

MINUTES OF THE **ORDINARY** MEETING OF THE FOURTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

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14. RESUMPTION OF MEETING IN OPEN

15. Opening of the Open Meeting by the Mayor (Chair) and Acknowledgement of Country

Mayor Matt Paterson declared the meeting open at **11.03am** 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 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. Alice Springs Town Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of this Council meeting.

Media present – NT News

PRESENT

Mayor M. Paterson (Chair)

Deputy Mayor E. Melky

Councillor M. Banks

Councillor A. Bitar

Councillor S. Brown

Councillor M. Coffey

Councillor K. Hopper

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J. McCabe – Acting Chief Executive Officer

Mr J. Andrew – Director Technical Services

Ms N. Battle – Director Community Development

Mrs N. Brennan – Acting Director Corporate Services

Mrs E. Williams – Executive Assistant (Minutes)

Ms. L. Dy Irwin – Finance Manager

16. PRAYER

Nil

17. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Michael Liddle

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

**That this apology be received**

CARRIED (22565)

Councillor Gavin Morris

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

**That this apology be received**

CARRIED (22566)

18. WELCOME

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

19.1 Hal Duell, resident – Mr Duell asked if there is any chance that Council can encourage the reactivation of the Advocate newspaper and/or another publication.

The Mayor responded that conversations are being had in the background with regional newspapers.

Mr Duell went on to ask Council if it's true that Kmart and/or Target will be leaving town.

The Mayor responded that he has not heard any information around these stores closing but that they are struggling with staff.

20. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Nil

21. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

21.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Open Meeting held on 28 February, 2023

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Bitar

**That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 28 February, 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.**

CARRIED (22567)

21.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

22 MAYORAL REPORT

22.1 Mayor's Report  
Report No. 48 / 23 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Bitar

**That the Mayor's report be received.**

CARRIED (22568)

22.2 Business Arising from the Report

22.2.1 Mayor Paterson – AFLNT Summit (Item 1.22)

The Mayor gave an overview of the recent AFLNT Summit. AFLNT will be providing Council with a plan around the upcoming season.

22.2.2 Councillor Banks – SORIC (Item 1.7)

Councillor Banks asked for an update on SORIC.

The Mayor gave an overview on the current status of the group.

22.2.3 Councillor Banks – Member for Araluen, Robyn Lambley (Item 1.20)

Councillor Banks asked what this meeting was relating to.

The Mayor advised that it was a general catch up.

22.2.4 Councillor Banks – Justice Reinvestment (Item 1.9)

Councillor Banks asked if this is Federal?

Mayor Paterson responded that yes, it is a Federal initiative through the Attorney General's department.

23. ORDERS OF THE DAY

23.1 That Elected Members and Officers provide notification of matters to be raised in General Business.

23.1.1 Councillor Brown – Rural Roads and Fire Breaks

23.1.2 Councillor Brown – Baseball Sporting Facility

23.1.3 Deputy Mayor Melky – Support for Fire Affected Family

23.1.4 Councillor Bitar – Promotional Support with Fire Service

23.1.5 Councillor Coffey – Bushfire Management

24. MEMORIALS

Mr Chris Connellan

*Chris was born in Alice Springs in 1948 and started grade one at the Catholic convent on Bath Street, followed by the bush school at Narwietooma Station. He was then sent to boarding school at Rostrevor Primary in Adelaide and later Xavier College in Melbourne, going on to complete an economics degree at Melbourne University.*

*Chris spent many years jackarooing and working in the stockcamp at Narwietooma from a very early age. Over the years while working and observing the land he developed a passion and reputation for his land and stock management and was the inaugural winner of the NT Landcare Award - Primary Producer, in 1990.*

*Private and humble, Chris carved his own unique path even though he was always in his father and brothers shadow. A strong supporter of the community, Chris was involved with many Territorian organisations such as the Connellan Airways Trust, Central Australian Aviation Museum, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Central Land Management Association, the Alice Springs Show Society, Alice Springs Gliding Club, Sleepy Hollow Yacht Club and more recently Land for Wildlife and the Field Naturalists Club.*

*In 1992 Chris moved his family to Central Queensland, for his children's education. During this time, he continued to develop and improve Narwietooma with assistance from Managers and staff. Chris later moved back to Narwietooma where he remained until 2015.*

*Chris then devoted the following years in developing the Mt Zeil Wilderness Park. It's a place for the wide-reaching community to experience and value the red desert country which defined his life. He particularly supported the education and wellbeing of the M'Bunghara community who the Connellan family have been friends and neighbours with for 4 generations. It was during this time developing Mt Zeil that he wrote and published his first book 'The Way It Was' about his experience growing up in Alice Springs as a child.*

*Chris had profound respect and connection with the Aboriginal community at M'Bunghara always seeking to come from a position of wanting to learn and understand through listening and sharing. Chris enjoyed working with the community and M'Bunghara school to develop many social / learning based excursions to Mt Zeil Wilderness Park. The M'Bunghara kids were so proud to show their school work and demonstrate their sporting skills. Chris had an endless knowledge of the Alice Springs Cultural / Social / Economic development but particularly a great respect for Aboriginal communities.*

*Chris was farewelled by family and friends on the 3 March 2023 where he was fondly remembered by his family and community for outrageous storytelling, contagious laughter, a vibrant sense of humour and his determination. He provided practical and motivational support to those who worked hard and showed true character and vision, while ever stoic about his own challenges in life.*

*Thank you to Chris' partner, Julie Sutherland for providing this memorial.*

25. PETITIONS

Nil

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

27. FINANCE

27.1 Finance Report  
Report No. 50 / 23 cncl

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

**That the report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22569)

27.2 Business Arising from the Report

27.2.1 Councillor Hopper – Negative Figures presented

Councillor Hopper asked for an explanation of the figures against the vehicles and other items.

