

MINUTES of the Special Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue Horsham on Monday, 25 June 2018 at 5.00pm.

PRESENT: Cr Pam Clarke, Mayor; Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr David Grimble, Cr Mark Radford, Cr John Robinson.

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Planning & Economic; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Services; John Martin, Director Technical Services; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant.

1. Reading of prayer and the acknowledgement of country statement

The Prayer and Acknowledge of Country Statement were read by the Chairman, Cr P Clarke.

2. Welcome to distinguished guests or persons in the public gallery

Chairman, Cr Clarke welcomed those in attendance to the Council Meeting and advised the gallery that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive. It was noted that there were approximately 100 people in attendance at the Special Council.

Trish Schultz	Don Schultz	Norma Cosson	Robert Wynne
Jenny Grimble	Graeme Miller	Peter Moore	Robert Somers
Sue Frankham	Denise McLellan	Mike Clarke	Jill Taylor
Pauline Barber	Scott Johns	Jenny Dumesny	Maurice Dumesny

3. Apologies and request for Leave of Absence

Cr Alethea Gulvin is an apology for today's Special Council Meeting.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the apology from Cr Gulvin be received and leave of absence be granted.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Sec 79, Local Government Act, 1989 (As Amended)

NIL

5. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

5.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2018-22

G Harrison

File Ref: F19/A11/000001

Purpose

To present the draft Horsham Rural City Council's, Council Plan 2018-22 for adoption.

Background

In December 2017 a Strategic meeting was held with Councillors and Executive Management Group to discuss updates to the current Council Plan as a part of the annual budget development process.

There were some minor amendments completed which were reported at the Council meeting on 7 May 2018. This resulted in some changes that required Council to call for public submissions under section 125 (9) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council at its meeting on 7 May 2018, resolved to endorse the draft Council Plan and issue a public notice inviting written submissions in accordance with section 223 and 125(3) of the *Local Government Act (1989)*.

Under Section 126(3) of the *Local Government Act (1989)*, Council must adopt the Council Plan by the 30 June each year.

Issues

No submissions were received.

Consultation/Communication

A Public "drop in" information session was held on 23 May 2018, in conjunction with the 2018-19 Draft Budget and the 2018-19 Draft Rates Strategy. Other engagement activities that took place during May 2018 included on-line information on council's website, Flyers at public counters at the Civic Centre Horsham and Natimuk Offices, static displays at the Civic Centre, Councillor Listening Posts and a Facebook question and answer session.

Financial

The Council Plan directly informs Council's budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Council Plan is the key planning document for Council as described in Councils Planning and Budgeting Framework.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Horsham Rural City Council, Council Plan 2018-2022 **Appendix "5.1A"**, in accordance with section 125(8) of the *Local Government Act (1989)*, and advise the Minister accordingly.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Grimble, seconded Cr Radford that the petition presented to Cr Grimble before tonight's Special Council meeting from the Victorian Farmers Federation be noted and dealt with at this meeting.

WITHDRAWN

Cr Grimble retracted his motion above. The petition will be considered for Urgent Business at this meeting.

5.2 2018/19 BUDGET, STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN AND RATES STRATEGY 2018/19

G Harrison

File Ref: F27/A01/000001

Purpose

To adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2018-19, including the Strategic Resource Plan 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the Rates Strategy 2018-19.

Background

Council has prepared a budget, strategic resource plan and rates strategy, which were on public exhibition from 7 May to 5 June 2018, in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act. These documents have been available for review at the Civic Centre Horsham, NC2 Offices Natimuk and on the Council's website.

The draft budget document **Appendix "5.2B"** is in an easy to read format made up of the following three sections:

i. Mayors Introduction and Executive Summary (Pages 3 to 12)

This provides a very high level "snapshot" view of the budget and is intended to be readable by members of the community that do not have any financial background. If only this section is read it will give the reader an understanding of the key elements and issues within the budget.

ii. Budget Reports (Pages 14 to 63)

This section includes all statutory disclosures of information and detailed budget numbers. It includes:

- Explanation of the linkages with the Council Plan
- Service summaries and indicators for councils 35 service groups and 87 separate services including comparison's with last year's figures
- Service performance outcome indicators
- Financial statements, grants, borrowings, capital work and rates information.
- Notes to further expand on individual lines within the financial statements
- Financial performance indicators

iii. **Appendices (Pages 64 to 103)**

This section provides additional supporting information on community grants, operational initiatives, fees and charges and a document highlighting key capital works.

