

- Vision - The City of South Perth will be Perth's most liveable community — celebrating our history and riverside location, and creating the opportunities of the future. To enhance the quality of life and prosperity of our community.
- City of South Perth - Our Vision Ahead - Looking Back/Moving Forward
- Communication and Consultation
- Customer Focus - Red Bull Air Race and Australia Day Skyworks
- Community Enrichment
 - Civic Centre Library and Halls Redevelopment
 - Community Concerts and Events
 - Fiesta • Thank a Volunteer Day • Pioneer Lunch • School programs
 - Art Awards and Exhibitions at Heritage House
 - Poets Walk of Honour
 - Recreational Programs
 - Collier Park Golf Course
 - Community Funding Program and Partnerships
 - Community Safety - Rangers/Neighbourhood Watch
- Environmental Management
 - Precinct Studies
 - South Perth Rail Station
 - Canning Bridge Rail Station
 - Bentley Technology Park
 - Planning Policies
 - Residential Design Policy Manual
 - Policy 350 – Sustainable Building Design
 - Cities For Climate Protection Water Campaign Milestone 3
 - Natural Area Management
 - Friends of McDougall Park • Bodkin Park Living Stream
 - Plants to Residents
 - Recycling Initiatives
 - Kerbside Collection
 - Resource Recovery Day
 - Free Mulch for Residents
 - 5 000 tonnes diverted
 - Natural and Built Environment
- Infrastructure
 - Road Rehabilitation and Intersection Treatments
 - Path Network Replacement
 - TravelSmart
 - WA School Travel Plan Pilot Project
 - River Walls
 - Beaches in Sir James Mitchell Park
 - Community Facility Upgrade
 - Graffiti Removal
 - Old Mill Theatre Collier Pavilion Manning Community Centre
 - Underground Power Project

Note: Manager Environmental Health Services arrived 7.25pm

- Organisational Effectiveness
 - Planning and Development
 - Restructured the planning department into strategic and statutory functions
 - Improved development assessment processes;
 - Applying more rigour to the assessment of building licences; and
 - Town Planning Briefings to Council/residents on major developments
 - Sustainability Policies

The Mayor concluded his presentation and asked the Director Financial and Information Services to provide an overview on the City's financial management for the year.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Director Financial and Information Services provided a brief overview on the following topics:

Highlights

- Despite the difficult/challenging economic climate, it has been another very positive year for the City in terms of its financial management.
- We enjoyed an increase in the value of our community assets - largely through responsible investment in our buildings, road and path networks.
- City had a 5.2% increase in our Net Asset Position
- Outstanding rates ratio is an industry leading 1.3% (KPI benchmark is less than 5%)
- Effective cash management yielded a good investment result
- Deferred planned borrowings for the UGP project allowing us to now access loan funds at a lower interest rate
- We are continuing to responsibly build cash reserves for the future.

Accountability

City received a clean audit report

No investment exposure to Lehman Bros or any other sub prime / derivative investments. We have maintained prudent investment strategies and rigorous project evaluation methodologies to ensure best value outcomes for our community.

Recognition

Awarded a Certificate of Merit (Runner Up) in the Minister for Local Government's Awards for Excellence in Financial Management.

Financial Sustainability

Rigorous financial planning through the Strategic Financial Plan has left the City well placed to deliver on its strategic direction and build for the future

We exercised effective stewardship of community assets by:

- building on asset value through well planned and researched project concepts
- developing effective asset management plans that match service expectations with our capacity so that we deliver relevant facilities in the right place
- investing in community infrastructure(Civic Library / Hall, Manning Community Facility, Child Health Centres, SJMP Beaches etc)
- building a 'Future Fund' through cash reserves to allow major capital initiatives to be funded in future without unreasonable burden.

Professional Contribution to the Local Govt Industry

City officers played an active role on several LG industry advisory committees during the year

- SSS Study in Local Govt Financial Sustainability (extensive submission)
- Membership of the Expert Team on Local Government Financial Planning and Reporting
- Am actively involved in the development of a Local Govt Financial Management Manual (to share knowledge)

The Mayor thanked the Director Financial and Information Services for his presentation on the City's financial position. He then called for a Motion to receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ended 30 June 2008.