Director Technical Services responded that this is a rollover credit from the previous budget.

27.2.2 Councillor Hopper – Highest Contract Payments

Councillor Hopper asked about the higher charged amount from Cleanaway for February; was there a particular reason for this.

The Acting Director Corporate Services took the question on notice.

*Councillor Banks left the Chamber at 11.26am*

*Councillor Banks returned to the Chamber at 11.29am*

27.2.3 Councillor Coffey – Income and Expense Statement, Other Operating Expenses

Councillor Coffey asked for further detail and if any adjustments need to be made.

Acting Director Corporate Services provided an overview of the costs but will provide to the Elected Members a more detailed breakdown.

27.2.4 Councillor Coffey – Mayor / CEO Credit Card Statement

Councillor Coffey advised that the items listed don't add up to the correct amount.

Acting Director Corporate Services will provide an updated and accurate breakdown.

27.2.5 Councillor Coffey – Long-term Investments

Councillor Coffey asked for a more detailed explanation of the figures presented.

Acting Director Corporate Services responded that amounts in graph are per month, not cumulative. Cumulative will be included to allow for better understanding of the figures.

28. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

28.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

28.1.1 CEO Report  
Report No. 49 / 23 cncl

Moved – Councillor Hopper  
Seconded – Councillor Bitar

**That this report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22570)

28.1.2 Business Arising from the Report  
Nil

28.1.3 Social Media Information Sheet and Guide  
Report No. 66 / 23 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Melky  
Seconded – Councillor Brown

**That this report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22571)

28.1.4 Business Arising from the Report  
Nil

28.1.5 Register of Delegations

Report No. 62 / 23 cncl

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.1.5)*

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

**That Council adopt the Register of Delegations with the following amendments:**

- Item 4.1: Function be amended to “Approval of Council, elected Member and CEO related policies”**
- Item 3.3: Condition to be included “Limit up to \$50,000, above which to be approved by Council”**
- Item 5.5: Mayor to have authority to write to:**
- **Department of Local Government**
  - **Government Ministers**
  - **Senior Bureaucrats**
  - **Heads of Government Departments**
  - **Members of Parliament**
  - **Ombudsman**
  - **Other bodies as deemed appropriate by the Mayor in carrying out duties**
- Item 6.4: Delegated authority to be changed from CEO to Council**
- Item 7.5: Reword function to “Authority to override any financial delegations (except those allocated to Council or Mayor) related to approving of expenditure to ensure that approved budgets are not overspent”**

CARRIED (22540)

28.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

Nil



28.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

28.3.1 Community Development Report to Council  
Report No. 53 / 23 cncl

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Banks

**That the Community Development Report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22572)

28.3.2 Business Arising from the Report

28.3.2.1 Councillor Coffey – Library Report – HSR's

Councillor Coffey asked for an update on the recruitment of a HSR in the library.

Director Community Development responded that work is being done behind the scenes on this.

28.3.3 Public Art Update  
Report No. 57 / 23 cncl

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Bitar

**That this report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22573)

28.3.4 Business Arising from the Report

28.3.4.1 Mayor Paterson – Aboriginal Monument EOI

Mayor Paterson asked for an update.

Director Community Development advised that the EOI will be redistributed following refinement of the document with the current responder invited to resubmit.

28.3.4.2 Councillor Bitar – Roundabout Art

Councillor Bitar asked for an update.

Director Community Development will be seeking an extension to the funding from NTG.

28.3.5 Council's Volunteering Program  
Report No. 58 / 23 cncI

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Brown

**That this report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22574)

28.3.6 Business Arising from the Report

28.3.6.1 Deputy Mayor Melky – Partnership Arrangement with  
Volunteering NT

Deputy Mayor Melky asked about the replacement for the Volunteer Co-ordinator within Council.

Director Community Development advised that the tasks will be spread across other positions within Council.

28.3.6.2 Councillor Coffey – Funding Progress

Councillor Coffey asked about the funding progress.

The Director Community Development will provide the acquittal report that is being finalised for Volunteering SA/NT.

28.3.7 UNCONFIRMED Minutes of the Sports Facility Advisory Committee  
Meeting – 2 March, 2023

Moved – Mayor Paterson

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

**That the minutes of the Sports Facility Advisory Committee meeting held on 2 March, 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting**

CARRIED (22575)

The Mayor asked for the recommendations from the SFAC meeting be included following the next SFAC meeting.

The Director Community Development took the question on notice.

