
BULLOO SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at the Council Chambers, Thargomindah on the 24th November 2008 commencing at 9:00am.

PRESENT: Councillors: J.C. Ferguson (Mayor)
D.P. Clifford
R.J. Ferguson
A.D. Crawford
Officers: Michael Hayward (Chief Executive Officer)
Peggy Ferguson (Secretary)

ATTENDANCE

1.0 APOLOGIES

Resolution (No. 222-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Crawford that the apology of Cr Cobb be accepted and that leave from attendance at the meeting be granted.

Carried

2.0 OBITUARIES

The Mayor advised Council of the recent passing of shire resident Christopher Woods.

A minutes silence was held in remembrance.

3.0 RECEIVING OF MINUTES

Resolution (No. 223-11-08)

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 20th October 2008 be received.

Carried

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution (No. 224-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Clifford

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20th October 2008 be confirmed.

Carried

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Medical / RFDS Facilities at Hungerford

The Chief Executive Officer advised Council that preliminary investigations have indicated that there is funding available under the National Rural & Remote Health Infrastructure Program to construct a new medical facility at Hungerford.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that this funding application needs to be submitted by 19th December 2008.

Resolved (No. 225-11-08)

Council agreed to submit an application under the National Rural & Remote Health Infrastructure Program to construct a new medical facility at Hungerford.

6.0 TENDERS AND QUOTATIONS

NIL

7.0 RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF OFFICER'S REPORT

Resolution (No. 226-11-08)

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr Clifford

THAT the Officer's Report be received.

Carried

7.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

7.1.1 Date Plantation

At the Council meeting held on 20th October 2008 Council resolved to invite Mr Mark Hampel to attend a Council meeting to discuss his plans and requirements to establish a Date Plantation in Thargomindah.

Subsequent to the meeting the Chief Executive Officer contacted Mr Hampel to arrange a suitable date for him to travel to Thargomindah to meet with Council.

Mr Hampel has forwarded an email thanking Council for its interest in his proposal.

Mr Hampel has further advised that he is currently investigating a couple of other locations that have come to his attention since his last communication with Council. Mr Hamel has advised that following his investigations he will again contact Council to advise of his intentions in relation to the location of the proposed Date Plantation.

Noted

7.1.2 Local Government Bill 2008

The Queensland Government introduced the Local Government Bill 2008 into State Parliament on Wednesday 27 October 2008.

The purpose of the bill is to provide a system of local government in Queensland, and related purposes and will effectively replace the Local Government Act 1993.

The bill proposes several major changes including;

- Joint Local Governments with more than one purpose
- Clarification of roles of Councillors and Mayors
- Mayor is the conduit between the Councillors and CEO
- CEO must be employed on a contract
- CEO appoints all Local Government Staff
- Simplified Local Laws process
- Comprehensive financial sustainability and accountability planning, performance and reporting requirements have been introduced
- Requirement for all Councils to have a system of internal control and large Councils must establish audit committees
- Use of Councillor discretionary funds will be subject to regulation
- The Minister will have the power to remove unsound decisions, recommend the removal of a Councillor from office and the dissolution of a Local Government and appoint administrators
- A Mayoral vacancy is always filled by by-election however a Councillor vacancy is filled by various means depending on the timing and the Council's determination
- There are substantial changes to the material personal interest and conflict of interest declaration process
- There are substantial changes to the process of dealing with the conduct and performance of Councillors including a regional conduct review panel and an ethics advisory committee.

The Local Government Association is currently formulating a "Whole of Local Government" response to the Local Government Bill and the Association is keen to ensure that all local governments have the opportunity to have their say on the proposed bill. Subsequently, the Association will be holding a meeting in Brisbane on Friday 12 December 2008 to allow all Councils to have a decent talk amongst themselves and to develop a collective response to the State Government.

An invitation to attend has been extended to the Mayor and CEO. Other representatives from council are also welcome to attend.

Noted

Adjournment

Council adjourned for morning tea at 9:40am and resumed at 9:50am.

Attendance

Consulting Engineer, George Inocentes, and Works Manager, Bill Carr, attended the meeting at 9:50am.

7.1.3 Proposal to Operate Council Bus Service

As a result of the Country Week Expo held in Brisbane during September 2008, Mr Guy Muller visited Thargomindah with the view to relocating and establishing a business in Thargomindah.

Mr Muller is seeking to create a tourism based business which would involve conducting tours that would provide visitors with an opportunity to visit many of the sights around Thargomindah and other locations within the Shire.

Correspondence has been received from Mr Muller regarding a proposal to operate a Tourist bus service from Thargomindah.

