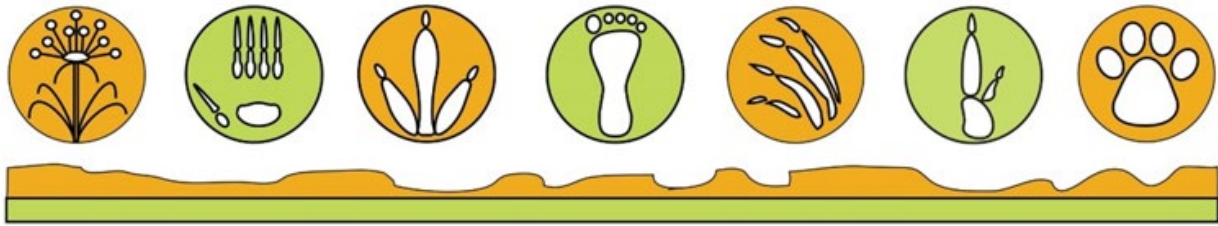


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Barkly Regional Council was held in Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek on Friday 13 December 2024 at 9:00 am.

Chris Kelly

Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

We strive to be a responsive, progressive, sustainable Council which respects, listens to and empowers the people to be strong.

The Way We Will Work

We will make it happen!

We will be engaged and have regular opportunities to listen.

We will have strong policies and budgets to ensure our programs and services are progressive and sustainable.

Respect is shown in everything we do, and we have acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly Region and their practices through a culturally competent Council.

We are a responsible Council.

We will be a responsive Council.

We want to empower local decision making.

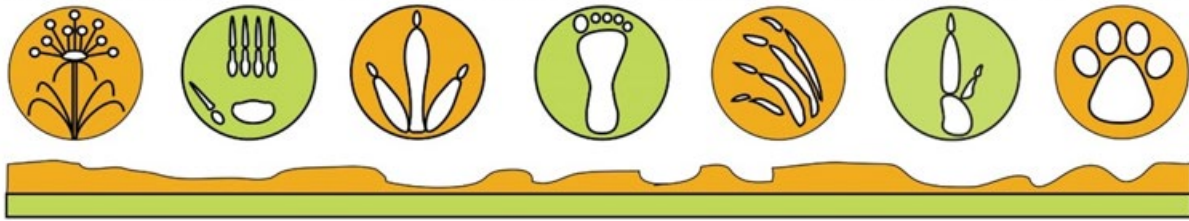
We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

We want to be able to sustain our environment – our communities, our physical places, our people, and our organisational culture.

We will aggressively pursue additional funding from both levels of Government to improve the standard of living of people across the region.

We need to be realistic, transparent, and accountable.

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Warumungu, Mudberra, Jingili, Wakaya, Wambaya, Waanyi, Walpiri, Warlmanpa, Alyawarr, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye Countries on which Barkly Regional Council live and work, the lands which we meet on today, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to the ancestors and elders of these lands, past, present and emerging.

May we continue to work together to Deliver sustainable outcomes through a process Based on mutual respect and understanding.

AUDIO RECORDING OF MEETING

An audio recording of this Council Meeting is being made for minute-taking purposes as authorised by Council Policy *Audio Recordings of Meetings*. Councillors may request, via majority vote if required, that no recording is made where issues of legitimate cultural or spiritual significance are to be discussed.

1 MEETING OPENED

MEETING OPENED at 9:00 AM.

An audio recording of this meeting was made for minute taking purposes as authorised by Council Policy. Councillors may request, via motion and majority vote if required, that no audio recording is made where issues of legitimate cultural or spiritual significance are to be discussed. Recordings are held in accordance with the outlined policy and Council's Privacy policy.

2 WELCOME

- Mayor Sid Vashist
- Cr. Greg Marlow
- Cr. Sharen Lake
- Cr. Pennie Cowin
- Cr. Dianne Stokes
- Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon
- Cr. Lennie Barton
- Cr. Ben Neade
- Cr. Andrew Tsavaris
- Cr. Darryl Rex Morton
- Cr. Zacieus Long
- Cr. Noel Hayes
- Cr. Valerie Campbell

The Mayor, Sid Vashist welcomed those present to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land. He informed all present that an audio recording of the Council meeting was being made for minute taking purposes as authorised by Council policy.