28.3.8 Alice Springs Animal Shelter Contract

Report No. 54 / 23 cncI

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.3.1)*

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

**That Council provide approval for the Acting Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a 12-month extension to its existing contract with the Alice Springs Animal Shelter for the provision of an animal pound.**

CARRIED (22552)

28.3.9 Music NT Sponsorship

Report No. 55 / 23 cncI

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.3.3)*

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

**That Council supports this application from Music NT and allocates \$6,000 (incl. GST) from Tourism Events and Promotions budget and \$6,000 (incl. GST) from the Todd Mall Activation Grant.**

CARRIED (22553)

28.3.10 Wide Open Space Sponsorship

Report No. 56 / 23 cncI

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.3.5)*

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

**That Council supports the application for Wide Open Space Festival on 28-30 April 2023 to the amount of \$2,500**

CARRIED (22554)

28.3.11 Community Grants Report 2023

Report No. 60 / 23 cncl

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.3.7(2))*

Moved – Councillor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

**That Council endorse the recommended Community Grant applicants outlined in this report with the following changes:**

- 1. Deletion of Foodbank (application withdrawn) - \$5,000**
- 2. Inclusion of Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade (purchase of portable radios) - \$4,837**

CARRIED (22580)

28.4 TECHNICAL SERVICES

28.4.1 Technical Services Update to Council

Report No. 51 / 23 cncl

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Melky

**That this report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22576)

28.4.2 Business Arising from the Report

28.4.2.1 Councillor Hopper – Greening Strategy Species List and Tree Planting Schedule

Councillor Hopper asked for an update on the status of species list and planting schedule.

Director Technical Services responded that due to the resignation of the previous Environment Officer, this process has stalled.

28.4.2.2 Councillor Coffey – Shade Structures Status

Councillor Coffey asked for an update.

Director Technical Services responded that Officers are working through the information in the background before progressing.

28.4.2.3 Mayor Paterson – Hartley Street Exeloo

Mayor Paterson asked if the installation was still on schedule.

Director Technical Services advised that it is.

28.4.2.4 Mayor Paterson – Liquid Waste Ponds

Mayor Paterson advised that Minister Uibo will be visiting soon to tour the Liquid Waste Ponds to better understand the situation.

28.4.3 Contract 2023-04ST Road Re-seal 2022/2023 – Tender Assessment Report

Report No. 45 / 23 cncI

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 4.1 (Special Confidential Meeting of Council 7 March 2023))*

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Morris

1. **That Boral Asphalt NT is awarded the tender for the works required based on the Alice Springs Town Council Road Reseal Program 2022/2023 at a cost of \$566,887.22 (including GST).**
2. **That the decision in regard to the 2023-04ST Road Reseal 2022/2023 tender be moved from Confidential into Open to allow the contract to be awarded.**

CARRIED (22530)

28.4.4 RWMF Excavator and Tipper

Report No. 64 / 23 cncI

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.4.3)*

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Banks

**That Council approve Officers to go to tender for a new Excavator and Tipper truck for the Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF)**

CARRIED (22556)

29 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

*Councillor Hopper left the Chamber at 11.58am*

*Councillor Hopper returned to the Chamber at 12.00pm*

### 30 GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 30.1 Councillor Brown – Rural Roads and Fire Breaks

Councillor Brown raised that rural roads serve as firebreaks when maintained and fire sources when not. The rural road verges need to be prioritised.

Director Technical Services advised that replacement and additional equipment is being sourced to assist.

#### 30.2 Councillor Brown – Baseball Sporting Facility

Councillor Brown has been approached about the maintenance of the facilities including lighting.

Director Technical Services took the question on notice and will investigate the maintenance schedule.

#### 30.3 Councillor Bitar – Promotional Support with Fire Service

Director Technical Services has been approached by NTFS to assist with community promotion.

The Mayor suggested that the Director investigate the approach that Darwin make around cyclones.

#### 30.4 Councillor Coffey – Bushfire Management and the Responsibility of Council

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Brown

**The CEO investigate the respective roles and responsibilities of Council and other bodies in relation to bushfire management and provide a report to Council with these findings.**

CARRIED (22577)

#### 30.5 Deputy Mayor Melky – Support for Fire Affected Family

Deputy Mayor Melky asked for Council to assist with waste removal from the property damaged in the recent Colonel Rose Drive fire.

The Mayor asked for the information to be forwarded to the CEO for action.

30.6 Councillor Brown – Uniting Church Meeting Place

*(Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 11.11)*

Councillor Brown asked that this project be included in the Todd Mall redevelopment.

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Banks

**That Council request a meeting with the Uniting Church regarding the Meeting Place redevelopment. That Council Officers provide an update on this matter in advance of this meeting.**

CARRIED (22557)

31 MATTERS FOR MEDIA ATTENTION

Media matters will be covered via the media attendance at this meeting.

32 NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 26 April, 2023**

33 ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING

Mayor Paterson declared the meeting closed at **12.20pm**.

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Hopper

**The Council stands adjourned to resume in the Confidential meeting.**

CARRIED (22578)

Confirmed on 06.12.2023

CHAIRPERSON

