



## **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 2009  
held in the Council Chamber on  
Monday 30 November 2009 commencing at 7.00pm**

### **1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7.00pm, welcomed everyone in attendance and paid respect to the Noongar peoples, the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, and acknowledged their deep feeling of attachment to country. He then advised that the meeting is being audio recorded in accordance with Council Policy P517 "Audio Recording of Council Meetings" and Clause 6.1.6 of the Standing Orders Local Law which states: "*A person is not to use any electronic, visual or vocal recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of the Council without the permission of the Presiding Member*" and stated that as Presiding Member he gave his permission for the Administration to record proceedings of the Council meeting.

### **2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

Present:

Mayor J Best (Chair)

Councillors:

V Lawrance	Civic Ward
I Hasleby	Civic Ward
P Best	Como Beach Ward
L P Ozsdolay	Manning Ward
C Cala	McDougall Ward
R Wells, JP	McDougall Ward
R Grayden	Mill Point Ward
B Skinner	Mill Point Ward
S Doherty	Moresby Ward
K Trent	Moresby Ward

Officers:

Mr C Frewing	Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Bell	Director Infrastructure Services
Mr M Kent	Director Financial and Information Services
Ms V Lummer	Director Development and Community Services
Ms D Gray	Manager Financial Services
Mr P McQue	Manager Governance and Administration
Mrs K Russell	Minute Secretary

Gallery

There were 12 members of the public present.

Apologies

Cr G Cridland	Como Beach Ward – Approved Leave of Absence
Cr T Burrows	Manning Ward – Approved Leave of Absence

**3. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

**Annual Report Achievements for the year**

The Mayor provided a power point presentation on the City's achievements for the year ended June 2009 and covered the following topics:

**Our 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

**Our Mission**

To enhance the quality of life and prosperity of our community

**Our Values**

- Excellence
- Trust
- Customer Focus
- Respect

The City of South Perth celebrated 50 years as a City in June 2009

***Looking Back, Moving Forward*** is our theme for this year's Annual Report  
Celebrating our history and creating new shared vision...

**Our Vision Ahead - *Looking back, moving forward...***

We belong to an engaged and cohesive community that is linked by vibrant local centres and shared spaces. We live and travel in ways that nurture our environment, and our housing and amenities meet the diverse needs of a changing society"

**About Your City - Statistics**

- Population of 43,000
- 4.66 square kilometres of parks and gardens
- Net asset position in excess of \$190M
- Annual expenditure in excess of \$52M
- 217 Full Time Equivalent Employees
- 203km of roads and 235 km of pathways
- 33,000 square metres of road rehabilitation completed
- 725 building licences issued
- 515 planning applications processed
- 1,200 street trees planted
- 12,000 parkland shrubs planted
- 68,000 small plants planted
- 4,803 tonnes of waste recycled
- 12,652 tonnes of general waste processed into compost
- 1,457 reported graffiti instances removed
- 710 routine inspections of food premises

**Highlights - Goal 1 Customer Focus**

- Received over 100,000 direct customer contacts
- 99 media releases issued
- Planning Consultation Policy P104 enhanced
- Production of *Peninsula* and weekly *City Update*

**Highlights – Goal 2 Community Enrichment**

- *Our Vision Ahead* Project, over 1450 residents participated
- Over 125,00 attended Australia Day – successful introduction
- of popular **Family Zones** and **Youth Activity Zone**.
- Supported 53 organisations/people - \$42,000
- 150 entries received for 2008 Art Award
- 17 events held in Fiesta 2009
- (9,000 people at opening concert)
- 13 Citizenship Ceremonies
- (400 new citizens)

**Highlights – Goal 3 Environmental Management**

- Residential Policy Manual adopted, reflecting Council's commitment to environmentally sustainable design principles
- Adopted a Ecologically Sustainability Building Design Policy
- Commenced a unique Sustainability Assessment Process for tree planting at Sir James Mitchell Park
- South Perth Station Precinct Study, Canning Bridge Station precinct and Waterford Triangle Study
- Adopted Collier Park Golf Course Master Plan

