



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 30 June 2010
held in the Council Chamber on
Tuesday 30 November 2010 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 on the format of the meeting.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:

Mayor J Best (Chair)

Councillors:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| V Lawrance | Civic Ward |
| I Hasleby | Civic Ward (until 8.10pm) |
| P Best | Como Beach Ward |
| G Cridland | Como Beach Ward |
| T Burrows | Manning Ward |
| L P Ozsdolay | Manning Ward |
| C Cala | McDougall Ward |
| R Grayden | Mill Point Ward (until 8.30pm) |
| 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 8 members of the public present.

Apologies

Nil

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Annual Report Achievements for the year

The Mayor provided a power point presentation on the City's achievements for the year ended 30 June 2010 and covered the following topics:

- **Council adopted the new Strategic Plan 2010-2015 in February 2010**
- **Our Mission - *Working Together to Create a City for Everyone***
- **Our Vision - *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***
- **Annual Report based on Strategic Plan 2004-2008 framework**
 - Customer Focus
 - Community Enrichment
 - Environmental Management
 - Infrastructure
 - Organisational Effectiveness
 - Financial Viability
- **Goal 1 Customer Focus - *Highlights***
 - 83% overall customer satisfaction with City
 - 72% customer satisfaction with City communications
 - Over 95,000 customer contacts with City
 - Launch of new City website
 - Adopted new Strategic Plan 2010-2015
 - Construction commenced on the new \$11.5M Civic Centre Library and Community Facility opening early 2011
- **Goal 2 Community Enrichment - *Highlights***
 - 82% customer satisfaction with festivals, events and cultural activities
 - Completion of Our Vision Ahead Project in October 2009
 - 30,000 people attend the Celebration Zone at the Australia Day 2010
 - Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan reviewed and updated
 - Successful two-week Fiesta celebration
 - Manning Skate Park Urban Art Project
 - 2009 Council Elections
- **Goal 3 Environmental Management - *Highlights***
 - 75% customer satisfaction with conservation and environmental initiatives
 - 1,450 trees planed, 80,000 tubestock and 11,000 shrubs planted
 - Completion of Cities for Climate Protection Milestone Three
 - Sustainable Purchasing Action Plan adopted
 - Commencement of Waterford Triangle Study
 - Continuation of studies into South Perth Rail Station Precinct and Canning Bridge Rail Station Precinct

- **Goal 4 Infrastructure - Highlights**
 - 83% customer satisfaction with streetscapes, parks and sporting facilities
 - \$1.7M WCG Thomas Pavilion upgrade
 - Completion of Como East Round 3 Underground Power Project
 - City responded to March 2010 storm - 173 requests for assistance
 - New shared use path in Waterford
 - New cycle only path in SJMP
 - Riverwall upgrade completed at Como Beach

- **Goal 5 Organisational Effectiveness - Highlights**
 - Staff turnover decreased by 7.2%
 - Positive downward trend in Lost Time Injury and Claims Frequency Injury
 - Lunch held for over 100 female staff to recognise Year of Women in Local Government
 - Implementation of City's Wellbeing Program for City's 218 employees
 - Ongoing statutory compliance and reporting

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

Financial Statements Presentation

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

- **Goal 6 Financial Viability – Highlights**
 - Clean Audit Report & Management Letter.
 - Community Assets increased in value from \$191.5M to \$203.5M
 - Effective stewardship of Community Assets.
 - Revenue was \$45.1M versus \$44.2M Budget.
 - Operating Expenditure was \$40.3M versus \$40.3M Budget
 - Salaries and associated costs was 0.6% under budget.
 - Capital Program - delivered \$11.8M versus \$15.3M Budget.
 - Biggest capital program ever delivered by the City.
 - Remaining capital program funds carried forward to 2010/2011.

- **Rates in the \$ Comparison - Key Financial Ratios**

| Financial Ratio | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Current Ratio - (ideally greater than 1.00:1) | 2.32:1 | 1.38:1 | 1.91:1 |
| Liability / Asset Ratio - (smaller the better) | 13.7% | 15.8% | 16.8% |
| Debt Service Ratio - (ideally less than 10%) | 1.06% | 1.16% | 2.14% |
| Outstanding Rates Ratio- (ideally less than 5%) | 1.3% | 1.7% | 1.4% |
| Dependence on Rates - (ideally less than 60%) | 45.4% * | 51.6% | 49.5% |