Whilst the budget document presents Councils budget on an accrual basis, the goal is to bring to balance the budget on a cash basis. This means considering the operating cash revenues and expenditures as well as the capital cash revenues and expenditure. On a cash basis the budget has been balanced.

The Rates Strategy is a separate self-explanatory document, **Appendix "5.2C"** which sets out the key principles and policies that council has applied and considered when looking at the rate structure for the municipality.

Issues

During the community consultation period from 7 May to 5 June, Council received eight submissions in total, four via the form on Council's website and four received in writing to Council. Two of the submitters were heard by Council at its meeting on 6 June 2018. All submissions are provided in the **Appendix "5.2D"**.

Council discussed, at a briefing session on 6 June 2018, the submissions received and issues arising from them and the community engagement that was undertaken.

Consultation/Communication

Council has embarked on a detailed public engagement during the period since adopting the draft budget. The detailed analysis of the engagements undertaken are provided in **Appendix "5.2E"**. Responses to the specific budget submissions received are as follows:

Contact Name	Summary of submission	EMG Proposed Budget Action
Rebecca Greiger	Request the erection of a bus shelter near the corner of Young Street & Vine Avenue.	Will review this in association with PTV and bus route revisions. Would fund from existing allocation in 19-20 if it is OK to proceed.
Neville McIntyre	Farm rate increases are too high and the residential sector should not be receiving a rate decrease. The farm differential needs to be increased	Council has indicated that an independent review of its Rating Strategy will be undertaken during 2018-19 in time for consideration of the 19-20 Budget.
Peter Jackman	Rates too high - need a means of capping individual ratepayers increases so no-one pays above a certain percentage	Council has indicated that an independent review of its Rating Strategy will be undertaken during 2018-19 in time for consideration of the 19-20 Budget.
Wimmera River Imp. Com.	More funding for the Wimmera river improvement committee	Council to fund an additional \$4,000 from the community grant contingency in 2018-19.
Keegan Duff	Bleakley Street road, gutters, footpaths and the school bus stop safety concerns .	The condition of road pavement varies from 5 to 6. Kerb and channel are approaching the end of their life at the last section between Delta and Rasmussen Road (condition 7). Currently this section is planned for renewal in 2020/21. There are a lot of other streets in Horsham in similar or worse condition. There is to be a review of all streets and new condition ratings, later this calendar year. This will provide us the updated priorities. Council officers will raise the issue of child safety at the next review with PTV.
Zakk Taylor	Need footpaths, kerbing and gutters in regent Street, Natimuk, is hazardous to children and the elderly.	Will work on a Natimuk wide plan for footpaths, kerbing and gutters to assess relative priorities within the community. This will require detailed community engagement.
Peter Henry	Question in relation to the amount of spending that Council undertakes in the local community.	Council officers will work with Fleet Management to specifically demonstrate spend in this specific area, and more broadly will undertake some analysis for communication of all local spending by Council.
Colin Warrick	Questions re a number of issues: Council's administration costs and staffing, Council's service delivery, rural roads (roadside vegetation, road surfaces, safety Polkemmett Rd)	Costs have always been a focus for Council. Rate increases have reduced significantly over the last Issues raised are part of ongoing local review and are being managed in a priority order.

Letters will be written to submitters detailing these actions following the adoption of Council's budget.

Financial

All matters under discussion impact on the 2018-19 Council Budget and four-year Strategic Resource Plan.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The budget has been prepared having reference to delivering the draft Council Plan 2018-2022 which is also for adoption by council at this meeting. Preparation of the prepared budget is a statutory requirement.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rates Strategy 2018-19 as attached in **Appendix "5.2C"**.
2. Adopt Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2018-19 as attached in **Appendix "5.2B"**, pursuant to Section 130 (1) of the Local Government Act (1989) and that Council give public notice of this decision to adopt such Budget, in accordance with Section 130 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989.
3. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2018-19 to 2021-22 as depicted in section 3 "Financial Statements" of the attached budget document **Appendix "5.2B"**.
4. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rates and charges as depicted in section 4 of the attached budget document **Appendix "5.2B"**.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

WITHDRAWN

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Robinson that Council adopt the draft 2018/19 budget with the following amendments.

