

MINUTES OF THE **OPEN** ORDINARY MEETING OF THE FOURTEENTH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024 IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

14. RESUMPTION OF MEETING IN OPEN

PRESENT

Mayor M. Paterson (Chair)

Deputy Mayor A. Bitar

Councillor M. Banks

Councillor S. Brown

Councillor M. Coffey

Councillor K. Hopper (via Zoom)

Councillor E. Melky

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A. Wilsmore – Chief Executive Officer

Mr J. Andrew – Director Technical Services

Ms N. Battle – Director Community Development

Mrs H. Blacker – Executive Assistant Community Development and Technical Service
(Minutes)

Ms A. Chin - Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Councillors (Minutes)

Mrs E. Williams – Governance Project Officer (Minutes) (via zoom)

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

Mayor Paterson declared the meeting open at **11.04am** and welcomed all present to the meeting.

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

Mayor Paterson advised 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.

16. PRAYER

Pastor Gavin Brown, Baptist Church

17. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor M. Liddle

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Banks

That the apology from Councillor Michael Liddle be received and accepted.

CARRIED (22862)

Councillor G. Morris

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the apology from Councillor Gavin Morris be received and accepted.

CARRIED (22863)

18. WELCOME

Mayor Paterson welcomed members of the public in the gallery.

Presentations were made to the Central Australian Northern Territory Australian's of the Year Award nominees.

Leela Kruger (Young Australian of the Year Nominee)

Leela Kruger is a champion of education and health for young people in Alice Springs. As a school-based engagement officer at Gillen Primary School since 2021, she is helping turn around a decline in attendance and giving youngsters more opportunities to grow.

Leela's commitment to families from socially diverse communities – and belief that young Aboriginal people need and deserve quality education – has made her a role model. She aims to understand children's barriers to engaging with school and to build links between the school and their families.

As a champion of Learning on Country, Leela's calm, culturally safe approach has assisted many children to become happy school attendees.

In 2023, Leela was named the Northern Territory Young Achiever of the Year and also took home the Northern Territory Government Young Aboriginal Educator Award.

She is dedicated to her community, embracing every opportunity to learn, and strives to assist anyone she can.

Jordon Humphreys (Young Australian of the Year nominee)

The workload of completing Year 12 at St Philip's College in Alice Springs didn't stop Jordon Humphreys from advocating for young people across the Northern Territory. He has used his own experience of living with a disability and being bullied to improve life for others.

His advocacy is already being heard at the highest levels. In 2022, he was a member of the NT Youth Round Table and co-chaired the project reference group for the Northern Territory Youth Strategy. In 2023, he took up a youth advisory role with Alice Springs Town Council to make sure youth concerns were properly considered.

Jordon's main goal is to provide more opportunities for youth in his community, and in 2023 he was named Centralian Young Citizen of the Year.

He has encouraged other students to join forums to make their voices heard and is endlessly optimistic that change can happen.

The Mayor also acknowledged Sammy Butcher (Australian of the Year for the Northern Territory), Leony Bowey (Senior Australian of the Year for the Northern Territory) who were unable to attend and Blair McFarland who is the Australian of the Year, Northern Territory finalist and was unable to attend due to being in Canberra for the Australian of the Year Awards ceremony.

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

19.1 Sandy Taylor – Resident

Mrs Taylor asked around the funding of the Aboriginal monument and how Council proposes to fund it. Have there been partnerships formed to assist with funding?

The Mayor responded that an EOI has been distributed within the community and the responses have been returned with a future Forum scheduled to review these. If required, a community consultation will take place.

The Mayor responded that as part of the Public Art budget, \$100,000 has been set aside with the funding included in the 2023/24 budget which went out for public consultation.

19.2 Brendan Heenan – Resident

Mr Heenan advised that the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club will not be hosting the Australia Day fun run.

Mr Heenan asked if Council would consider hosting the 2025 event due to it being a much-loved community event available to all community members.

The Mayor and CEO advised that they would reach out to the Running and Walking Club to understand why the event hasn't gone ahead and see where Council can assist.

20. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

20.1 Deputy Mayor Bitar – Item 22.1 – Attachment G, Letter to Alice Springs Taxi's

21. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

21.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Open Meeting held on 12 December 2023

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

CARRIED (22864)

21.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

21.2.1 Councillor Coffey – Item 28.4.6.1 – Laneway Closure – Oleander/Coolibah Crescent Laneway

Councillor Coffey asked that the minutes to be amended to reflect that the residents opposite the laneway be consulted.

CEO took the action on notice.

22. MAYORAL REPORT

22.1 Mayor's Report
Report No. 2/24 cncl

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

That the Mayor's report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22865)

22.2 Business Arising from the Report

22.2.1 Northern Territory Heritage Council nominations

Mayor Paterson called for nominations for the Northern Territory Heritage Council

Councillor Liddle was nominated by Councillor Melky.