3 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

ITEM NUMBER: 3.1

TITLE: Attendance and Apologies

Elected Members Present

- Mayor Sid Vashist
- Cr. Ben Neade
- Cr. Andrew Tsavaris
- Cr. Dianne Stokes
- Cr Greg Marlow
- Cr Lennie Barton
- Cr. Noel Hayes (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon
- Cr. Valerie Campbell
- Cr. Zacieus Long

Staff Members Present

- Chris Kelly - Chief Executive Officer
- Brody Moore - Chief Operations Officer
- Susan Steele - Director of Community Services
- Sunil Neupane - Acting Chief Financial Officer
- Suryateja Godavarthi - Acting Director Infrastructure/Fleet
- Emmanuel Okumu - Governance Manager

Visitors Present

- Hon. Steven Edgington - LGU
- Amy Edgington
- Mr Brian Coleman
- Lucy McGarry - Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team

MOTION

That Council:

- a) Noted the attendance.**
- b) Accepted the apologies received from Elected Members Sharen Lake, and Pennie Cowin.**

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/343

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ITEM NUMBER: 4.1

TITLE: Leave of Absence

MOTION

That Council:

- a) Noted that no Elected Members made no submissions for Leave of Absence; and**
- b) Noted the Senior Staff Members who will be on leave and Officers Acting in the role as follows;**

CEO leave dates 16th December – 5th January. Acting CEO = Chief Operations Officer = Brody Moore. b) Director of Infrastructure and Fleet leave dates 22nd November – 5th January. Acting Director of Infrastructure and Fleet = Suryateja Godavarthi. c) Director of Community Services leave dates 23rd December – 6th January. On call for Community Care = Regional Manager Community Care, Rajib Thapa.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/344

Cr Ben Neade Left 10:24 AM.

5 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

ITEM NUMBER: 5.1

TITLE: Council Code of Conduct

MOTION

That Council noted the Council Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

Seconded: Cr. Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/345

The Minister left at 1002 AM.

Meeting paused for break 10:02 AM

Meeting re-commenced 10 24 AM.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER: 6.1

TITLE: Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 -11- 2024

MOTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 -11- 2024 be taken as read and be accepted as a true and accurate record of that Meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes

Seconded: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/346

Cr Ben Neade returned 10 :32 AM

7 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND NOTIFICATIONS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM NUMBER: 7.1

TITLE: Notification of General Business Items

MOTION

That Members raised matters to be discussed in General Council Business as follows:

1. Address by the Minister - Hon. Steven Edgington
2. Matters arising out of Ministers Address – To be discussed in confidential session – CEO Chris Kelly.
3. Ali Curung Generator – By Cr. Andrew Tsavarie

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/347

ITEM NUMBER: 7.2
TITLE: Acceptance of Agenda

MOTION

That the papers circulated were received for consideration at this meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

Seconded: Cr. Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/348

8 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

ITEM NUMBER: 8.1
TITLE: Conflict of Interest

MOTION

That Council:

- a) Noted the Conflict of Interest Policy; and
- b) Elected Members did not declare any Conflicts of Interest in this meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

Seconded: Cr. Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/349

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

11 LOCAL AUTHORITY

ITEM NUMBER: 11.1

TITLE: Draft Minutes of Local Authority Meetings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council considers the minutes of Local Authority Ordinary Meeting or Provisional Meeting at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Attached are the draft (unconfirmed) minutes of the Local Authority meetings that have occurred since or could not be prepared prior to the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

The Local Authority meetings covered in this report include:

- Tennant Creek – 20th November 2024.

MOTION

That Council:

- a) **Notes the recommendations contained within the minutes of the Ordinary Local Authority Meetings held in Tennant Creek.**
- b) **Tennant Creek Local Authority Requests Council to;**
 1. Invite Linda Weatherhead to provide TCLA with the face-to-face training.
 2. Note and start planning for the forthcoming 2028 event in Tennant Creek (total solar eclipse) on how the Town is going to cope with the event. Engage other Stake holders and seek funding to put things like more shelters, toilets, parks with facilities like drinking water, hotels among others.
 3. Call for all for nominations to fill the vacant LA position.
 4. Maintain the Tennant Creek Town Clock Tower.
 5. Find a solution of removing dogs roaming around the street, entering public areas such as shops and attacking community members.
 6. Review the Tennant Creek (Control of dogs) By-laws of 1992 and its implementation to protect the Members of the community against roaming dogs.
 7. Invites Manny Santos to discuss with TCLA or through BRC on ways they can work together on issues relating to animal management.
 8. Handle the Tennant Creek Car Parking regulations and implementation
 9. Note that the public toilets provided at the Purkiss Reserve is not sufficient and look for possibility of seeking extra funding to add additional public toilets
 10. Post a message informing the community that the three Government agencies are working together for the good of the community.
 11. Buy 7 units of water bubblers but only connect 5 in locations that are already identified as suitable and first keep the two water bubblers units until LA resolves the issue of connection of electricity in the area.
 12. Seek further information and advice on whether LA funds can be invested by putting water bubblers around the church and DIPL Land or it must be only in Council property.
 13. Provide LA with a map showing all the suitable locations that has been identified for the 5 water bubblers.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

Seconded: Cr. Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/350

Correct name mannie Santos

Join item 9 and 10

Amend bubble to bubbler

12 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

ITEM NUMBER: 12.1

TITLE: Action Register

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council considers the attached actions that have been raised at previous Council meetings and provides the status and/or updates of each action.

