



ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting to Receive the City's Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditors Report for the Year Ended June 2006 held in the Council Chamber on Monday 6 November 2006 commencing at 7.00pm

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7.00pm, welcomed everyone in attendance. He then ran through the 'order of business' stating that the meeting would be run in accordance with Standing Orders and that the public present would have the opportunity to ask questions relating to the business of Council or to propose Motions under 'Other Business' on the Agenda.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Mayor, Mr J Collins, JP (Chair)

Councillors:

J Best	Civic Ward
B W Hearne	Como Beach Ward
L J Jamieson	Manning Ward
L P Ozsdolay	Manning Ward
C A Cala	McDougall Ward
R D Wells, JP	McDougall Ward
R B Maddaford	Mill Point Ward
D S Smith	Mill Point Ward
S Doherty	Moresby Ward
K R Trent, RFD	Moresby Ward

Officers:

Mr C Frewing	Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Cope	Director Strategic and Regulatory Services
Mr G Flood	Director Infrastructure Service
Mr M Kent	Director, Financial and Information Services
Mr L Croxford	Manager Engineering Infrastructure
Ms D Gray	Manager Financial Services
Mrs K Russell	Minute Secretary

Gallery

There were 12 members of the public present

Apologies

Cr G W Gleeson	Civic Ward - leave of absence
Cr LM Macpherson	Como Beach Ward - leave of absence

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

The Mayor requested the CEO present an overview of the Annual Report for the year ended June 2006.

The Chief Executive Officer presented a summary of the year's activities with the 'focus' being on the City's Vision for the City of South Perth to be Perth's most liveable community celebrating our history and riverside location and creating the opportunities of the future.

Major Achievements 2005/2006

- New Council Administration and Civic building
- Network City – planning for railway stations
- Sustainability initiative
- Community Safety and Crime prevention Plan
- Integrated Transport Plan
- Certification of Enterprise Bargaining Agreements
- George Burnett Park Upgrade
- Maintained good community satisfaction rating (82%)

Council Commitment

South Perth Council Members make a significant commitment to the community.

During 2005/2006 they:

- attended 16 Council Meetings
- held 53 Briefing Sessions; and
- participated in 3 Facilitated Workshops

at which they considered and determined 207 matters. They also presented the City's views and lobbied on behalf of our community at a variety of other forums, conferences and meetings.

Staff Commitment

To strive for excellence in service delivery, to be responsive to our customers and to work proactively to deliver outcomes aligned to the strategic direction provided by Council.

Goal 1 - Customer Focus - Major Achievements

- Customer Focus Model
- City Update / Peninsular features
- Customer Information Sheets
- New out of hours telephone answering service
- Out for Comment
- Numerous public consultation projects
- Enhanced City Website

Future Opportunity Goal 1

- Keep improving consultation

Goal 2 - Community Enrichment - Major Achievements

- Implement Community Plan
- Community partnerships
- Community funding program
- Fiesta community event
- Public Art initiatives
- Seniors / aged care & YAC
- Community Policing initiatives

Future Opportunities

- Sporting Clubs Study implementation
- Civic multi-purpose community centre planning

Goal 3 - Environmental Management - Major Achievements

- Sustainability Strategy adopted
- Integrated Transport plan adopted
- George Burnett Park landscaping
- Neil McDougal Park upgrade
- Cities for Climate Protection
- Waste Management Study
- Major indigenous consultation
- 36,150 new trees & shrubs planted
- Milestone 2 of ICLEI Water Campaign
- Only WA Council to be selected for Federal Government ARIES Initiative

Future Opportunity

- Reducing water usage

Environmental Management - Major Achievements

- Final Municipal Heritage Review presented for adoption
- 589 Planning applications – 94% under delegated authority
- 828 Building applications (worth \$115m)
- Town Planning Scheme consultation policy adopted
- Skyworks Strategy