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

1. **That Councillor Liddle be nominated to represent the Northern Territory Heritage Council; and**
2. **That Council forwards the above nomination and a short biography to LGANT by 1 February, 2024.**

CARRIED (22866)

22.2.2 Northern Territory Place Names Committee nominations

Mayor Paterson called for nominations for the Northern Territory Place Names Committee.

Councillor Hopper self-nominated.

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Councillor Melky

1. **That Councillor Hopper be nominated to represent the Northern Territory Place Names Committee; and**
2. **That Council forwards the above nomination and a short biography to LGANT by 1 February, 2024.**

CARRIED (22867)

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 Melky – Todd Mall Traders Assoc.

23.1.2 Councillor Melky – Summer and Anti-Social Behaviour

23.1.3 Councillor Melky – Australia Day Fun Run

23.1.4 Councillor Banks – Cash for Container Vending Machines

23.1.5 Councillor Banks – Arrernte Boxing Academy Agreement

23.1.6 Councillor Banks – Newland Park Irrigation

- 23.1.7 Councillor Banks – Minister Burnie and Infrastructure Delays
- 23.1.8 Councillor Brown – Service Delivery to NTG Roads
- 23.1.9 Councillor Hopper – CBD Tree Maintenance
- 23.1.10 Councillor Hopper – CBD Street Cleaning
- 23.1.11 Councillor Hopper – Australia Day Ceremony

24. MEMORIALS

Nil

25. PETITIONS

Nil

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

27. FINANCE

- 27.1 Finance Report
Report No. 12/24 cncl

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Melky

That the monthly financial report for the period ending 31 December 2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED (22868)

- 27.2 Business Arising from the Report

- 27.2.1 Councillor Coffey –Interest Earnings

Councillor Coffey asked about the discrepancy where the table and graph don't correlate.

The CEO addressed the query.

Councillor Coffey went on to ask if the CEO was confident that Council would reach the budgeted targets.

The CEO took the question on notice.

27.2.2 Councillor Melky – Consultancy Costs

Councillor Melky asked if there will be a reduction in consultancy costs following previous reliance on external parties.

The CEO responded that there will always be a role for consultants in Council but with the recent appointment of in-house Counsel, the cost of legal consultants should now reduce.

28. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

28.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

28.1.1 CEO Report
Report No. 4/24 cncl

Moved – Deputy Mayor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That this report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22869)

28.1.2 Business Arising from the Report
Nil

28.1.3 Review of Community Football in Alice Springs
Report No. 6/24 cncl
Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.1.3

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

Alice Springs Town Council proceeds to negotiate with AFLNT on an agreeable draw for 2024, similar to that of 2023.

CARRIED (22849)

28.2 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

28.2.1 Marketing and Communications Quarterly Report
Report No. 11/24 cncI

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Banks

That this report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22870)

28.2.2 Business Arising from the Report
Nil

28.3 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

28.3.1 Risk Management & Audit Committee (RMAC) Recruitment Panel
Report No. 9/24 cncI

Councillor Hopper nominated Councillor Coffey.

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

1. **That this report be received and noted.**
2. **That Council appoints Councillor Coffey to the selection panel for the Risk Management and Audit Committee independent external member for the term of the recruitment.**

CARRIED (22871)

28.3.2 Business Arising from the Report
Nil

28.3.3 Conflict of Interest Policy – CEO & Employees

Moved – Councillor Hopper

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

1. **That the Council note and receive the report entitles Updates to council policy conflicts of interests – CEO & Employees.**
2. **That the Council adopt the conflicts of interests – CEO and Employees Policy subject to discussions with Department over CEO approval requirements.**

CARRIED (22872)

28.3.4 Business Arising from the Report

28.3.4.1 Councillor Coffey – Recruitment Declarations of Interest

Councillor Coffey asked if having all declarations of interest arising from recruitment is a good use of the CEO's time. Can the CEO delegate these approvals?

The CEO responded that this was the information provided by the Local Government Department but that he would discuss this further with them and provide a response.

Councillor Coffey asked that subject to further discussions with the Local Government Department, that the sentence "If it involves a Director the form should be submitted to the CEO" from Item 3.10 – Disclose and Manage a Conflict of Interest is irrelevant if all approvals are going to the CEO.

The CEO took this action on notice.

28.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

28.4.1 Community Development Update
Report No. 13/24 cncI

Moved – Deputy Mayor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Brown

1. **That the Alice Springs Town Council write to the NTG requesting an extension of funding free entry to ASALC.**
2. **That this report be received and noted.**

CARRIED (22873)

28.4.2 Business Arising from the Report

The Mayor and Elected Members congratulated the Community Development team on the successful school holiday program presented over the Summer school holidays and acknowledged the contribution by NIAA and the Northern Territory Government.