MOTION

That Council:

- a) **Notes the progress on the actions in the register; and**
- b) **Approves the removal of complete actions.**

RESOLVED

Moved: Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes

Seconded: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/351

Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes left 11:15 AM

Cr. Lennie Barton Joined 11:17 AM

Lucy BRD arrived 11:19 AM

Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes returned 11 : 20 AM

1. Add letter - response from PowerWater and close item from register.
2. Close all completed item recommended for closing.

3. Action on informing staff plus the other organisations in regards to the ballot of the Deputy Mayor, as well as uploading onto Council's site, the CEO informed Council that Council staff have access to minutes but the other entities have been notified including all the media too.
4. Action item of inviting the vet practice into the committee membership, the CEO informed Council that himself and the Chief Operating Officer, Brody Moore, went down and spoke to them in person advising them of the request for Sharnay to be on the Animal Advisory Committee. CEO said they were more than welcoming of that and were very excited about the outcome.
5. Action Item providing invoice proof to the wheelie bins was left open and deferred to the next OCM.
6. Action items regarding inviting the BRD, Sponsorship of Tennant Creek High School and the HIPPY program, Emergency contact during holiday period, Information on Bulk rubbish pick up which is 18 December, inviting Barkly vet practice to the advisory committee, providing Council with list of outstanding projects, allocate funding according to the specific locations, are recommended for closing from the register.

ITEM NUMBER: 12.2

TITLE: Correspondence Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Councillors with an update on correspondence received by Council in the period following the past Council meeting.

MOTION

That Council notes the correspondence received and sent since the last OCM.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

Seconded: Cr. Valerie Campbell

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/352

1. The Mayor informed Council that in the briefing day yesterday, they went through rather in detail of all the correspondences that Council have received and those that has gone out.
2. The Mayor mentioned all incoming and outgoing correspondence details.

3. Deputy Mayor Haynes, asked about leases correspondence between Council with the Central Land Council. He said he wanted to know what it was all about and why CLC has not been invited to have a discussion with the LA as well regarding the leases.
4. The CEO informed Council that the lots Council request to surrender back to CLC are lot 65, 66 and 68. CEO pointed out that this was also actually mentioned yesterday during briefing.
5. The Deputy Mayor pointed out that he just wanted to confirm that Council is surrendering these lots back to the CLC for Ali Curung community.
6. The CEO replied in the affirmative and said that these are lots that Council no longer use and haven't used for extended periods of time. The CEO added that as a Council, they have been paying the section 19 leases amounts on them so Council just wants to hand them back to CLC.
7. The CEO pointed to Council that early conversations so far reflect that Barkly Regional Council and CLC have not been on the best of terms previously. However, that relationship with him as the new CEO and his executive team, the relationship is building back, and the recent discussion shows that CLC is looking at inviting him and some of the executive to the CLC meetings as well as send their team to attend LA's as well.
8. The Deputy Mayor Hayes welcomed this news and said that if CLC can start attending LA and speaking to the people there, it's what they want as people in Ali Curung.

ITEM NUMBER: 12.3
TITLE : Common Seal Register

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is requested that the Council affix the Common Seal in the Deed of Variation in relation to Aged Care Services Funding Agreement between Barkly Regional Council and the Commonwealth of Australia.

MOTION

That Council resolves to approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the Deed of Variation in relation to Aged Care Services Grant Funding Agreement attached.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

Seconded: Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/353

13 MAYOR, COUNCILLORS' AND CEO'S REPORT

ITEM NUMBER: 13.1
TITLE: CEO's Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details organisational updates and the meetings attended by CEO Chris Kelly from 15th November 2024.