**Highlights – Goal 4 Infrastructure**

- Construction commenced on the \$11m Civic Centre Library
- and Halls, scheduled for completion in December 2010
- Como East Round 3 Underground Power Project completed
- \$1.6M Sir James Mitchell Park Beach project completed
- Neil McDougall Park landscape upgrade

**Highlights – Goal 5 Organisational Effectiveness**

- Progressively implemented a Record Keeping Plan
- Ongoing development of the City's Sustainability Strategy
- Continued high levels of customer satisfaction
- Participated in State Government Local Government Reform

**Highlights – Goal 6 Financial Viability**

- The City retained a strong financial position

**Moving Forward**

- Finalise the City's 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan, using the findings from the *Our Vision Ahead* project
- Construction to continue on Library & Civic Hall
- Implementing a Customer Relationship Management System
- Upgrade WCG Pavilion, Richardson Reserve
- Launch of new state of the art website
- Planning further upgrade works for Sir James Mitchell Park, Como Beach, George Burnett Leisure Centre and Manning Hub

The Mayor concluded his presentation a called for the Director Financial and Information Services to present an overview of the Financial Statements.

**Financial Statements Presentation**

The Director Financial and Information Services provided an overview of the Financial Statements. as follows:

- Our audited financial statements reflect the results of responsible, sustainable financial management.
- City received a clean audit report with no adverse financial trends noted.
- Auditors were complimentary of quality of City's financial systems and financial reporting.
- All accountability obligations met.
- Financial statements should provide our community with a high degree of confidence in the City's financial management approach and its effective stewardship of our financial and community assets.
- Value of community assets has improved from \$190.6M to \$191.5M.
- This is attributable to a significant capital investment to enhance the value of our civic buildings and our infrastructure.
- The strength of the City's financial position continues to be reflected in the financial ratios disclosed in the financial statements.
- Headline financial ratios provide convincing evidence of the City's continued commitment to responsible and sustainable financial management.
- Short term liquidity and the debt service ratio remain within benchmark levels.
- The modest level of dependence on rates as a funding source evidences our financial independence.
- Given the current economic climate, the outstanding rates ratio of just 1.7% reflects an excellent collection result.
- Annual revenue reached \$40.55M against a budget target of \$40.91M
- (inability to complete a land sale transaction before year end & a timing difference in receiving grant funds relating to building works also contributed to the variance, but this funding has been carried forward and will still be accessible in 2009/2010)
- Total expenditure (including operating expenditure and capital projects) of \$52.11M was within 3% of the \$53.81M budget allocation.
- (Approximately 76% of the planned capital program was completed by 30 June - with monies associated with incomplete capital works for construction and infrastructure being carried forward into 2009/2010 to complete the approved projects).
- Cash backed reserves play an important role in ensuring our long term financial sustainability and are used to responsibly accumulate funds for projects in future years.
- At 30 June 2009, a total of \$25.7M was held in cash backed Reserves.
- (\$17.0M - quarantined reserves relating to Waste Management, Collier Park Golf Course and Collier Park Retirement village).
- (\$8.7M represent accumulated funds for future projects - including \$4.3M in the Future Fund and \$4.4M in general reserves).
- The City is building upon its sound financial foundations to ensure that we remain a City that is financially, socially and environmentally sustainable.
- Important community initiatives - particularly in relation to our facilities and buildings, are supported by thoughtful forward financial planning that ensures that the burden for funding them is equitably distributed among present and future ratepayers.
- The financial statements presented to this meeting include disclosures that exceed statutory requirements and demonstrate the City's commitment to financial accountability to our community.

**Note:** Questions / points of clarification in relation to the Annual Report and Financial Statements were raised by the public gallery and responded to by the Director Financial and Information Services.

MOTION

Moved John Stewart, 7 Keaney Place, Waterford, Sec Jan Semple, 80 Monash Avenue, Como

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 be received.

CARRIED

4. **PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**  
The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Audit Report from Macri Partners, was considered and approved at the November 2009 Council Meeting. He further advised that the Independent Audit Report is contained at page 128 of the Annual Report.