Council discussed this matter at length to determine Council's views on the establishment of a day tour service out of Thargomindah. The following matters were discussed:-

- Availability of shire bus and how the proposal affects Council's operations
- Insurance issues

Resolution (No. 227-11-08)

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr Clifford

1. THAT Chief Executive Officer prepare a proposal for the operation of a day tour service out of Thargomindah utilising Council's bus and;
2. THAT the proposal be presented to Council for adoption at the meeting to be held in December 2008.

Carried

7.1.4 Policy – Private Hire of Council Plant

At the October 2008 meeting of Council, it was resolved that the issue of Private Hire of Council Plant lay on the table for further consideration at the November 2008 meeting of Council.

Council considered the draft policy and identified several matters that required clarification.

Resolved (No. 228-11-08)

THAT the Chief Executive Officer will review the draft Private Hire of Council Plant Policy to remove the subsidy conditions and ensure the conditions of hire are consistent with the objectives of the policy.

7.1.5 Policy – Community Use of Council Bus

At the October 2008 meeting of Council, it was resolved that the issue of Community Use of Council Bus lay on the table for further consideration at the November 2008 meeting of Council.

Council considered the draft policy and identified several matters that required clarification.

Resolved (No. 229-11-08)

THAT the Chief Executive Officer review the draft Community Use of Council Bus Policy and present to Council at the December meeting.

7.1.6 Increase in Penalty Unit Prescribed Under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the State Governments decision to increase the value of a Penalty Unit from \$75 to \$100 for offences against State legislation and to further advise that the increase will not apply to offences against Local Laws unless Council resolves to apply the increase to Council Local Laws.

Resolution (No. 230-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Clifford

THAT the Minister for Local Government be advised that the Bulloo Shire Council wishes to apply the increased value of a Penalty Unit to all offences against Council Local Laws.

Carried

7.1.7 Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program

The Chief Executive Officer reported that Bulloo Shire Council has been allocated \$100,000 under the Federal Governments recently announced \$300 million local government infrastructure projects program and that Council has until 30th January 2009 to formulate a proposal that meets the program guidelines in order to claim the allocation.

Resolution (No. 231-11-08)

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr Crawford

THAT the matter lay on the table for further consideration at the December Meeting.

Carried

7.1.8 Christmas Light Competition

Cr Clifford enquired if Council was prepared to hold a Christmas Light Competition this year similar to previous years.

Resolution (No. 232-11-08)

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr Crawford

1. THAT Council allocate \$1,000 towards Christmas Lighting Competition; and
2. THAT the Mayor arrange a judging panel.

Carried

7.1.9 Change of Council Meeting Date

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the annual Council Staff party was to be held on Friday 12th December 2008 and enquired if Council wished to amend the date for the December meeting, as has been the practice in previous years, to coincide with the event.

Resolution (No. 233-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Crawford

THAT the December Meeting of Council be held on Friday 12th December 2008.

Carried

7.1.10 Matters Raised by Elected Members

Raised by	Issues Raised	Action	Officer
Cr Clifford	Council Christmas tree at the hall be refurbished	Ensure that Christmas lights at hall are operational before Christmas	CEO

7.2 WORKS MANAGER'S REPORT**7.2.1 Plumbing Works**

Council discussed the amount of plumbing work that needs to be carried out in Thargomindah.

It was determined that Council will require a qualified plumber for approximately 2000 hours to carry out the plumbing requirements in the shire.

Noted

7.2.2 Tickalara Jump Up

Council's Works Manager has recently inspected the condition of the jump up on the Tickalara Road.

This inspection reveals that the eastern approach and the road up the jump up are in extremely dangerous condition. The installation of pipes in the road on the uphill approach and the widening and installation of pipes on the climb section are essential to improve the safety and usability of this piece of road. A detailed estimate will be tabled to Council, but a budget figure of approximately \$180,000 is necessary to complete the roadworks.

Resolution (No. 234-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Clifford

1. THAT provision be made in the 2008-2009 budget for an allocation of \$180,000 to improve the condition of jump up on the Tickalara Road; and
2. THAT the additional funds not previously budgeted be provided from unallocated funding within the Capital Plant & Equipment Programme.

Carried

7.2.3 Matters Raised by Elected Members

Raised by	Issues Raised	Action	Officer
Cr RJ Ferguson	Water pump at rodeo grounds isn't working	Electrician to investigate the water pump at the rodeo grounds	CEO

Adjournment

Council adjourned for lunch at 12:04pm and resumed at 12:50pm.

Consulting Engineer, George Inocentes, and Works Manager, Bill Carr, were not in attendance when the meeting resumed.