MOTION

That Council

1. Receive the CEO's Report for the months of November and December.
2. Note that Brody Moore, COO, was absent unexpectedly due to personal reasons. Due to return before CEO Christmas leave. Rachel Baker was acted in the role.
3. Note key personnel leave during Christmas and the CEO's succession plan to ensure business continuity.
4. Note employment statistics across BRC and:
5. Note CEO's meeting attendance as per attachment.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Ben Neade

Seconded: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/354

1. The Mayor informed Council that the CEO went through this report yesterday during the briefing.
2. The CEO informed Council that Brody Moore, the Chief Operating Officer, was absent unexpectedly due to personal reasons and has returned now.
3. CEO further said that pointed that there will be key personnel leave during Christmas, but he has provided Council with the CEO's succession plan to ensure business continuity.
4. About the CEO's meeting attendance, the Mayor informed Councillors that they already went through the CEO's report yesterday during the briefing and that there was a couple of interesting conversations that they had out of that. He added that One being Councillor Lee, SunCable, Councillor Stokes, the NORFORCE and what else has been going on around the region.
5. The Mayor asked Members if they wanted to discuss the report further or they proceed.

ITEM NUMBER: 13.2

TITLE: Council Policies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides the Council with all BRC Policies which require Council resolution.

MOTION

That Council

1. **Receives, notes and approves BRC Policies attached; or**
2. **Make any other direction as may be considered appropriate.**

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr. Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/355

1. The Mayor informed Council that these are about 27 policies that Council deferred in the last first Council meeting because the Councillors wish to have a read at that and digest all the information.
2. Mayor added that he had gone through them and reminded the Councils that these policies are something that Council can actually come back to the table again, if need be and make amendment to them in the future. The Mayor informed Members that he will read the headers without going into detail.
3. The Mayor asked Members if they would like to review Allowance policy for Elected Members.
4. Members agreed not to review at this point.

ITEM NUMBER: 13.3
TITLE: Mayor's Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the meetings attended by Mayor Sid Vashist, from 30th November 2024.

MOTION

That Council receives the Mayor's Report for the month of December.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Greg Marlow
Seconded: Cr. Valerie Campbell

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/356

14 OFFICERS' REPORTS

NUMBER: 14.1
TITLE: Finance Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report summarises the Finance Directorate activities for the period ended 31st October 2024.

MOTION

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the finance report.**
2. **Aggressively recover monies from people who owe Council monies.**

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Greg Marlow
Seconded: Cr. Ben Neade

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/357

Barkly Regional Deal Presentation Commenced 12:00 PM
Council paused for lunch 12:41 PM.

Meeting back in session 1 :40 PM- Barkly Regional Deal Presentation continued.
Barkly Regional Deal Induction ended 2:00 PM.

ITEM NUMBER: 14.2
TITLE: Grant Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an overview of the status of Grants applications, reporting and acquittals for the Barkly Regional Council. The report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current Grants landscape and relays what grants have been applied for in the reporting period, what grants are currently opening and opening soon, what current opportunities are in progress and what previously applied for grants have been successful (or unsuccessful). In addition, reporting requirements for grants in progress is also noted.

MOTION

That Council notes and accepts the Grants Report.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris
Seconded: Cr. Lennie Barton

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/358

ITEM NUMBER: 14.3
TITLE: Immediate Financial Grant

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the Council with information on the Immediate Priority Grant 2021-2022 for the Youth Centre Fit Out which needs to re-sit before Council to be minuted at an allocated funding amount of \$100,000.

MOTION

That Council receive and note the Immediate Priority Grant 2021-2022.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Dianne Stokes
Seconded: Cr. Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/359

ITEM NUMBER: 14.4

TITLE: Chief Operations Officer Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the activities of the Operational Services Directorate in the areas of Municipal, Administrative and Local Government services delivery as well as the performance of contractual commercial services.

MOTION

That Council note and accept the Operational and Commercial Services Directorate report.

RESOLVED

Moved: Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes

Seconded: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/360

1. Officer informed Council that services are running uninterrupted across all the communities and there is a positive feedback from Members of the communities who are now witnessing clean streets and parks, rubbish is being collected per schedule and the team are in good spirits.
2. Officer further informed Council that a new customer service officer has been hired. Her name is Frances and that she brings extensive experience to Council, working with other Councils and remote communities around Australia.
3. Officer also informed Council that the Senior admin officer, Karen O'Sullivan, is filling the position of local authority coordinator, however, is away on a standard personal leave.

ITEM NUMBER: 14.5

TITLE: Directorate of Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Community Services Directorate report is the update on current Community Care (Aged Care, NDIS), Community Safety (Night Patrol, Safe Houses) and Youth Services (Youth, Sport and Recreation) for the month of October 2024.

