



MINUTES COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Megan Dixon
GENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:04am

PRESENT

Councillors:

Mayor Jasen Ramien
Deputy Mayor Colin Hundy
Councillor Greg Rummery
Councillor Michael Cooke
Councillor Ian Woodcock
Councillor Sue Currey
Councillor Alf Seaton
Councillor Daniel Walford

Officers:

Megan Dixon (General Manager)
Kazi Mahmud (Director Infrastructure and Compliance)
Sharon Smith (Minute Secretary)

ABSENT

Councillor Jane Keir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands within the Walgett Shire and acknowledged the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this Shire.

05/2024/01 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor SEATON; That a leave of absence for Councillor Jane Keir Council is granted for Tuesday 23rd April 2024 Ordinary Business Meeting.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Item No.	Report title/ Subject matter	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason
Jasen Ramien	12.2.1	Monthly Grading Report	Pecuniary	Family-owned business

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Ms Pauline Kearl – Item 12.1.1 Matters in Progress – Lightning Ridge Pool Complex – Resolution 08C/2023/2

05/2024/02 ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that the minutes from the Ordinary Council meeting held the 26th March 2024th, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on these meetings.

05/2024/03 MAYORAL MONTHLY REPORT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RAMIEN; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that the Mayoral report for April 2024 be received and noted.

General Discussion regarding the proposed removal of the Weirs in Walgett Shire Local Government Area

05/2024/04 MATTERS IN PROGRESS

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that the Matters in Progress up until March 2024 be received and noted.

05/2024/05 LIGHTING RIDGE WATER FUND

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor COOKE that a forensic Audit be undertaken on the Lightning Ridge Water Fund from the beginning of 2016.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/06 COMMUNITY DONATIONS SPONSORSHIP FOR THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor CURREY that Council receive and note the list of Community Donations and Sponsorships for the 2023/2024 financial year.

05/2024/7 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor COOKE that Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events with the addition of the noted change by Councillor Hundy for the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. Council meeting to start at 11am on 28 May 2024.

PERMANENT STOCK ZONES IN THE WALGETT SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor COOKE that Council declare there are no permanent stock zones within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area.

AMENDMENT

05/2024/08 PERMANENT STOCK ZONES IN THE WALGETT SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor Hundy; Seconded by Councillor Seaton that Council declare that there no permanent stock zones on State Highways within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.

The AMENDMENT of the MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/09 CASH AND INVESTMENT AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that the Investment report be received and noted.

05/2024/10 OUTSTANDING RATES AND CHARGES AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor CURREY that the 31st MARCH outstanding rates report be received and noted.

05/2024/11 PROJECT UPDATE APRIL 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor WOODCOCK that Council Projects list be received and note the report.

05/2024/12 2024 DESTINATION AND VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that council nominate attendance of up to two Councillors to the 2024 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference.

Meeting is taking place the same day of Council meeting – Mayor moved against the motion

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING all in favour to move against the Motion.

Motion was declared LOST.

05/2024/13 2024 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor COOKE; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that council nominate attendance of the Mayor and up to two Councillors to the 2024 Local Roads Congress.

Councillor Walford to attend, alongside the Mayor, General Manager, Megan Dixon & Director Infrastructure and Compliance, Kazi Mahmud.

RENAMING OF THE LIGHTNING RIDGE MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor COOKE; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that Council resolve on a name during a future meeting, taking into account community feedback.

AMENDMENT

05/2024/14 RENAMING OF THE LIGHTNING RIDGE MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor COOKE; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council request the Lightning Ridge Multipurpose Service (Health Services) to change their name to include the word, Health.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.

The AMENDMENT of the MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/15 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK: Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that the information contained in the following Department circular 24-04 New Local Government Elections Webpage Launched on the Office of Local Government's website from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

05/2024/16 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT – MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that Council adopt the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement for 31st March 2024 as tabled.

At 10.52am Mayor Ramien declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Council Chamber.

Deputy Mayor Hundy assumed the role of Chairperson.

05/2024/17 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE GRADING REPORT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor SEATON That Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for March 2024

At 10.55am Mayor Ramien returned to the meeting.

Mayor Ramien resumed the role of Chairperson.

05/2024/18 REPORT TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that Council receive and note the monthly major road projects report for March 2024.

05/2024/19 REPORT TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRESS AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for March 2024.

05/2024/20 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR DA2023/51 GRAIN CORPORATION PROJECT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that Council receive and note this report and delegates the approval of the Development Application DA2023/51 to the General Manager, subject to the contents of the report.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/21 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor CURREY that Council note the information contained within this report.

05/2024/22 COMPLIANCE – MATTERS OF BRIEF MENTION

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor WOODCOCK that That Council note the information contained within this report.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question by Councillor Colin Hundy

I would like to have listed on the Agenda a Question ON Notice regarding the Council Re-Structure.

- 1) The approximate costs to Council when the new appointments are filled.
- 2) A detailed description of the new positions aligned to the Re-Structure.
- 3) The benefits the Shire will gain from this Re-Structure.

The General Manager provided the following comments to the questions on notice:

- The costs will be provided through the budget process, noting that there are both proposed savings, through the reduction in the number of Directors and contractors, as well as through improved results.
- As discussed, new roles being introduced to the organisation are roles that the Council should have allocated resources to. This includes Governance and Integrity, Communications and Economic Development. These roles are essential to meet community expectations, as well as legislative requirements.
- The role descriptions are published, when advertised. As they are publicly available, they will also be shared with Councillors.
- The new layer of management is about improving results, increasing accountability and oversight of the functions and delivering results to the community, while addressing organisation improvements identified through staff and community consultation. Other benefits include career pathways for staff.

NOTICE OF MOTION

05/2024/23NOM Notice of Motion No.1 Submitted by Councillor Colin Hundy and Michael Cooke

Regarding a more relevant submission re: Small Claims Mining Titles.

Interwoven with Mining in the Opal Fields surrounding Lightning Ridge is the Mining Residuals and Western Lands Leases which are under threat.

This motion is needed for the discussion of withdrawing the lodged submission and replacing it with a new submission that will more accurately reflect the beneficial impacts to a large portion Walgett Shire

05/2024/23NOM-A AMENDMENT: That Council table a letter with the Minister based on Councillor Hundy's key points with regard to importance of opal mining to Walgett Shire.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.
The AMENDMENT of the MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared
CARRIED.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.23am

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

Mayor

General Manager