

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
21 SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT:

PETER CLEE - President
DARRYL WITHNALL – Vic President
KAREN DUNCAN - Councilor
ROCKY MAGNOLI - Councilor
VERA LAMONT - Councilor
MATT PROUSE - Councilor
TRISH MCINTYRE - Councilor
JOHN KEENAN--CEO

1. MEETING OPENING – The meeting was opened by president Peter Clee at 7:00pm

1.1 APOLOGIES - Nil

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2010/43

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 17th August 2010 be confirmed with the amendments to spelling

Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Seconded: Cr Trish McIntyre

Vote: 7 - 0

3.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

4. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Inward Correspondence Aug 2010.)

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Outwards Correspondence Aug. 2010.)

Resolution No. 2010/44

That the incoming and outgoing correspondence be accepted as information.

Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre

Seconded: Cr Darryl Withnall

Vote: 7 - 0

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (Incorporating Work Supervisors and Sports Recreation Officers Reports)

6.1 Comments on CEO Report

6.1.1 WAGAIT TOWER ROAD UPGRADE PROJECT

Project is expected to be completed by the end of September

6.1.2 REPAIRING ROAD SHOULDERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Road shoulders repairs had been commenced. There remains clearance of surplus material from drains and road sides which will take place at the end of the Wagait Tower road upgrade project.

6.1.3 MEMORIAL GARDEN

It was agreed to proceed with the memorial garden as detailed in plans shown at the meeting. These plans were drawn up by Michael Gabriel , on the recommendation of Peter McLinden, and are based on plans drawn up by Jill Formby, and reviewed at the memorial garden committee meeting on 5th May this year. CEO agreed to apply for a building permit for the construction of the memorial garden and proceed with its construction.

6.1.4 BORE CONSTRUCTION AT SPORTS GROUND

CEO was authorised to proceed with construction of the bore at the sports ground, the quote by NT Bore of \$15,000 - \$20,000 for this bore was accepted.

6.1.5 RECYCLING DEPOT

The issue of the procedure for processing the recycled bottles and cans was discussed and the availability of crushing and packing equipment for crushing and compacting the bottles and cans. Equipment for compacting and packaging recycled plastic bottles and cans, as mentioned by works supervisor was discussed. This equipment for \$13,000 was stated by CEO, to be designed for hay packaging and would not be a viable alternative for beer cans, plastic bottles and glass containers. In particular glass could not be crushed and packaged by such equipment. CEO agreed to check this equipment further. The most suitable equipment for all processing was stated by CEO to cost at least \$30,000 based on preliminary inquiries. It was agreed to continue to evaluate the most suitable and viable system for processing and disposing of the recycled material. CEO explained that this would include for having the cans, and bottles either delivered to Darwin processors or being picked up by these processors, both of which was being currently negotiated.

6.1.6 SENIORS NIGHT

The success of the senior's night was emphasised by the President and CEO. The CEO stated the donations to the night were excellent and had all been recognised in writing. It was agreed that the provision of a Ferry award, that had previously been available would be looked into next year.

6.1.7 GREAT NORTHERN CLEAN UP

CEO reported that the result of the clean up was excellent, despite less media promotion of the event, compared to the harbour clean up in July

6.1.8 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

The workshop held earlier that day, was reported on in the CEO's report. This was largely comprised of Information session addressed by: Peter Davies-NT Emergency Services Beth Moloney and Collene Bremner - Chief Ministers Department ,Trevor Harris-Department of Local Government and Shenagh Gamble-LGANT. These sessions provided those present with a summary of what was involved with emergency management planning and community recovery, and the planned introduction of this planning in Wagait and Belyuen Shires, as well as a draft framework for shire recovery plans and funding arrangements.

A further workshop is scheduled for October on establishing the plans for emergency and recovery management in Belyuen and Wagait. This workshop will be held at evening, to enable as many of the communities business operators and residents interested in being part of future emergency planning in the shire to attend. The date for this workshop is yet to be determined, but will be the week after our next council meeting at this time the 24th October. The final date will be set in conjunction with LGANT by 30th September. It is intended for the workshop to be well advertised in the community, with emails and telephone calls to persons that may have an interest in this proposed planning, as well as posters around the shire..

6.1.9 FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Expected to be completed and in operational by end of October.

6.1.10 BLOCKAGE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES ACCESS AT END OF BRISBANE ST

CEO reported that the use of vehicles of this access is continued to be observed, and would report to council on the need to re-block this access.

6.1.11 TOPROC MEETING – WAGAIT COUNCIL

President made a brief report on the meeting, and that he would be attending a TOPROC meeting on Thursday 23rd September. CEO stated that a copy of the minutes of last TOPROC meeting at Wagait, was tabled at this meeting. President asked that it be requested that all councillors be placed on the mailing list for agendas and minutes of future TOPROC meetings.