MOTION

That Council

- a. notes and accepts the Community Services Directorate report.
- b. Write to the Mob, Night Patrol, Julalikari and NIAA the funding body and request their collaboration to ensure that when we are actually delivering the service delivery for the youth Centre during the Christmas and New Year period between 3pm to 8pm we request that the Government ensure that there's services provided for our youth to get back home safely.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/361

Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes left 2 :22 pm

Cr. Andrew Tsavaris left 2 :33

Cr. Andrew Tsavaris returned 2:35

- a. The Director informed Council that they have had to reduce services at the TCYC to five days a week and pointed that its all they were actually funded to do. She added that this last reporting period, Council collaborated with other organisations to have events at the TCYC. There was a Youth Forum and Careers Expo with Lucy from Barkly Regional Deal.
- b. Director informed Council of the Christmas program. She said that the TCYC will remain open every day, even on Christmas Day. She said that Council will be providing a morning breakfast activity for Tennant Creek kids but nothing in the afternoon.
- c. TCYC will do something in the morning and have breakfast for the kids and families that want to come down.
- d. Elected Members indicated they are happy with the work staff are doing in providing service to the youths through TCYC.

- e. Councillor Stokes pointed that she was disappointed with the way the night patrol just drive past, and not actively helping to pick the kids and take them home.
- f. She said that whereas the Council is offering services for these kids that end late, night patrol service needs to support Councils effort by taking the picking the kids and dropping them home once the Council program ends.
- g. Councillor stokes added that she is concerned about the kids that is why she took it upon her self and led the initiative of talking to the Minister about having a vehicle for night patrol in TC and the funding was received but now kids are not being dropped home.
- h. Deputy Mayor Hayes suggested that Council acquire a mini bus to be on standby and help drop kids back home after the youth centre program finishes.
- i. In response the CEO informed Council that there are different organisations in town that are already funded to offer this sort of service. He added that Council does not receive funding for these sort of services.
- j. The CEO said that he would recommend Council inviting those organisation to come and discuss with them how they can support Council with youth programs.
- k. Action- Council to write to these organisations and request for collaborations eg the Mob, Night Ptrol, Julakari and NIAA the funding body to ensure that when we are actually delivering the service delivery for the youth centre during the Christmas and New Year period between 3pm to 8pm we request that the Government ensure that there's services provided for our youth to get back home safely.
- l. Action- There's two trees that Mr. Moore would cut down near the old bowling next to the TCYC. This is to stop kids climbing and swinging on them as its a risk to the kids.

ITEM NUMBER: 14.6

TITLE: Directorate of Infrastructure/Fleet

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report provides the Council with an overview and relevant update on Infrastructure projects managed by the directorate across the Barkly Region for the past month.

MOTION

That Council notes and accepts the report from the Director of Infrastructure and Fleet.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valerie Campbell

Seconded: Cr. Ben Neade

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/362

Cr. Greg Marlow left 03:09 pm

1. Councillor Campbell mentioned that one of the facilities wouldn't mind getting an air condition installed.
2. The Director informed Council that the shad being referred to already has aircon in it but they will send the team to check as it could be that it just stopped working and needs replacing.
3. Councillor Campbell also requested that Council put a welcome to Barkly sign along the Highway.
4. In response the Mayor said that the welcome sign was already there. The CEO said he will send the team to go check as it could be that its been vandalised or faded and needs replacing.
5. Councillor Cr. Ben Neade informed Council that the people in Elliott would like Council to put an attractive welcome structure at entry point of Elliott Town. The Councillor explained that something like lighting and any other nice sign that welcomes the visitors to know that they are entering Elliott town. He said that as its now, the entry into Elliott town feel boring and unattractive.
6. In response, the CEO said that this was already in plan however, the artist who was engaged by the department had a fall out with the department. CEO said that there is underground planning going on behind the scheme to either engage the same artist or look at other alternative. He assured the Councillor that something will be done.
7. Council agreed that Councillor Neade takes this to Elliott LA so that the Members can come up with the type of structure they would prefer as an entry sign and then Council can support that.

15 GENERAL BUSINESS AS RAISED AT ITEM 7.1.

ITEM NUMBER: 15.1
TITLE: Ali Curung Generator

MOTION

That Council discusses the General Council Business regarding the Ali Curung Generator. Requests the Mayor to write to the Minister and seek the Minister's support to resolve the Ali Curung Generator issue.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valerie Campbell
Seconded: Cr. Zacieus Long

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/363

1. Cr. Andrew Tsavaris provided Council with detailed brief regarding the Ali Curung generator.
2. Deputy Mayor pointed out that power is very challenging in Ali Curung and yet If you want economic activity in Australia, you need power.
3. Member agreed that the Mayor writes to the Minister and requests the Ministers support to sort out the issue.