• **Funding Sources**

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| - Rates Revenue | 22.05M | 37% |
| - Fees & Charges | 12.39M | 21% |
| - Grants - Operational | 2.74M | 5% |
| - Interest Revenue | 2.08M | 4% |
| - Contributions | 0.74M | 1% |
| - Trade-Ins | 0.23M | 0% |
| - Grants - Assets | 2.73M | 5% |
| - Other Revenue | 2.18M | 4% |
| - Cash Reserves Used | 8.68M | 15% |
| - Accrual Funding | 5.16M | 8% |
| | 58.98M | 100% |

• **Expenditure**

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| - Employee Costs | 15.62M | 25% |
| - Material & Contracts | 13.00M | 21% |
| - Utilities & Insurances | 1.81M | 3% |
| - Depreciation | 7.12M | 11% |
| - Carrying Amount | 0.71M | 2% |
| - Interest Expense | 0.35M | 1% |
| - Other Expenses | 1.73M | 3% |
| - Cash Reserves | 9.90M | 16% |
| - Assets Created | 11.76M | 19% |
| - Add back Non Cash | (7.83M) | |
| - Net Expenses | \$54.17M | 100% |
| | Net Operating Result \$4.80M | |

• **Cash Backed Reserves**

- Reserves are used to responsibly accumulate funds for future capital projects.
- Reserve funds balance @ 30 June was \$26.9M.
- Quarantined Reserves were \$21.5M (80%) of this total.(Refundable monies for CPV & CPH Residents plus CPGC & Waste Management accumulated results)
- Discretionary reserves were \$5.4M (20%) of total cash reserves.(Future fund of \$1.6M plus \$3.8M in general reserves for plant replacement, IT, UGP and reticulation etc)

Moving Forward

The Mayor then spoke on ‘moving forward’ and covered the following topics:

- Ongoing implementation of new Strategic Plan 2010-2015
Working Together to Create a City for Everyone
- Opening of new Library and Community Facility
- Participate in Local Government Reform Process
- Planning for our future (Directions 2031 and beyond)

MOTION TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT

The CEO stated that a 'procedural Motion' is required to receive the Annual Report which was adopted at the October 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting.

MOTION

Moved Shelah Perrot, Bruce Street, Como, Sec John Stewart, Keaney Place, Waterford

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 be received.

Mr Geoff Defrenne against the Motion

Mr Defrenne stated that it was inappropriate to receive the Annual Report before questions were taken on the report.

MEETING DECISION ITEM 3

The Mayor Put the Motion

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 be received.

CARRIED (7/1)

Note: Mr Defrenne requested he be recorded as having voted against the Motion.

4. **PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**
The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Audit Report from Macri Partners, was considered and approved at the October 2010 Council Meeting. He further advised that the Independent Audit Report is contained at pages 154 and 155 of the Annual Report and was considered at Agenda Item 10.6.8 of the October 2010 Council Meeting.

MEETING DECISION ITEM 3

Moved Geoff Defrenne, Kennard Street, Kensington, Sec John Stewart, Keaney Place, Waterford

That the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2010 be received.

CARRIED (8/0)

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Mayor opened to questions from the floor at 7.40pm

Audrey Francis, Jackson Road, Karawara
(Questions submitted in writing)

The proposal, yet to be made public by the State Government, to make major infrastructure changes by linking two busy roads, Henley Street and Murray Street, with the quiet residential Jackson Road would appear to be solely to facilitate access to a **yet to be** developed Como Secondary College Campus and through traffic from Canning Bridge and Canning Highway to Curtin University. Such traffic should be directed through the major arterial roads in the area.

As a result Mr and Mrs "Everyone" who lives on or near these streets and in MeathCare Retirement Homes and Hostel will be exposed to significantly increased density of traffic and feeder buses at 7-minute intervals. This will bring with it safety issues, pollution and noise issues, destruction of the "green corridor" recently established by the South Perth City Council as a link to other such "corridors". The end of the environment which initially attracted the residents to these localities. An unnecessary cost to the taxpayer while the arterial roads – Manning Road, Hayman Road and Kent Street – are not operating to capacity. The traffic on these routes flows freely. Please state the benefits of such development to the quality of life of those directly affected?

Mayor Best stated that Council is aware of the significant community interest in this matter and the McDougall Ward Councillor has also raised these issues. From a strategic point of view we need to make some serious decisions for the future and that is why the State Government have identified these options for the future - it is a question of how the whole of Perth can accommodate the population growth and how much can we accommodate without a plan. Directions 2031 is a long term plan for the future of the City with a rapidly growing population and we have a responsibility that the whole City is planned for properly with the use of all options. We will await the State Government to come forward with their proposal and this will be the subject of a report to Council.