Future Opportunities

- Precinct Studies – Network City
- Parking Management

Goal 4 - Infrastructure - Major Achievements

- Improved path network
- 35,500 M2 road rehabilitation
- Storm water drainage surveys
- Travelsmart / Roadwise projects
- Blackspot road works
- Irrigation upgrades
- George Burnett Park upgrade – 11,000 trees / shrubs

Future Opportunities

- Underground Power program
- Como beach / SJMP improvements

Goal 5 - Organisational Effectiveness - Major Achievements

- Administration building refurbishment
- Implementing Record Keeping Plan
- Online information sharing
- Standing Orders Local Law review
- 3 x 3year Enterprise Bargaining Agreements certified
- Major Council Performance survey conducted
- LGIS Diligence in Safety Gold Award

Future Opportunities

- Maintaining open processes
- Address Skills shortage issue

Goal 6 - Financial Viability Major Achievements

- Sustainable funding approach
- Best practice risk management strategy
- Timely & accountable financial management reporting
- High quality, well documented systems & procedures
- \$442K dividend from CPGC
- Improvement in CPV finances

Future Opportunity

- Maintain and enhance best practice approach

2005/2006 Financial Highlights

Key Indicators:

- Unqualified (clean) Audit Report
- Financially sustainable
- Overall financial position improved by 1% - Net Assets \$170.5M
- Total Revenue was 2.2% **above** budget at \$31.8M
- Rates Revenue was \$17.5M (budget \$17.4M)
- Non Rates Revenue of \$14.3M from other sources (fees, grants, interest, asset trade-in proceeds etc)
- Operating Expenses were only 0.5% over budget at \$30.5M
- \$8.9M worth of Capital Expenditure was completed
- Cash reserves are in place to support future financial sustainability
- Outstanding rates ratio down to 1.5% (last year 2.1%)
- Minimal commitment to servicing loan debt - 0.58%

Looking Forward

Key Focus Areas:

- Continuing emphasis on effective community consultation processes
- Further community safety initiatives
- Environmentally sustainable management
- Balancing financial, environmental & social aspects of sustainability
- Continue to enhance the Customer Focus Model
- Plan for the upgrade of community facilities at the Civic Centre
- Parking management strategies
- Responsible Building and Planning control
- Responsibly maintaining the City's infrastructure
- Keeping the community involved and informed

Conclusion

What is our role in the future?

By working collaboratively together as an Elected Council, a City Administration and a Community we can build for a sustainable future and truly become a connected community celebrating our history, our riverside location and creating the opportunities of the future.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive Officer for his presentation and commended him on the Annual Report. He stated that the Council and administration have faced a lot of issues during the year and delivered a very good result by looking at the initial Strategic Plan, revising that Plan and then moving on to adapt for change.

MOTION

Moved Sheila Perrot (Collier Park Village), Sec Clare McBeath, Coode Street, Como

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2006 be received.

COMMENTS FOR / AGAINST MOTION - QUESTIONS / POINTS OF CLARIFICATION : ITEM 3

Mr Geoff Defrenne, 24 Kennard Street, Kensington

In relation to the Mayor's Report, is it the Mayor's Report or on behalf of the Councillors?

Mayor Collins stated that it was the Mayor's Report but that it also covered subjects on which the Councillors have been informed / involved.

Mr Defrenne referred to the refurbished Council Chamber and to a recent statement - *that the improved facilities assist towards open and accountable governance* and asked: How does the improved facilities make it open and accountable governance?

Mayor Collins stated this question has been raised and responded to previously. He said that what the public cannot see is the cabling installed to assist those with impaired hearing. Therefore anyone with impaired hearing can hear the meeting proceedings and that in itself is just one example of assisting with good governance.

Mr Defrenne asked for other examples of open and accountable governance.

Mayor Collins said that other examples of open and accountable governance was the public now being able to attend Council Agenda Briefing sessions, the amount of consultation between the Council and developers prior to applications being submitted to Council and the amount of information available on the City's website.