Alpurrurulam Community Safety

MOTION

That Council discuss the Alpurrurulam Community Safety.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valerie Campbell
Seconded: Cr. Zacieus Long

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/364

1. Councillor Campbell informed Council that there is fear in the community due to violence yet there is no police in the area. She said the police sometimes in for few hours and go back. She said some of the nurses are getting hurt because of violence and they are now scared for their life.
2. She said the community would like to have a police station here because there's people from other communities also bringing issues in their community.
3. The Mayor said that the last Government had put it in the budget. The budget was to move the Avondale police station to Alpurrurulam and build a new one there.

Council requested the Mayor to write and remind the new Government not to forget about this program.

ITEM NUMBER: 15.2
TITLE: BRD Induction Presentation

MOTION

Council received and noted the presentation by BRD.

RESOLVED

Moved: Dep. Mayor Noel Hayes

Seconded: Cr. Lennie Barton

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/365

ITEM NUMBER: 15.3

TITLE: Address by the Minister of Local Government - Hon. Steven Edgington - MLA Barkly.

MOTION

That Council receive and note the verbal presentation and address to Council to be provided by the Minister.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Ben Neade

Seconded: Cr. Andrew Tsavaris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OMC-24/366

Key Discussions

Minister welcomed new Council.

1. The Minister welcomed the elected Members present into Local Government. He advised that Members should remember that they represent their community. Minister added that to understand the Community's views and opinions and bring them to the table, elected Members need to go out there, listen to what people tell them, and then come back to represent their views at Council meetings.
2. He said this also applies to attending the Local authorities, as the work that goes on in the Local authorities can guide some of the decisions of the Council.

A snapshot of portfolios.

3. The Minister said that the new Government has deliberately structured Government portfolios so that they work together, particularly when it comes to travelling throughout the Territory and representing remote areas.
4. The Minister said that his portfolios include the Ministers for Health, Mental Health, Alcohol Policy, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing, Local Government, and Development, as well as Essential Services.
5. If looked at carefully, he covers key issues around health, Local Government, and essential services, which affect people across the NT but especially in remote communities.
6. He added that these are the things communities have been raising with him wherever he goes, and no doubt they're matters that are raised with Councillors and Mayors as the Council is the Government that is close to the people offering day-to-day services.

Meeting with a couple of Mayors.

7. The Minister pointed out that Local Government will be a challenging portfolio. He said that he had recently talked to a couple of Mayors that he met with a few days back, such as the Mayor of the Katherine Town Council, the Mayor of the Roper Gulf Regional Council, the Mayor of Palmerston, and now the BRC Mayor and Councillors as well, but some of the issues that are constantly being raised with him are the legislation itself.

Common Issue Raised – Code of Conduct.

8. The Minister pointed out that there have been many challenges in applying the current legislation across the board. One significant matter that people are raising with him is the code of conduct in the legislation.
9. The Minister added that he attended the (LGANT Conference- in Alice Springs), the Local Government Association in the Northern Territory, of which the Barkly Regional Council is a member. Minister said that talking to people in the room; the most significant issue that most people were talking to him about when it came to legislation was the code of conduct.
10. The Minister said that people feel that the code of conduct isn't designed in a way that will have the impact that it needs to have because many issues being raised are around things that might happen at and outside of meetings. However, all Members need to understand their requirements as Councillors, representing their Community, and understand that there are provisions in the code of conduct that everyone, every elected member, must abide by.
11. The Minister pointed out that people are telling him that there are insufficient ways or inefficiencies in dealing with matters raised as complaints about Councillors and insufficient ways to manage Councillors through consequences or penalties for inappropriate behaviour. The Minister said that's one matter the new Government will examine.

Organisations with charitable status.

12. The Minister also addressed the issues surrounding charities. He said that the other matters raised with him at the LGANT conference in Alice Springs and a couple of Councillors he has

met since taking office relate to the clause in the Local Government Act that deals with exemptions to charities and not-for-profits. Minister further added that they are seeing an increase in housing providers across the board in the Northern Territory, which leaves a situation where, because of their charitable status and non-Government status, the Council faces a challenge because of a clause in the Act relating to the inability for Council to charge rates against those organisations.

13. The Minister said that he immediately prioritised the legislation and directed the Department to review it and recommend the necessary changes so that they could start moving forward. This would ensure that Councils and the Government have the best possible legislation and the ability to do their jobs properly.

Issues around Homelands and Outstations.