MOTION

Moved John Stewart, Sec Sheila Perrot, Collier Park Village

That the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2009 be received.

CARRIED

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Carol Roe, 16 Abjornson Street, Manning – The Manning Tennis Club is still awaiting a response to correspondence it forwarded to the City in relation to an issue with the Casurina trees and insurance queries.

Chief Executive Officer – stated he was aware of the issue regarding the trees/litter dropping on the tennis courts and confirmed Infrastructure Services are looking into the matter. He further advised that he would follow up on progress of the insurance items.

Carol Roe – Many people are asking about Waterford Plaza ie what is being built/when is it happening?

Mayor Best responded that the City is working hard with the developers to ensure the 'as built' development is in line with that approved by Council. He stated it was fair to say there had been ongoing issues with the developers for over 8 years. At a recent briefing the developers advised they were proposing to 'fast track' stages 3A and 3B and run them in parallel to try and minimise the impact on the community.

Chief Executive Officer confirmed that stage 3A works have commenced on the area previously occupied by the car park. This area has been fenced off in preparation for the next stage, the supermarket and tavern which will certainly create some inconvenience during construction. He said the developers had advertised the scheduling in the Southern Gazette newspaper however as the distribution of this paper was limited it was proposed to ask the developers to display a timetable of the plan in the shopping centre for public information.

Warwick Boardman, 20 Unwin Crescent, Manning – would Council please consider adopting a policy for roadworks so that cycle paths are not narrowed as a result of road widening such as is the case with Mt Henry Road?

Director Infrastructure Services – reiterated that the City is strongly committed to encouraging walking/cycling and has a dedicated 'Travelsmart' officer. He said where possible the City endeavours to provide on-road cycle paths and stated that he would investigate the issue in this regard in relation to Mt Henry Road.

Lyn Giblett, 17 Amery Street, Como – referred to the Homeswest units situated at the corner of Saunders, Park and Baldwin Streets, recently renovated with shutters and painted white and stated it makes them look disgusting and like a detention home.

Cr Cala replied that the shutters were part of the refurbishment of the units by Homeswest who believe it is an improvement to the dwellings.

Lyn Giblett – Talbot Avenue is part of a bus route and still only has one footpath.

Director Infrastructure Services – replied that the City has a policy to install a footpath along one side of the street and advised that the installation of a second footpath in Talbot Avenue could certainly be looked at during the 2010/11 budget process. He further stated that the City was currently working through an Asset Management Plan of footpaths and cyclepaths and certainly one of the high priorities is to provide pathways where you have greater pedestrian use such as bus routes where greater weight is given to providing pathways on both sides of the street.

Lyn Giblett – referred to an issue with the species of street trees in Amery Street and the impact on verge lawns, from tree roots, tree litter etc

Mayor Best stated that the City prides itself on its trees which was evident during the recent ‘Visioning Process’ when people were asked what attracts them to South Perth and without a doubt the overall response was the green, leafy nature of the suburb. The City has a Street Tree Policy which states where possible a tree will be planted on each street verge, however we do recognise some people may not like the species of street tree in their street due to the berries/leaf drop etc.

Director Infrastructure Services confirmed that the City is keen to provide amenity for streets and to this end a Street Tree Plan that identifies the type of trees for each street is in place.

Lyn Giblett – referred to a recent battle with underground power contractors in relation to the reinstatement of her street verge following the installation of underground power and asked that Council ensure more care and responsibility is taken to minimise damage by contractors.

Director Infrastructure Services confirmed that where underground power is installed, as part of the contract, the onus is on the contractor to reinstate each verge to its original condition ie repair reticulation /kerbing etc.

Jan Semple – is it possible for more bus shelters to include a rubbish bin and can we look at upgrading the existing antiquated shelters?

Director Infrastructure Services stated that the City has a program to replace/rejuvenate bus shelters. An average of three or four were replaced each year, dependant on budget restraints. He said that in relation to the request to provide rubbish bins at each bus shelter that this would be investigated.

Roger Atkinson, 5/2 Coode Street, Como – in relation to the Como Beach Project can we have a Discussion Bulletin Update of where this project is at / options available etc?

