision making throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget for 2016/17

RESOLUTION 17/05/2016/001

Council advertise the amended draft Strategic Plan, Annual Shire Plan and invite public comment for a minimum of 21 days in accordance with Section 24 of The *Local Government Act*.

Moved: Clr. Gray

Seconded: Clr. Turner

6/6

DIRECTION

That the CEO prepares a report to the June meeting of Council to consider the Adoption of the 2016/17 Annual Plan.

5 2016/17 DRAFT BUDGET

Applicant: N/A

Location/Address: N/A

File Ref: N/A

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: 9th May 2016

Author: Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Strategic Plan 2016-2021 & Annual Plan 2016/17

SUMMARY

The Strategic Plan and Annual Plan can only play their intended role if they are linked to the Annual Budget. The draft budget for the 2016/17 financial year is one of the most important documents that Councils consider each year. It provides the snapshot at this time about how Council considers it will generate income and account for its service programs that it wishes to undertake throughout the year.

I urge you to read the information and the notes annexed to the draft budget. If you have any queries and or questions please feel free to contact either Mrs Melissa Kerr, or myself for the required information.

The adoption of the Budget operates to amend the Annual Shire Plan so that it conforms to the most recent text of the Council's Budget.

COMMENT

Whilst the annual budget process rigorously looks at the income and expenses involved in the operations it is based on a number of assumptions. In a dynamic world the accuracy of the assumptions varies and often they are out of Council's control. The reduced allocation of the Operational Grant from the NT Government last year had a significant impact on the 2013/14 Annual Service Delivery Plan.

The current budget does not extend beyond 30 June 2016. The adoption of a new budget should be in place prior to the completion of the existing budget. The budget becomes part of the current Shire Plan. The new

Shire Plan takes effect when Council adopts it following the regulatory community consultation phase. This should occur at the July meeting. The Department is notified prior to 31 July 2016.

CONSULTATION

Community Meetings April advertised through the website, Facebook, Stop Press and community notice boards.

Invitations to community comment through the website, Facebook and Stop Press.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act Section 24.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The budget provides the guidance document for Council's decision making throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the budget 2016/17 at the June Meeting set the financial constraints for 2016/17.

RESOLUTION 17/05/2016/002

That Council advertise the amended draft 2016/17 Budget, 2016/17 Fees and charges, 2016/17 Rates Declaration and 2016/17 Councillor allowances inviting public comment for 21 days in accordance with Section 24 of The *Local Government Act*.

Moved: Clr. Crook

Seconded: Clr. Corliss

6/6

5. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.