Mr Defrenne asked for more examples in relation to Council involvement with the Aged / Youth of the City.

Mayor Collins said in this regard information was well documented within the Annual Report, such as the Youth Advisory Council, scholarships to under privileged, supporting youth events, Pioneer Lunch etc.

Mr Defrenne during the year has there been any triple 'C' investigations into the City and is there anywhere that the City has not met expectations?

Mayor Collins replied that the Council decides whether the City has met expectations. The items on the Council Agenda are all decided by the Council. Personal views alone mean nothing until Council adopts a resolution.

Mr Defrenne has the City achieved in your expectations?

Mayor Collins said that his written report detailed the achievements.

Mr Defrenne referred to the Integrated Transport Policy mentioned in the report and asked: Will the CEO be issued with a bike?

Mayor Collins responded no.

Mr Defrenne should any employee make a claim, for example while using their own vehicle, would they be reimbursed?

Mayor Collins stated the question was hypothetical and would not be answered.

Mr Defrenne do employees use their own vehicles to carry out Council business?

Chief Executive Officer responded no and further stated that he was not aware of any employee making a claim for using their own non-motorised vehicle.

Mayor Collins advised that there was a item for discussion at the recent Audit and Governance Committee meeting held in October where it defines that reimbursement of costs associated with usage of bicycles used in attending Council business was deemed not an appropriate policy.

Director Infrastructure Services commented that the Infrastructure Services Directorate did have a couple of bikes which were used for Council work-related journeys.

Mr Defrenne in relation to salary bands what is the total benefits the CEO gets?

Mayor Collins advised that the information was available in the CEO's contract. A copy of which had been made available to Mr Defrenne.

Mr Defrenne Accounts Payable keeps increasing. Is there any reason why accounts payable are higher than the previous year?

Director Financial and Information Services stated that the accounts payable figure as disclosed in Note 11 did reflect that the current accounts payable was higher than the last year but had only increased by \$280,000. This was attributed to a late invoice for a progress payment on the administration building.

Mr Barrie Drake, 2 Scenic Crescent, South Perth. In relation to Council Rates, they seem to go up every year as more or less a fashionable thing to do. Looking at the Financial Statements there seems to be funds building up all the time. Could some thought be put into using some of this money for underground power rather than asking the ratepayers in the Como East area to contribute such a substantial amount? Help residents that have been in the City for many years.

Mayor Collins stated that the underground power is something the City wanted for all of the people in South Perth and that if it could have been implemented at the same time it would have been cheaper however Western Power say where it goes and when it goes in. He said there were 'staged payment options' and concessions available. The Mayor further advised that the City relies on its reserves to fund things such as waste management, maintenance of river walls etc. and while rate increases are kept to a minimum if rates were not increased for a period of time and then increased significantly it would not make for good management. As it is rates are going up less than CPI which he stated he believed is reasonable.

Director Financial and Information Services confirmed that the City's rates increase this year was less than CPI and that the City monitors the funding model to ensure a responsible balance between rates and non-rates funding. He said he believed it was a responsible approach bearing in mind that the City do not have the growth opportunities of places such as Mandurah. In relation to reserves it is important to realise funds are quarantined for specific purposes for example Collier Park Village and Hostel residents are entitled to receive a refund when they leave the facility and money is quarantined for this purpose. Other reserves are provided for in relation to waste management as well as for a number of future projects such as the proposed railway stations to accommodate the Perth to Mandurah rail link. With underground power it is important to note that both the State and Local Governments are required to consider the preferred funding model which recognises that a portion of funding comes from the State Government with the balance being levied from rate payers in the particular area but take the point that it is a financial impost. This is why we are always looking at financial models to take into account concessions and instalment payment options over extended periods.

Mr Drake asked how many millions does the City need to stay comfortable now and still put increases back into the system - where is the ceiling?