Mayor Best - acknowledged that communication updates on this project could be improved. He stated that with the severe and more frequent winter storms that come across Melville Waters there have been thousands of dollars worth of works that have fallen into the river essentially because funding was not available to complete the repair works before winter storms. Funding from the State Government to the Swan River Trust has been reduced.

Director Infrastructure Services – agreed better communication in relation to the Como Beach project is required. He reiterated the difficulty in repairing old infrastructure and the bigger issue of ascertaining which government agency is responsible for the assets at Como Beach. He said it was unfair for the City to have to fund the restoration of the foreshore at Como Beach. The City is currently working with several government agencies to establish a regime as to who owns/is responsible for maintaining each asset.

Geoff Defrenne, 24 Kennard Street, Kensington - has the City ever had title to former Right-of-Way No.15?

Mayor Best - responded no.

Geoff Defrenne - has the former Right-of-Way No. 15 been owned privately for about 100 years?

Mayor Best - responded that from 1904 the Arnott family owned the right-of-way.

Geoff Defrenne - what connection to the function of local government does the former right-of-way No.15 have?

Mayor Best responded that it was a community asset in as much as children access the school through the right-of-way and it connects that part of South Perth to the Angelo Street shops.

Geoff Defrenne - is the current dispute over the former right-of-way, a dispute between the current owner of the right-of-way and the 'interested neighbours'?

Mayor Best stated at a Special Electors Meeting the residents and the school community asked the City to get involved by getting some legal advice and taking the matter to the Supreme Court. He further stated that the Motion passed at that meeting is the subject of a report to the December Council meeting.

Geoff Defrenne – does the Council's involvement in this matter comply with Section 3.1 of the *Local Government Act*?

Mayor Best – confirmed that Council had received a request that will be the subject of a report to the December Council Meeting where a decision will be made. He further advised that a *confidential* legal Council Member Briefing was scheduled for 1 December 2009 to further discuss this matter. Mr Defrenne stated he knew this was coming up that was the reason for his questions.

Geoff Defrenne – if Council were to expend in excess of over \$100,000 in this dispute, has this expenditure been budgeted?

Mayor Best replied no. He said there is a budget for legal expenses but not specifically for Right-of-Way No. 15.

Geoff Defrenne – will the three new Councillors be put in potential legal jeopardy by following the guidance of the Mayor, ongoing Councillors and the CEO in their ongoing breach of the *Local Government Act*?

Mayor Best - responded no.

Geoff Defrenne – regarding the 2009 Budget meeting, what date did the CEO convene the Special Council Meeting Held in July? On what date and time did the CEO make the 2009 Budget available to the public?

Director Financial and Information Services – stated that these previously asked questions in relation to the Special Council Meeting to adopt the 2009 Annual Budget have all been responded to in writing previously by himself.

Geoff Defrenne – in relation to the LGMA website and career opportunities, can the CEO give an assurance that when offering employment, promotion or salary increases that he does not take this LGMA membership into consideration?

Chief Executive Officer – stated that if everything else is equal and a decision had to be made on some basis, then LGMA membership may be taken into account, but it certainly would not be the primary consideration.

Councillor Cr Wells, JP – after having paid for an underground power service and you do not get it, ever after complaints to Western Power over a 3 month period, do you get your money back?

Director Infrastructure Services stated the question is Taken on Notice.

Janet McMullen, 15 Salter Point Parade, Salter Point – will we be advised by Parks and Gardens if Sandon Park will be going brown?

Mayor Best said over the next 5 years the City needed to look at its Water Management Plan. Those areas that are heavily used and have lots of community value will stay green whereas other areas of lesser use may have the water switched off to ensure we keep within our water allocation which the State Government is steadily reducing not to mention the increasing cost of that water and the electricity to run the water pumps .

Janet McMullen – referred to an issue relating to a City contractor illegally dumping mulch in Salter Point Parade in the area near the boat ramp.

Director Infrastructure Services stated he was not aware of the issue and would investigate the matter.

**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 8.28pm.

**These Minutes were received at a Council meeting on 15 December 2009**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Chairperson at the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed**