MOTION

Moved Doug Parker, 1/58A Roberts Street, Como / Sec John Stewart, 7 Keaney Place, Waterford

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 be received.

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

Mr Geoff Defrenne, 24 Kennard Street, Kensington

Recommend residents do not accept the Annual Report as I do not believe the report has been 'presented'. I do not believe others here tonight have seen it and therefore do not believe as ratepayers we should accept the report.

The Mayor asked Mr Defrenne whether he had received the 'Summary' Annual Report document in his letterbox. Mr Defrenne confirmed that he had received the document.

The Mayor requested the Director Financial and Information Services provide Mr Defrenne with a copy of the Annual Report.

The Mayor put the Motion.

CARRIED

- 4. PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007**
The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Auditor's Report was considered at the October 2008 Council meeting and approved. He then read aloud an extract from Macri Partners' Independent Audit Report, as follows:

We have audited the financial report of the City of South Perth, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008 and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Rate Setting Statement and the notes to and forming part of the financial report for the year ended on that date.

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Auditor's Opinion.

In our opinion, the financial report of the City of South Perth:

- (i) gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the City of South Perth as at 30 June 2008 and of its financial performance for the year ended on the date; and*
- (ii) complies with the Local Government Act 1995 (as amended) and the Australian Accounting Standards.*

During the course of our audit we became aware of the following instance where the Council did not comply with the Local Government Act 1995 (as amended) and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996:

Annual Financial Report

The Annual Financial Report did not contain the original budget estimates as required under Financial Management Regulation 36(2)(b).

Except as detailed above, no other matters of non-compliance were noted during the course of our audit where the Council did not comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

The CEO then advised that the auditors statement did not reflect what the City's practice was in lieu of complying with Regulation 36(2)(b) referred to above. He mentioned that the City's practice was to provide amended budget figures for comparative purposes which were more relevant than adopted budget figures.

MOTION

Moved June Davis, 43 McNabb Loop, Como, / Sec John Stewart, 7 Keaney Place, Waterford

That the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2008 be received.

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor advised the gallery that he would accept questions / statements at this point in the meeting.

Doug Parker, 1/58A Robert Street, Como - Has any further proposal or approach been made in relation to the block at the corner of Robert and Woollana Streets?

Director Development and Community Services - said no, there had been no further approach made in relation to this site.

Doug Parker - in relation to littering, in particular broken glass on footpaths and the replacement of Council bins, what is the Council policy? The litter bin at the corner of Manning Road/Robert Street has been taken away and not replaced, why?

Mayor Best suggested that any instances of broken glass on footpaths etc be reported to the Council via email and the issue will be dealt with. He further stated that the matter relating to the litter bin being removed and not replaced would be investigated.

Doug Parker - I refer to the Department of Correction's house in Robert Street and in particular the anti-social behaviour, including damage to neighbouring properties, by the occupants of that facility which is causing a lot of concern to residents in the area. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister and the Local Member John McGrath has been contacted. Can the Council speed up the process to have this facility re-located?

Mayor Best responded that he was not aware of problems with the facility referred to. He further stated that the City has initiated a 'City and Crimes Forum' with representatives from the police, neighbourhood watch and the Premier's Office of Crime Prevention etc and stated that he would follow up this particular problem with that Group.

Bob Simper, 32 Sandgate Street, South Perth - In relation to street trees and in particular the 'dead wood' I have asked on numerous occasions that this be attended to - some streets are done others are not. Trees need to be looked after and pruned properly - can be a danger to walkers/cyclists.

In relation to the proposed new Library - residents were invited to come to the City and provide ideas/input etc however from that day to now there has been no further information provided to residents as a result of those sessions as to what ideas have been taken on board.

In relation to the foreshore toilets I understood arrangements were being made for the temporary toilets used at events such as Skyshow, Red Bull etc to be connected to the sewer and that money was put aside for this project, however nothing seems to have been done.

Mayor Best said that the City prides itself on its street trees. He further stated that as part of the Street Tree Policy there is a maintenance program for pruning which is prioritised particularly in relation to safety issues.