14. The Minister further pointed out that Homeland is a big issue that has constantly been raised with him, and it fits within his Department of Housing, Local Government, and Community Development. Minister said that Community development area covers homelands and outstations. All the funding available for homelands and outstations is managed through that Department.
15. The Minister pointed out that he attended the Northern Land Council meeting yesterday, and what he picked up from the meeting was that there are some real concerns around outstations and homelands at the moment. He said that it was pointed out during the meeting that there has been a lack of investment in those outstations and homelands over quite a number of years. The Minister said that, in his capacity as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, he is also having some good conversations with both Land Councils about that at the moment.
16. The Minister further said that a lot of work is being done regarding homelands and outstations. However, he wants to have those same conversations with Local Governments across the NT because Local Governments are on the ground every day of the week representing people. Minister added and advised that his strategy is to attend as many Local authority meetings as possible because, from previous experience at the grassroots level, he knows that this is where many issues are constantly raised.
17. The Minister pointed out that, getting around the Northern Territory, in the three months so far, he has had a chance to visit a couple of different areas.
18. For example, he said he was out at Papunya, getting around and seeing some of those remote areas and the different things that have come to his attention.
19. The Minister said that as a member of Barkly, he is very familiar with Barkly but seeing what's going on across the Northern Territory has been quite eye-opening because the challenges there are very similar to those we're seeing right here in Barkly.

Government Initiative around housing.

20. He said that with the issues around, particularly housing in general, coming in as the Minister for Housing, there's a \$4 billion agreement with the Commonwealth Government over the next 10 years to deliver housing in remote areas. Minister added and said that his



Department of Housing is part of the Joint Steering Committee. There's a Joint Steering Committee, which also has land Councillors on that Joint Steering Committee as well.

Meeting with CLC Yesterday vs the Roads.

21. The Minister said that issues around roads were raised in yesterday's meeting at the Northern Land Council. Roads are a real problem area at the moment, particularly in remote areas. He said that some of our sealed roads, and certainly the one that was raised yesterday, was the Tablelands Highway, which has been an ongoing matter for quite several years as well.
22. The Minister also pointed out that there are unsealed roads and some sealed roads that require a lot of investment. The Minister added that the damage to these roads is impacting people's ability to travel, do business, travel, and visit, as well as the Locals who drive those roads every day.
23. The Minister said that under these sorts of road conditions, vehicles don't last after travelling some of those heavily corrugated roads; the damage caused to vehicles is really costly to us, including you, the elected members, and our people in the Community using these roads daily.
24. The Minister pointed these are just some of the challenges that have been brought to his attention, but being new in Government, they need to get across a whole range of issues. Including a range of crime issues across the Northern Territory, which the new Government is also trying to tackle at the moment.

Remarks by the Mayor.

25. The Mayor thanked the Minister for the team from the Local Government department who came and provided the new Council with governance training. He said the training and workshops provided by your Department were beneficial and they look forward to more training in future.
26. The Mayor requested the Minister to send congratulations to Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro and the entire team on behalf of the new Council.
27. He further said the Council has this mutual feeling that being the Minister with a phenomenal portfolio also matters to our region.
28. The Mayor added that it's an opportunity to have a Local member who is keen and willing to listen to people and see their strengths. He informed the Council that the Minister is a former member and former Mayor of this Council, and he knows the challenges Barkly Region faces.

Legacy Issues and Challenges to the Council

Investigation report.

29. The Mayor informed the Minister that the new Council inherited 615 pages of an investigation report, which included a phenomenal number of recommendations and an action register.

30. He said The Department has been working very closely with the Council, and it's his understanding that the Department will return to the Council with an updated action register of achievements. He believes it's about 90% complete.

The Huge deficit.

31. The Mayor said that looking at legacy issues, the new Council is inheriting a significant deficit. He said the Executive Team has done a budget refresh, which is starting to show a positive outcome.

32. He requested that the Minister note that his office will receive some requests from the new Council regarding the untied funding.

No increase in operational funding.

33. The Mayor further pointed out that the Council only had decent operational funding during the 2019-2020 financial year. This has since dropped, and in the last five years, the Council's operational funding has stayed the same. Mayor Added that there is no reflection of increasing operational costs, CPIs, or Local Authority. The money is not increasing in Local Authorities to strengthen Community-led projects in different communities.

34. The Mayor said that the Council is willing to work with the Minister's office and his office as a Local member to support the Council in this situation and achieve better outcomes for the region.

Apenarra Resolution vs CPI Increase.

35. The Mayor said that Epenarra Local authority recently moved a motion asking the Mayor to write to the Minister and the Department to look at increasing CPI for Local authorities. The bucket of money is not moving. When you talk about waste and resource management funding as well, it's \$148,000. It hasn't gone up for five years, not even a single dollar.

Blowout in the wage budget.

36. The Mayor further informed the Minister that the questions that remain unanswered that the executive team and new Council have inherited this fiscal year, and it's a big challenge for the Council, are the fact that the wage budget was blown out by \$5 million in the last financial year, contract variations, and the increase in cost as well.