The Mayor will request from the NTG that continued free entry be provided to the pool whilst an evaluation is being prepared.

28.4.2.1 Councillor Coffey – Entry Fees

Councillor Coffey asked that when carrying out the evaluation that it would be good to understand supply vs demand when free entry is offered compared to entry fees being charged.

Director Community Development to action.

28.4.2.2 Councillor Melky – NTG Funding

Councillor Melky asked that in the evaluation that the costs of staffing, security, cleaning, damage and stock etc. be included.

The CEO took the question on notice.

28.4.2.3 Councillor Brown – Council Cost vs NTG Funding

Councillor Brown asked if there was a shortfall between what it cost Council vs the funding that was provided by the Northern Territory Government.

Director Community Development responded that data is still pending but at first glance, it appears that it has broken even.

28.4.2.4 Councillor Melky – Program Resourcing

Councillor Melky asked if that Council were to extend the program, would the Community Development team have the resources to manage.

Director Community Development will review the data and provide a response to Elected Members.

28.4.3 Sports Facilities Advisory Committee (SFAC) Confirmation of 14 December, 2023 Minutes
Report No. 21/24 cncI

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That the minutes of the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee (SFAC) meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2023 be confirmed by Council.

CARRIED (22874)

28.4.4 Business Arising from the Report

Mayor Paterson advised that the Alice Springs Cricket Association were successful in their Community Benefit Fund (CBF) request for \$115,000 for upgrades at Flynn Drive oval.

28.4.5 CBD Activation – 2024 Community Events Calendar
Report No. 14/24 cncI

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

That this report be received and noted.

CARRIED (22875)

28.4.6 Business Arising from the Report

Nil

28.5 TECHNICAL SERVICES

28.5.1 Waste Collection Service for the Community of Alice Springs
Report No. 17/24 cncI

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Coffey

That Council delegate to the CEO the authority to negotiate an extension to the existing waste collection contract.

CARRIED (22876)

28.5.2 Business Arising from the Report

Nil

28.5.3 Lhere Mpartwe Management Strategy and Alice Springs Town Council's
Ongoing Management
Report No. 18/24 cncl

Moved – Councillor Brown

Seconded – Councillor Banks

1. **In recognising our responsibilities in maintaining the river, ASTC will need to provide additional labour, and that Council note additional funding required for casual staff to undertake grass cutting in the river and that this will be reflected in the second budget revision for the 23/24 Financial Year.**
2. **To provide ongoing and sustainable future river management Council write to relevant Ministers and elected members to express support for the Indigenous ranger program objective of the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy and ask that this goal be given priority.**

CARRIED (22877)

28.5.4 Business Arising from the Report
Nil

28.5.5 Transfer Funds from Information Technology Budget to Technical Services
Budget for Building Assessments
Report No. 19/24 cncl

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

1. **That Council approve the CEO, under delegation 8.6 – authority to recommend to Council unbudgeted expenditure, to transfer \$215,000 from Information Technology - Operational Budget (GL 746.25.241) to Technical Services - Operational Budget (GL 14.25.211).**
2. **That Council note that the budget change will be reflected in the second budget revision for the 23/24 FY.**

CARRIED (22878)

28.5.6 Business Arising from the Report
Nil

28.5.7 Proposed Verge Maintenance by Residents
Report No. 8/24 cncI

Moved – Councillor Coffey

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

That Council instruct the Council CEO to begin consultation to inform changes to the policy that would make residents responsible for maintenance of verges adjoining their properties.

CARRIED (22879)

28.5.8 Business Arising from the Report

28.5.8.1 Councillor Hopper – Option to Opt-in/Opt-out

Councillor Hopper asked if residents will have the ability to 'opt-in/opt-out' if unable to maintain their verges and a fee for service.

Director Technical Services took the questions on notice.

28.5.9 Alice Springs Park Upgrades – Contractor Engagement
Report No. 15/24 cncI

Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.5.3

Moved – Deputy Mayor Bitar

Seconded – Councillor Morris

1. **That Ross Engineering is awarded the tender for the Alice Springs Park Upgrades at a cost of \$473,500.00 ex GST.**
2. **That Council approve the budget shortfall of \$40,371.00 and contingency of \$47,350.00 totalling to \$87,721 ex GST, to be taken and transferred from GL 227. 25.241 (Park Development – Materials and Labour).**
3. **That the decision regarding the Alice Springs Park Upgrade Tender 2023-15ST report be moved from Confidential into Open to allow the contract to be awarded.**

CARRIED (22853)

28.5.10 Regenerating the Alice Town Centre – Engagement on Concept Design Options
Report No. 16/24 cncI
Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 9.5.5

Moved – Councillor Banks
Seconded – Deputy Mayor Bitar

That Council approve Council Officers to proceed with stakeholder engagement on concept design options for the Regenerating the Alice Town Centre project.