7.3 MANAGER OF FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT**7.3.1 Accounts****Resolution (No. 235-11-08)**

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr Crawford

THAT direct debits and vouchers for the month of October 2008 numbered 30474 – 30499 totalling \$1,753,722.04 be received.

Carried

7.3.2 Matters Raised by Elected Members

NIL

Attendance

Manager of Corporate Services, Karen Dare, attended the meeting at 1:02pm.

7.4 MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

7.4.1 Library Hours

Council is currently trialling a change of library hours for an eight week period with the trial period due to finish at the end of November 2008.

A review during the trial opening hours have only been advertised once at the beginning of the trial period and it is believed that further advertising of the revised operating hours may increase the usage of the library. Subsequently it is proposed that the trial period for the change of library hours be extended until after the Christmas / New Year break so that the use of the library by school children over the holiday period may be gauged.

Resolution (No. 236-11-08)

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT the trial period for the change of library hours be extended until after the Christmas / New Year break so that the use of the library by school children over the holiday period may be gauged.

Carried

7.4.2 Records Management – Archiving of Records

At the end of August 2008, Mr Michael Vale, came to Thargomindah to provide a quote to undertake an archiving project on behalf of Council. This would involve Mr Vale examining Council's records and advising how they are to be archived. Mr Vale will mark on the file whether they should be permanently retained or the year in which they are to be destroyed. Mr Vale will forward any relevant files to Queensland State Archives.

A comprehensive report was provided to Council for consideration at the October 2008 Ordinary Meeting wherein Council resolved that the matter lay on the table for consideration at the November meeting.

Subsequent to the October meeting, further discussions have been held with Mr Vale and he has provided the following alternate proposal for Council's consideration.

Mr Vale can fly to Thargomindah on the 18 January 2008 and commence archival of Council records for a fortnight.

This will allow Council's officer's to assess the quality of the service provided by Mr Vale as well as verify the level of work that needs to be outsourced.

Mr Vale proposes that Council meet his travel expenses, lodgings, meals, pay \$50.00 per hour, and permit him to work 10-hour days. This will get a significant amount of work done.

Council would then employ Mr Vale as he becomes available. Tiffany Dare, Council's Records Officer will work with Mr Vale, and should become familiar with archiving records.

Noted

7.4.3 Housing Inspections

At the October Council meeting, Council resolved that a list of preferred brand of split system air conditioners be compiled.

Resolution (No. 237-11-08)

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr Crawford

THAT it be Council's preferred option that when replacing split system air conditioners preference be given to utilising the following brand of air conditioners:-

- Fujitsu
- Mitsubishi
- Panasonic

Carried

7.4.4 Australia Day 2009

Australia Day 2009 will fall on Monday 26 January 2009. In previous years Council has taken into consideration when schools recommence to allow high-school children to participate in the awards ceremony. State high schools and various boarding schools recommence on Tuesday, 27 January 2009.

Resolution (No. 238-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Crawford

1. THAT Council endorse the proposed Australia Day 2009 program; and
2. THAT the Chief Executive Officer be directed to compile a panel of suitably qualified persons for the awarding of the Australia Day awards.

Carried

7.4.5 Matters Raised by Elected Members

NIL

Attendance

Manager of Corporate Services, Karen Dare, left the meeting at 1:31pm.

Manager of Community Services, Donna Gentle, attended the meeting at this time.

7.5 MANAGER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

7.5.1 Bus Link Service to Cunnamulla

A comprehensive report and draft survey was presented to Council at the October Meeting for Council's consideration.

Council requested that an option for overnight freight be included in the survey prior to circulation. The survey was amended accordingly and circulated through the Community newsletter. A copy of the survey was also circulated to local properties via fax and email.

The collated results of the survey distributed were shown in the report.

Resolution (No. 239-11-08)

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr Clifford

THAT Kynoch Coaches be advised that Council's preferred option for an extension of the bus service to Thargomindah is:-

1. Thargomindah – Toowoomba on Monday returning to Thargomindah on the following Friday
2. Service to be run every alternate week

Carried

7.5.2 Matters Raised by Elected Members

NIL

Attendance

Manager of Community Service, Donna Gentle, left the meeting at 2:48pm.

ADOPTION OF OFFICER'S REPORT

Resolution (No. 240-11-08)

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Crawford

THAT the Officer's Reports be adopted and those matters contained therein not covered by resolution be noted.

Carried

8.0 RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

9.0 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS OR MEMORIALS

NIL

10.0 CONSIDERATION AND RECEPTION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

NIL

11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

NIL

12.0 NEXT MEETING

In accordance with Resolution No. 232-11-08, the next meeting of Council will be held on Friday 12th December 2008.

12.1 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 2:50pm.

Confirmed / /2008

Mayor
