

MINUTES OF THE **SPECIAL** MEETING OF THE FOURTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022 IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

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1. OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

1.1 Opening of the Meeting by the Mayor (Chair)

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting open at **6:00pm** and welcomed all present to the meeting.

Mayor Matt Paterson acknowledged the Central Arrernte people who are the traditional owners and custodians of Alice Springs.

Mayor Matt Paterson reminded those present that that this meeting is being recorded and will be placed on council's website. By speaking at a council meeting, you agree to being recorded. Please ensure that if and when you speak at the council meeting, you are respectful to others and use appropriate language at all times. Alice Springs Town Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of this council meeting

PRESENT

Mayor M. Paterson (Chair)

Deputy Mayor E. Melky

Councillor M. Banks

Councillor A. Bitar

Councillor S. Brown

Councillor J Cocking

Councillor M Coffey

Councillor K. Hopper

Councillor M. Liddle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services and Acting Director Community Development

Mr. M Goode – Acting Director Technical Services

Mrs T. Ociones – Executive Assistant (Minutes)

Ms A. Chin – Executive Assistant

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Marli Banks  
Robert Jennings, CEO

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky  
Seconded – Councillor Bitar

**That these apologies be accepted**

CARRIED (22175)

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Nil

*Councillor Banks arrived at 6.18pm*

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Due to there being no allowance in the agenda for public questions, the Mayor proposed that this be included as part of the meeting proceedings.

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky  
Seconded – Councillor Cocking

**That public question time be included in the meeting**

CARRIED (22176)

4.1. Darren Clark – Resident & Business Owner (administrator of Action for Alice Facebook page)

Mr Clark gave an overview of his experiences as an ongoing victim of crime. The crime crisis has been going on for 2 ½ years and something needs to be done now, people are too scared to leave their homes. Businesses moving out of the CBD as the rent and risk is too high.

Mr Clark asked for Council to be the voice of this town and put pressure on the Northern Territory Government. There needs to be a circuit breaker.

4.2. Rita – Resident

Rita spoke about the 3 attempted break-ins she has experienced and about her daughter being attacked in daylight by other children. She asked for the Mayor to hold to account all the organisations that receive funding from the Government to do something about the issue with crime.

Rita asked about the Traditional Owner Patrol and why it was no longer operating. The Mayor responded that the funding from the Federal Government was no longer available.

The Mayor advised that he has met with Minister Wyatt and former Chief Minister Gunner to discuss why there are a number of organisations being funded to carry out the same work with not much changing. An audit has been carried out by the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet. Discussion ensued.

4.3. Garth Thompson – Resident & Business Owner

Mr Thompson gave an overview of his experiences with crime, especially as business owner for over 10 years. He spoke about his personal experiences and the toll it's had on him.

He asked that the Elected Members do what they promised during the election – to fix this town. Now is the chance to show the community why they were voted for by their constituents; to step up and make a difference.

4.4. Sharon – Resident

Sharon spoke of her experience as a victim of crime and is angry with the system for not fixing the problem. For the children and the families that have been let down by the system.

She asked for an assurance from Council that everyone will be taken into consideration and that care and compassion will be shown.

4.5. Jacob – Resident

Jacob asked for the problem with crime to be considered a public health issue, especially around the mental health of those affected by crime.

4.6. Ben Crawford – Resident

Mr Crawford spoke of his experience and his family's experience as victims of crime which has left him angry and disappointed. Many people have left town because of the social issues and being afraid for their safety.

Mr Crawford asked Council to please listen to what the people are saying; to save the history of this town and keep the local knowledge.

The Police need to be supported. If you see something, report it.

Mr Crawford begged Council to do something.

4.7. Erin – Nurse

Erin spoke of her experiences as a nurse; there are no nurses in town with nurses leaving due to the crime issues.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded –

**Move out of standing orders**

CARRIED (22177)

5.1 Community Safety – Deputy Mayor Melky

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Brown

- A. That the Alice Springs Town Council declare the level of crime and anti-social behaviour currently being experienced by our community, as an emergency and request immediate action and response by the Northern Territory Government.
- B. That ASTC re-emphasise the following motions:
  - That Alice Springs Town Council invites the Northern Territory Government Chief Minister and Cabinet to urgently meet in Alice Springs with the Alice Springs Town Council Elected Members to address the community safety challenges currently faced.
  - That Alice Springs Town Council calls on the Northern Territory Government to ensure our community safety and escalate those measures which may include a curfew, extended usage of drones and safe place options.
  - That Alice Springs Town Council calls on the Northern Territory Government to immediately launch substantial action concurrent with an independent community safety audit to ensure our community's safety.
- C. That the Northern Territory Government provide mental health support to victims of crime.
- D. That the Northern Territory Government provide financial compensation to victims of crime including businesses.
- E. That the Northern Territory Government increase support to their relevant departments including additional Police resources and dog patrols to ensure community safety.
- F. That the Northern Territory Government apply existing legislation on education and ensure children of school age are attending school during school hours.
- G. That the Northern Territory Government hold an urgent stakeholder meeting, including ASTC, to develop a collaborative clear and demonstrable response to crime.

- H. That the ASTC strongly support the NTG reviewing the effectiveness and outcomes of organisations and agencies that are currently funded to operate and provide services in community safety.**

CARRIED (22178)

The Mayor advised that Council don't have the authority under the Local Government Act 2019 to declare a state of emergency.

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor advised that he has already been in discussions with the new Chief Minister Fyles and she has been formally invited to Alice Springs to meet with Council and to see firsthand the issues being faced. She has advised that crime is her number one priority for the region.

Discussion ensued.

Supporting information to the Motion:

- 1. Home invasions**
- 2. Serious assault on members of public**
- 3. Sexual assault by youth on members of public**
- 4. Car theft and abandoned cars**
- 5. Illegal use of vehicles as weapons of destruction**
- 6. Property damage**
- 7. Shop stealing**
- 8. Unroadworthy and unregistered vehicles**
- 9. Effective monitoring of CCTV Cameras**
- 10. Economic downturn due to safety concerns**
- 11. Harassment and intimidation by roaming gangs**

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

**Move into standing orders**

CARRIED (22179)

5. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting closed at **7:53pm**

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Melky

**That Council stands adjourned.**

CARRIED (22180)

Confirmed on \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_