Director Infrastructure Services - confirmed contractors provide a service to the City in relation to pruning / maintaining street trees. He further stated that he would ensure an inspection is undertaken to ascertain that there are no dangerous trees that do not get attention.

Mayor Best said that in regards to the new Library proposed, he acknowledged that community groups were invited to work with the Consultant to provide input and was surprised to hear there was no follow-up.

Director Financial and Information Services - stated the information in relation to the Library project had been published in the Southern Gazette newspaper and a number of the items highlighted in the Annual Report were suggestions that came from the Community Groups / Surveys. He further stated that in order to do a project of this scale well it does take a long time to process all of the community/stakeholder feedback and work with the architects in order to incorporate the ideas/suggestions into the plan - other funding opportunities are also being explored and it is anticipated this will run through to the end of February at which time it is hoped to go out to tender. Updates in this regard will be provided to keep the community informed of progress.

Mayor Best said that in relation to the proposal to connect the portable toilets used for events such as Australia Day Skyworks, Red Bull Air Race etc, to the sewer, that following investigation it was found that the cheaper, preferable option was to use portable toilets which are paid for by the organisers of the particular events etc.

Bob Simper - what is happening about car parking for the proposed new Library?

Mayor Best said that the City would ensure there is adequate car parking available.

Glen Aylett, 160 Robert Street, Como - when taking green waste to the Transfer Station, because my trailer has a 'cage' operators will not let me in with a pass and charge \$25 - why?

Manager Environmental Health - advised that there is a set Schedule of Fees for disposal of waste at the Transfer Station. He said that 'vouchers' (ie no cost) are only accepted for cars, van or 6 x 4 sized trailers and that any larger trailers / trucks etc and costed on volume as per the Schedule of Fees adopted by Council.

Barrie Drake, 2 Scenic Crescent, South Perth - I have attended the last 4/5 Annual Electors Meetings and at every one the City of South Perth is being talked about as being a 'bank'. With the current economic climate I suggest it would be a challenger to see if they can, say until next year, do without increasing rates - set an example to other Councils and provide savings for everyone.

There is also a lot of advertising done by the City in the newspaper advising what we are doing. As the City is only a local authority, do not see why we need to advertise?

The Summary Annual Report has been distributed to all letterboxes and I believe that is one area that we could save money. Agree ratepayers would appreciate that the financial management of the City is good but you could also not increase rates by using some funds in the reserves. Another area where money could be saved is less use of poisons for weed control - find some other method of control.

Mayor Best said no doubt we would all like to see rates stay the same but that unfortunately costs do not stay the same and a lot of funds go into our reserves to cover costs relating to maintaining resources and funding various projects. In relation to the library and hall, we have money in reserve for this project which means we are more flexible to go up and down as the market goes up and down without having to increase rates. The area of promotion/advertising mentioned is part of Council being open and transparent to our ratepayers and we will continue that level of communication as it is important ratepayers know what we are doing. In relation to the distribution to ratepayers of the Summary Annual Report, the delivery of one Report per letterbox was considered the most cost-effective option.

In relation to the control of weeds, this issue will be taken up with the Manager City Environment to see if there is an opportunity to use less poison in managing weeds.

Chief Executive Officer - stated that the City takes the setting of its Budget very seriously and reviews its Strategic Financial Plan every two years. There is always a balance between increasing rates and providing quality service delivery and that the whole process takes up to six months of Council's deliberations to set the Budget and level of rates. We take rate increases seriously and endeavour to keep them to a minimum.

In relation to the amount of communication/advertising referred to, because of the lack of support from the local newspaper we have had to buy space to provide newsworthy items to our ratepayers, however some of our publications circulated, such as the Peninsula are getting good feedback from ratepayers.

The issue of using poisons to maintain weeds is an area that can be reviewed in light of the increased community environmental concerns being raised about this type of thing.

John Stewart, 7 Keaney Place, Waterford - I would like to commend Council on the maintenance of its parks particularly in the area near my home. Well done on the work carried out on the 'middle island' at McDougall Park and the magnificent 'River Beaches Project.

What is Council doing in relation to the health of the rivers?