CARRIED (22854)

29. DEPUTATION

Linda Weatherhead – Director Strategic Projects and Development, Local Government, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet presented on “Good Meetings/Better Decisions”

Council recessed for lunch at 1.56pm and returned at 2.26pm

30. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

30.1 Councillor Banks – ASALC Tile Surfaces and Playground

Councillor Banks asked for an update on the tile resurfacing of the pool and completion of the Adventure Playground.

Director Technical Services responded that the tiles are scheduled to be replaced but this will depend on operational needs. Consultation is being carried out with ASALC staff.

Director Technical Services advised that the playground is scheduled for completion in late June.

30.2 Councillor Banks – Incident in CBD, Thursday 18 January 2024

Item transferred from Confidential Agenda Item 10.1

Moved – Councillor Banks
Seconded – Councillor Melky

Alice Springs Town Council through the CEO discuss the incident on Thursday 18th January 2024 in the CBD with Central Desert Regional Council with the intent to work towards solutions which address crime and anti-social behaviour.

CARRIED (22856)

31. GENERAL BUSINESS

31.1 Councillor Melky – Todd Mall Traders Assoc.

Councillor Melky advised of the recent news article in the Centralian Today that the NTG will be assisting the Todd Mall Traders Association in becoming an incorporated body. Council are currently providing support to the Traders Group.

Director Community Development will investigate and report to Council.

31.2 Councillor Melky – Australia Day Fun Run

Councillor Melky raised concerns around the cancellation of the Australia Day Fun Run and asked that Council look at resourcing the event to ensure its future.

The CEO took the question on notice.

31.3 Councillor Melky – Summer and Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Melky raised his concerns around the poor reputation that is being portrayed of Alice Springs via news and social media and the impact this is having on the community.

Councillor Melky asked that data be sourced from glaziers on window breakages, repair businesses and locksmiths.

Moved – Councillor Melky

Seconded – Councillor Brown

That Alice Springs Town Council invite NT Government Cabinet Ministers to meet and discuss the crime crisis as a matter of urgency.

CARRIED (22880)

31.4 Councillor Banks – Cash for Container Vending Macines

Councillor Banks raised the possibility of having vending machines available in Alice Springs for 15c container recycling.

Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

31.5 Councillor Banks – Arrernte Boxing Academy Agreement

Councillor Banks has received a request from Arrernte Boxing Academy to meet with Council to discuss changes to their MOU. This comes from an increase in their facility rent.

Director Community Development took the request on notice.

31.6 Councillor Banks - Minister Burnie and Infrastructure Delays

Councillor Banks raised concerns around the article which was in the 12th January edition of the NT News which quoted the correspondence from Minister Burnie from the December Council meeting regarding infrastructure delays.

Councillor Banks expressed her disappointment that comments made in a Council meeting are being used against Council for political gain.

31.7 Councillor Banks – Newland Park Irrigation

Councillor Banks asked for an update on the Newland Park irrigation program.

Director Technical Services advised that there were faults with the automated system over Christmas which have since been rectified.

31.8 Councillor Brown – Priority Service Delivery to NTG Roads

Councillor Brown raised concerns around the maintenance of NTG roads, especially those as you enter town. It's not giving a good first impression as people enter town, especially visitors.

Director Technical Services to write to DIPL and provide an update to Council.

31.9 Councillor Hopper – CBD Tree Maintenance

Councillor Hopper asked about the maintenance of large River Redgums adjacent to the Post Office – who is responsible for pruning?

Director Technical Services took the question on notice. A review will be made and actioned in conjunction with the AAPA certificate.

31.10 Councillor Hopper – CBD Cleaning

Councillor Hopper asked about the CBD cleaning schedule and the blowing of leaves onto private property.

Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

31.11 Councillor Hopper - Australia Day Ceremony

Councillor Hopper asked via a rate payer around Australia Day being a day of celebration and will the MC be acknowledging that for some members of the public, it is not a day to be celebrated.

Mayor Paterson to respond to the member of the public.

Councillor Brown left the Chamber at 12.59pm

Councillor Brown returned to the Chamber at 1.01pm

32. MATTERS FOR MEDIA ATTENTION

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

33. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27 February 2024

34. CLOSURE OF OPEN MEETING

Moved – Councillor Banks

Seconded – Councillor Brown

The Council meeting be closed.

CARRIED (22881)

Mayor Paterson declared the meeting closed at **3.08pm.**

Confirmed on (date) _____

CHAIR _____