1. **Cap the general rate revenue increase from 2017/18 by land class not more than 2.25%.**
2. **Proportion the general rate revenue increase to the relative land class only.**
3. **Generate a rate in the dollar applicable to each land class.**
4. **Maintain the Municipal charge of \$281.**
5. **Council reduce its budget accordingly and defer the Civic Centre works allocation of \$400,000 to match any shortfall.**
6. **Council officers include the relevant supporting material to action the points listed above.**

MOTION LOST

Cr Grimble called for a Division of Council.

In favour of the motion:

Cr Grimble
Cr Robinson
Cr Koenig

Against the motion:

Cr Clarke (Casting Vote)
Cr Power
Cr Radford

Moved Cr Radford, seconded by Cr Power that Council -

- 1. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rates Strategy 2018-19 as attached in Appendix "5.2C".**
- 2. Adopt Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2018-19 as attached in Appendix "5.2B", pursuant to Section 130 (1) of the Local Government Act (1989) and that Council give public notice of this decision to adopt such Budget, in accordance with Section 130 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- 3. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2018-19 to 2021-22 as depicted in section 3 "Financial Statements" of the attached budget document Appendix "5.2B".**
- 4. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rates and charges as depicted in section 4 of the attached budget document Appendix "5.2B".**
- 5. That the current rating strategy be reviewed before the 2019/20 budget preparations.**

Amendment

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Grimble that Council adjust expenditure to produce a zero percentage increase in the rate burden from the 2017/18 budget year to the 2018/19 budget year.

When the amendment was PUT it was LOST.

Cr Robinson called for a Division of Council.

In favour of the motion:

Cr Robinson
Cr Grimble

Against the motion:

Cr Koenig
Cr Clarke
Cr Power
Cr Radford

The original motion then became the motion and when it was PUT it was CARRIED.

5.3 KERBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION CONTRACT – VARIATION IN TERMS

John Martin File Ref:

Recommendation

That Council refer this item to the confidential briefing part of the meeting to consider the report from the Director Technical Services in accordance with Section 89(2) (d) contractual matters of the Local Government Act, 1989.

Moved Cr Radford Seconded Cr Robinson that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

6 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Grimble presented a petition from the Victorian Farmers Federation demanding that the Councillors of the Horsham Rural City Council adjusts the rating differentials to ensure each rateable category shares the increased rate burden for the 2018/19 budget. Refer to “**Attachment 1**” for copy of petition.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Robinson that the petition received from the Victorian Farmers Federation be tabled as Urgent Business.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Radford that Council deal with Urgent Business.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that standing orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The time being 7.01pm the Council meeting was suspended.

Cr Clarke, Cr Grimble, Sunil Bhalla and Graeme Harrison left the Council Chambers at 7.02pm

Cr Clarke, Cr Grimble, Sunil Bhalla and Graeme Harrison returned to the Council Chambers at 7.06pm

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that standing orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 7.06pm the Council meeting resumed.

Moved Cr Grimble that Council amend its 2018/19 draft budget with an amendment that we reconfigure the rate distribution across the municipality in line with the petition received from the Victorian Farmers Federation.

WITHDRAWN

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Robinson that the petition received from the Victorian Farmers Federation “lay on the table”.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Power, Seconded Cr Robinson that the Council Meeting close to consider item number 5.3 deemed to be of a confidential nature in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act, 1989.

CARRIED

The time being 7.19pm the Council meeting closed.

Moved Cr Koenig, Seconded Cr Grimble that the Council meeting open.

CARRIED

The Council Chamber doors were opened at 7.37 pm.

Moved Cr Power, Seconded Cr Radford that the recommendations in the closed Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 7.37pm.

The Mayor, Cr P Clarke
Chairperson