Mayor Best - responded that half a dozen 'river councils' have formed an alliance of councils with river frontage to address this issue recognising the function, challenges and importance of the rivers. The plan proposes to get enough money to maintain the Swan and Canning rivers with a submission being forwarded to the Federal Government for an \$85M rescue package.

Geoff Defrenne, 24 Kennard Street, Kensington - Will the new library parking comply with the Town Planning Scheme?

Mayor Best - responded yes.

Geoff Defrenne - in relation to an earlier comment regarding community input into the new Library and the lack of feedback from the Consultant, I also have not received any feedback.

Mayor Best - said he will follow up with the Consultant to find out why this has not happened.

Geoff Defrenne - Grange Securities appeared on our Investment List a few years ago - why was Grange Securities chosen to go on that list?

Director Financial and Information Services - responded that there was a brief period of time where Grange Securities was on the approved list, but that the City only had one investment with them and long before things 'went wrong' the City called back all funds and did not lose any money. We will however need to be aware of any mergers in the future and will review our Investment Policy accordingly.

Geoff Defrenne - Grange Securities used to sponsor LGMA which is an employee union and an 'unholy alliance' - suggest we look into any 'unholy alliances'.

Chief Executive Officer stated that sponsorship is part of day-to-day life and the City often approaches organisations for funds ie Fiesta. He said organisations like LGMA, WALGA and other professional associations rely on sponsors for various activities which is the only way associations of this type can exist. Further, the LGMA is not an employee union but an educational and professional development organisation.

Note: Cr Gleeson retired from the meeting at 8.43pm

Geoff Defrenne - In relation to Technology Park - what is Council doing to protect South Perth's interests in this?

Mayor Best- stated that he believed a change in government is an issue with the new government trying to re-evaluate how Technology Park will benefit the community in relation to commercial and residential development, Curtin University growth, car parking, vehicle access issues etc. At this stage the Consultants are trying to establish the future direction of both sites and it is hoped there may be a clearer idea of the future direction of Technology Park and Curtin University in the new year.

Geoff Defrenne - In relation to 'Visioning Workshop' - I attended two visioning sessions and was told there would be feedback, but nothing has been received as yet. This is a great idea but when there is community input the community need to hear back.

Mayor Best- said that letters have gone out to the participants of the Visioning Workshops advising of an email site set up by the Consultants for input. He further stated that the Project Team are working through feedback to 'fine tune' the input received.

Geoff Defrenne - In relation to the 50th Anniversary report item on the December Agenda I object to the money being spent in 'South Perth' to the detriment of other areas. There is money being spent on other projects and there are other areas that need to be remembered.

Mayor Best- stated Council had not yet made a decision as to how the funds proposed for this project would be spent. He said that in relation to the report item in question, that Sir James Mitchell Park is a high profile area and an asset that needs to be maintained. The report calls for suggestions for a piece of art work to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the City and submissions/ideas received will be assessed by a Committee before Council makes the final decision.

Geoff Defrenne - Town Planning Scheme No. 6 is up for review this year. Complexities in interpreting the R-Codes have been high lighted in recent years. The City is responsible for its Town Planning Scheme and when difficulties occur the City needs to address these issues that they do not understand.

Mayor Best- acknowledged that TPS6 was up for review, which he stated had commenced, and said that Council puts a large amount of effort into monitoring its Town Planning Scheme in the spirit and interpretation of law. He further stated that good progress is being made in the Town Planning Department in this regard and believed the issues of a decade ago will not happen in the future.

Mr Warwick Boardman, 20 Unwin Crescent, Salter Point - The restoration of the river walls and the Beaches Project are certainly addressing a problem that I only see as continuing. I believe the causes of the current climate change problem will continue - until that stops is there any point in planning ahead?

Mayor Best - acknowledged that we need to look at the topography to establish water rise and plan for the future and said that part of the Federal Government \$85M 'rescue package' could be spent on a Study. In the meantime we are looking at the Beaches Project as a trial to address this issue.'

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and input and invited members of the public gallery to join the Elected Members and Council Officers for a Christmas drink.

6. CLOSURE

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.59pm.

These Minutes were received at a Council meeting on 16 December 2008

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