Mayor Collins said it will be for Council to decide whether reserves are spent, for example, on the Civic Upgrade or another project. He said that a previous Council had entered into non-project borrowings and did very little to get the cash position going, or support infrastructure enhancement, whereas this Council has taken a balanced and sustainable view for the future.

Mrs Perrot referred to Section 14 of the Annual Report 'Purpose of Reserves' and said that there is a perception within the community that the Collier Park Village is subsidised by ratepayers. She asked that consideration be given to including a few more words under this item in future to better identify where the funds come from.

Mayor Collins advised that the suggestion would be taken into consideration.

The Mayor put the Motion.

CARRIED

4. **PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**
The Mayor referred those present to the Auditor's report on the last page of the Annual Report document.

MOTION

Moved June Davis, McNabb Loop, Como, Sec Roger Atkinson, Coode Street, Como

That the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2006 be received.

COMMENTS FOR / AGAINST MOTION - QUESTIONS / POINTS OF CLARIFICATION : ITEM 4

Mr Geoff Defrenne During the last four months there have been concerns about the cost of Temporary Staff and whether the cost exceeds the tender limit. Did the City advise the Auditors of where they may have exceeded the limit or of any other financial concerns. Were there areas where the City failed to advise the Auditors?

Mayor Collins clarified the questions raised as being:

- During the annual audit did any concerns get raised?
- In last year's Annual Report it was mentioned that some of the services of Temporary Staff exceeded \$50,000 - were there other areas that exceed \$50,000 and was this information available to the auditors?

Chief Executive Officer confirmed that there has certainly been no over-payment in relation to temporary staff. The City have acknowledged that payments have been made that are greater than \$50,000 to particular firms but that certainly does not mean a breach of the Act has occurred. In relation to the audit contract the audit is conducted by qualified auditors in accordance with the *Local Government Act, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and Australian Auditing Standards and is carried out under a compliance regime in line with the standards contained within those documents. The Auditor's opinion contained at the back of the Annual Report states that the financial statements are properly drawn up and statutory compliance achieved. He said he had no reason to expect that the City has not complied with the law and therefore no reference to any breach was referred to the auditors.

The Mayor put the Motion.

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor advised the gallery that he would accept questions / statements at this point in the meeting. He opened 'other business' at 8.05pm.

Mr Alan Richardson, Canning Highway, Como who decides where cycleways are put, is it Council or Main Roads?

Director Infrastructure Services advised that the City works with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Community Advisory Groups to establish where cycleways will be best located.

Mr Richardson referred to the cycleway in Thelma Street and to his letter to Council last year pointing out the stupidity of the proposal particularly in peak times because the cycleway reduced the carriageway to one lane. Mr Richardson also advised that he had not received a response to his letter before or after the path was installed.

Director Infrastructure Services stated that he was not aware of the particular letter referred to. He said he would investigate the matter and provide a written response to Mr Richardson.

Mr Roger Atkinson we waited a number of years for refurbishments to the Como foreshore. We are now waiting a couple of more years for the refurbishment of Como Beach. Will Council issue regular bulletins advising the public of what is happening with projects such as this? There may be a lot of people wondering what is happening at Como Beach.

Mayor Collins acknowledged that the Como Beach project has been on-going for quite some time. He said that it had recently come before Council however the tender received for the work was considered too excessive. This project is currently going out to tender again with the idea of completely upgrading this area.

Director Infrastructure Services stated that the administration were also frustrated with the approval process for this project which involved Swan River Trust approvals and the development of a Foreshore Heritage Masterplan to meet requirements under the *Aboriginal Affairs Act (1972)*. A clearance was granted by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs in June 2006 which will now enable the City to upgrade the foreshores however the process did take many months and that coupled with the building industry price increases put the project over budget. Currently the specifications for the project are being redone in order to reduce the scope of work.

Mr Defrenne the October 2006 Council Minutes show that the Mayor asked if there were any more questions from the public. Why were my questions 'tabled' rather than included in the Minutes?