37. The Mayor added and said that the Council moved a motion in the last Council meeting, and the Mayor will write and have a conversation with the Minister.

38. Our request as a Council is that the Minister consider reviewing how official management was conducted, which led to this budget blowout, and that the Department consider how Official management is conducted by the departments into the future because many questions remain unanswered about how you can actually have a deficit of that amount under Official Management, yet such a blowout wasn't happening when elected Members were in place.

39. The Minister responded, " That's a Good question, and I'd like to know the answer as well."

The money Issue.

40. The Mayor informed the Minister that, unlike city Councils, Regional Councils have fewer avenues to collect sufficient rates and sources of money. Some extra Government funding would be highly appreciated in the current fiscal cycle. Mayor said that in the current financial year, if there's an opportunity to negotiate with the Minister's Office and the Department to potentially provide BRC with some extra untied funding, this would greatly help because the Council is working and operating in a high-risk environment, yet it has been left with insufficient funds.
41. The Mayor assured the Minister that this is a new, re-energised Council. It's the most diverse Council, consisting of youth and experienced, strong women leadership. They want to work with the Government and local Members to deliver service to our Barkly communities.

Community Council's

42. The Mayor pointed out that he wanted to ask the Minister about his plan for a Community Council. He said that there is a lot of hearsay about the plan to have a Community Council, and no factual information is currently presented to the Council, which causes a huge concern as they put effort as new Council to rebuild and re-strengthen this Barkly Regional Council.
43. Mayor added and said that the new Council is requesting that the Minister brief them and give factual information so that they better understand, for example, what the change might look like, what it would cost when it might happen and any other information around the policy. He said the people and the media are asking him about the coming Community Councils, and yet, even as the Mayor, he does not have clear details about it and finds it very challenging to provide answers.

Minister Response

44. In response, the Minister said that he does not believe that there is hearsay out there. He said this is out there and not a secret. Minister said that over the last six months leading into the election, he made it very clear to all of the Local Authorities and Councils that he attended that the policy going into the election was that if elected to Government, they would work with the Community right across the Northern Territory, including in the Barkly.
45. The Mayor asked if the Minister's consultation would include holding a plebiscite to get the people in the communities to vote if they want Community Councils or no. He added that such a huge decision would require some sort of a vote of yes or no.
46. In reply, the Minister said that there would be no voting yes or not but a consultation. He said that their policy is very clear: Voting takes place to elect people, not to move Government policy. The Minister said that the Government would put together the model for implementation and delivery then commence that structured Community consultation. The Minister said their Government was elected on that policy platform. They went to the election, making their policies very clear.
47. The Mayor also raised the issue of Tablelands highway, which he said needs fixing, as well as many other Community roads.



48. In reply, the Minister said that roads are one of his priorities and that he would ask his team to look at this issue.
49. Councillor Andrew Tsavaris raised the issue of Ali Curung Generator with the Minister and provided detail background around the generator.
50. The Minister replied that he had asked PowerWater to handle the issue of Ali Curung's generator. He said he has asked to be provided with a quote of what it will cost to replace the generator, but also advise him on whether there is an alternative to replacing it, whether that's a hybrid model of solar and diesel. So, that's what I'm waiting for at the moment.
51. Councillors from Ali Curung questioned why PowerWater de-commissioned the generator without consulting the Community of Ali Curung or the Council since the generator, yet it belongs to the community.

The Minister left at 10: 02 AM

16 CLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC FOR DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER: 16.1
TITLE: closure of the meeting for Confidential Items

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and clauses 51 and 52 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, the meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential matters.

MOTION

That Council move into Confidential Session

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Valda Napurrula Shannon
Seconded: Cr. Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OMC-24/367

The meeting moved into confidential session at 3:39 PM.

17 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER: 17.1

TITLE: Confirmation of Previous Confidential Minutes.

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Status 51(1)(d) - This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a Council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

ITEM NUMBER: 17.2

TITLE: Confidential Action Register

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Status 51(1)(d) - This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a Council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

ITEM NUMBER: 17.3

TITLE: BRC v Harvey Developments (NT) Pty Ltd. - (timeline)

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Status 51(1)(c)(iv) - This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a Council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the Council or some other person.

ITEM NUMBER: 17.4

TITLE: Discussion following Address by the Minister - Hon Steven Edgington - On CLP Priorities.

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Status 51(1)(c)(iv) - This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a Council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the Council or some other person.

18 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be re-opened to the public at 4:05 PM.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Lennie Barton

Seconded: Cr. Zacieus Long

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OMC-24/368

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date for the next OCM IS 30 January 2025.

20 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting concluded at 4:10 PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 December 2024 and are unconfirmed.

Mayor