6.1.12 RESPONSES TO SURVEY ON PLANNING FOR SPORTS GROUND FUTURE USE

A summary of the survey conducted via questionnaires forwarded out with the rate notices is being prepared for forwarded to BTO Pty Ltd, and will be made available at the next council meeting.

Resolution No. 2010/45

That the Officers' reports be received and accepted.

Moved: Cr Darryl Withnall

Seconded: Cr Karen Duncan

Vote: 7 - 0

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Financial Reports

Resolution No. 2010/46

That the August Monthly Financial Reports be accepted.

Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre

Seconded: Cr Vera Lamont

Vote: 7 - 0

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 TOILETS AT SPORTSGROUND – It was agreed that the toilets at the sports ground be left open. CEO to talk to the caretaker to keep a watch on the usage of the toilets

8.2 COMPUTER IN LIBRARY – It was agreed to purchase a new computer for the library, after several attempts to fix faults in the present computer. It is expected that this computer should cost less than \$1000. CEO stated that there is no requirement for it to be networked, but should internet and a printer, separate from the council's existing printer and internet system.

8.3 IT PROBLEMS IN OFFICE – Cr Withnall raised the matter of continued problems with internet and network in the council office, and referred to the fact that a Darwin IT solutions firm who had been and had a look at our systems, and made recommendations, but were still not contracted to monitor and fix the IT system. CEO stated that this matter was under hand, with an agreement for Area 9 IT Solutions to provide IT services to the council in discussion at this time. He stated that it was considered inadvisable to carry out the changes they had recommended in July, in view of a change in staff, the end of year accounting work program and the preparation for the reconciliation of rate accounts and the dispatch of rate notices

8.4 BIKE RACKS – The subject of providing additional bike racks in the community was raised. CEO reported that from his inquiries there was none available in Darwin, of the size and quality required, (they should be galvanised and powder coated if feasible) and would make inquiries of availability outside the Territory. This would involve a considerable freighting cost with reasonably sized racks (6 – 10 bikes) and with galvanised and/or powder coated finish, costing at least \$1500 +.

Cnr. Withnall suggested that council look at making our own bike racks. CEO commented that the cost of a pipe bender suitable for making a substantial bike rack for public use would cost considerably more. Also the time available of council staff is fairly limited at the moment, with a number of projects in progress and Gary Zikan on leave from next week.

8.5 CONSTRUCTION OF HOLE AT RUBBISH TIP – Cnr. Lamont asked what was the process was with constructing the hole for disposal of rubbish at the tip. CEO reported that an order had been given for this work to begin and it should be commencing shortly.

8.6 REPAIRING HOLES IN ROADS – CEO advised that the holes in the roads had been identified and work commencing to fill these holes. New material for the process had been ordered.

9. LATE ITEMS

9.1 – Review of possible options for an amalgamation of Darwin City Council, Belyuen Community Government Council and Wagait Shire Council.

An extensive discussion was held on the proposed consultation review of the potential amalgamation as stated above. President Clee advised that he supported the grant for the independent review of the potential amalgamation to ensure that the council and the community would be able to have an effective and realistic input into the review of this matter, and to ensure that the issue of the potential amalgamation was full and openly discussed. There were concerns expressed that the council had not had its opinion heard on this matter to date.

It was confirmed by president Clee, at no time has council openly sought approval of the amalgamation which to his understanding, was mainly commenced by Belyuen Council. A previous meeting of all three councils was a discussion on a number of issues relating to the councils working closed together on some issues in the future, without any party agreeing on any future amalgamation. As stated by Cr McIntyre it is best that Wagait Shire Council and the Wagait community presents its own opinion on what was their attitude towards any future amalgamation, and that this can openly presented in any independent view.

President Clee agree to keep council informed of the process of the proposed independent review, which was required to be completed by 31st December 2010. All councillors were asked to fully read and understand the timeline and associated activities and consultation process as stated in the draft consultancy brief, as developed by Darwin City Council.

9.2 – Consideration of Best Voting System for Local Government in NT

Council had obtained an extension of time to 24th September 2010, to lodge submission on what council consider the best voting system for Local Government in the NT. Submissions on this matter, which had already been lodged with the Dept. of Housing, Local Govt and regional services, were tabled at the meeting.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved that the optional preference system is the preferred system for Wagait Shire Council. It is easy to understand and simple to use, and allows voters to restrict their votes to candidates whom they support. It was agreed that council would utilise the services of Jack Ellis, who had lodged a submission on this matter, in drafting council's submission

Resolution: 2010/47

That Wagait Shire Council make a submission to the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services, supporting the use of the optional preference system for voting in Local Government in Northern Territory.

Moved: Cr Peter Clee
Seconded: Cr Rock Magnoli
Vote: 7 - 0

10 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

11. MEETING CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

President Clee closed the meeting at 9:30pm

The next monthly Council Meeting is to be held on 19th October 2010 at 7.00pm.