Mayor Collins stated that public question time had expired. He said that as stated at the meeting, the balance of the questions, tabled by Mr Defrenne but not read out, were to be answered administratively. He further stated that during his time as Mayor that he believed that Mr Defrenne had been given every opportunity to ask questions.

Mr Defrenne last month Council issued a Stop Work Order on a shed being completed at No. 6 Lansdowne Road. In a copy of the City of Belmont Report in particular in relation to a building going on at 152 Mill Point Road where calculations differ between Belmont and the City of South Perth, is the building currently under construction being issued with a Stop Work Order?

Director Strategic and Regulatory Services stated that the matters raised in the City of Belmont Report were the subject of a Briefing to Councillors in July 2006 and Council were satisfied with the officer's findings.

Mayor Collins confirmed that the City will not be issuing a Stop Work Order for 152 Mill Point Road.

Mr Defrenne did Council make a decision at the Briefing session?

Mayor Collins confirmed that the matter had never come before a Council meeting for a determination but had been the subject of Briefing sessions.

Ms Clare McBeath, Coode Street, Como. in relation to parking problems in upper Coode Street and in our current climate of water restrictions could Council consider installing more embayments in upper Coode Street as a way of cutting down verge watering and addressing parking issues?

Director Infrastructure Services stated the question was taken on notice.

Mr Barrie Drake, 2 Scenic Crescent, South Perth at the last Council meeting I had five questions relating to No. 11 Heppingstone Street, South Perth. I was only permitted to asked two of the five questions. Can I now ask the remaining three questions?

Mayor Collins confirmed that the questions asked at the October Council Meeting would be responded to in writing and that a summary of the response would appear in the November Council Agenda. He then asked Mr Drake to ask the other three questions referred to.

Mr Drake

Question 3. What is the maximum permissible height of a building built on this site?

Question 4. Is a Multiple Dwelling allowed on this site?

Director Strategic and Regulatory Services stated the questions were taken on notice.

Mr Drake (cont'd)

Question 5. In the CEO's letter to me dated 12 October 2006 re questions I asked at the 26 September 2006 Council meeting, your response to my last question was: *As the building at 11 Heppingstone Street complies with the current Town Planning Scheme No. 6.....*". Is this statement correct? Do you still maintain that it complies?

Chief Executive Officer stated that he would review the correspondence referred to. The question was taken on notice.

Mr Roger Atkinson I attended the Canning Bridge Precinct train station community meeting conducted by Estell Consultants. Following that briefing there has been no community feedback provided. The 'Group' seemed to be in favour of increasing the density. What is the reaction from the City of South Perth to that meeting? Disappointed with total lack of feedback.

Director Strategic and Regulatory Services stated that since briefing the Community Forum the Consultants have prepared a summary of the Forum. Instructions have been given to place this information on the City's website. The community survey for the South Perth and Canning Bridge train station precinct studies is currently being undertaken. The study brief for the South Perth Network City Communities Program projects anticipated that a second stage, to be undertaken after the results of the current community engagement projects had been completed, would focus on the planning strategy and future proposals for the area.

Mayor Collins stated that Council is also keen to get this information because of the impost on the community.

Mr Defrenne No. 180 Mill Point Road is deemed to be a 'grouped dwelling' development but the R-Codes state: "*A dwelling that is one of a group of two or more dwellings on the same lot such that no dwelling is placed wholly or partly vertically above another.....*". Is there other information relating to one building being built over another where it is deemed a Grouped Dwelling rather than a Multiple Dwelling?

Director Strategic and Regulatory Services stated the question was taken on notice.

Mr Defrenne since Council Meetings returned to the Council Chamber there has been a Ranger on duty in the foyer. Would it not be cheaper to supply locks for the outer doors?

Mayor Collins stated that it was part of the world we live in today where security is of the utmost concern to everyone.

6. CLOSURE

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

These Minutes were received at Council meeting on 28 November 2006

Signed _____
Chairperson at the meeting at which the Minutes were received