Peter Howar, Boongala Close, Karawara

(Questions submitted in writing)

Why are you so keen to accept the State Planning Department's directive that the City of South Perth should provide 6000+ new residences in the future? Is this really in the best interest of the residents of the City? Is it likely that these new residences will be crowded into a few 'selected' locations such as Karawara, Manning and Como, creating traffic and related urban crowding problems, and loss of amenity in those areas? Surely the City and its residents should be able to decide (as has been the traditional approach) rather than being bullied by the State? Or are we pandering to the property developers and others who are blindly spouting the 'need for population growth' for their own vested interests?

Mayor Best stated that a lot of the previous response applies to these questions. The issue is - as is the 'Charter' for this Council - to do the best for all residents in the City in addressing the need for population growth over the next 15 - 50 years and the idea for good public transport and high density development - Canning Bridge is identified in the State Planning Policy - Directions 2031 as such an area where community services, higher density housing and a range of mixed use activities are encouraged to accommodate some of the expected growth in the years to 2031 and beyond. Directions 2031 identifies a requirement for an additional 6000 dwellings in the City of South Perth. Canning Bridge Precinct is well located to absorb a proportion of this growth and that of Curtin University which anticipates doubling its floor space over the next 10 years. We have 14 schools in the district which is important for families raising children. If we do not decide to accommodate growth around good public transport, the State Government will do it for us - to do nothing is not an option. This Council is taking a sensible approach to manage the planned growth for the future.

Mr Geoff Defrenne, Kennard Street, Kensington

Of the 6,000 proposed residences identified in Directions 2031, 2,600 are 'ear-marked' for Kensington.

Chief Executive Officer said that the 2,600 new residences referred to are 'linked' to Bentley Technology Park and Curtin University with the majority of them being on Curtin land.

Mr Defrenne - Directions 2031 is signed off by the Minister but is still open for submissions - do citizens want these additional 6,000 dwellings - who are you representing the State Government or the residents of South Perth?

Mayor Best replied that we either have planned, or unplanned growth. Under Directions 2031 which builds on the 'Network City' strategy, Perth's population is anticipated to double in the next 10 years and most people will not want to live on the fringes of the City. The R Codes have been increased and modified to accommodate this.

Mr Defrenne – is Council aware the application for the development at Lot 133 Hovia Terrace was assessed under the old R Codes?

Mayor Best replied, Yes.

Mr Defrenne – if implementation of Directions 2031 proceeds, high density development will have a devastating impact on the City - does the City have such little interest in land holders it does not recognise them as stakeholders?

Mayor Best the connection between good public transport and high level urban living will provide a better urban fabric – some will choose to live in high development others will not.

Mr Defrenne – the Visioning processes did not endorse Directions 2031 – last week Council deferred the Dogs Local Law – which would have the greater effect on the City?

Mayor Best - said this was a hypothetical question.

Mr Defrenne – in relation to the City's 50th Anniversary – what did the City do to celebrate?

Mayor Best - said the City hosted a successful Pioneer Lunch and 'struck' a medal for distribution to the attendees at the lunch and the new Library/Civic facility was approved. The flagpole project proposed to also recognise the anniversary did not proceed due to a 'blow out' of costs.

Mr Defrenne – I note the rate in the \$\$ strong and suggest that the average rate in South Perth is much higher than, for example, in Armadale?

Director, Financial Services – said that when you look at rates across the metropolitan area and what you consider affluent and less affluent areas there are all types of peculiarities specific to each area to take into consideration such as land areas etc.

Mr Defrenne - - in the presentation the Fees & Charges show 12.39M annually – made up of?

Director, Financial Services – said the biggest single thing would be rubbish charges.

John Stewart, Keaney Place, Waterford – the Premier has said it's time to get serious in relation to light rail - would Council consider pursuing this with the Premier?

Mayor Best replied that the CEO and the Mayor are part of a Taskforce looking at this issue.

Lyn Giblett, Amery Street, Como – is it illegal to go through rubbish on the kerbside, placed their for the kerbside collection?

Chief Executive Officer – said he did not believe it to be illegal as ratepayers put out rubbish for disposal – it could be said to be a good recycling process. The main issue is whether or not the act leaves the refuse in a worst state than when put out. In order to control this, during the kerbside collection process ratepayers are encouraged not to put their rubbish out too early.

Lyn Giblett – understand nobody can park on my verge lawn, however I am still having problems with people parking on my verge and breaking sprinklers. What can be done?

Chief Executive Officer said the verge is public reserve and not private land. Therefore it is not always possible to restrict parking unless you have a Registered Lawn.

Lyn Giblett – Why is the City planting Gum trees in Park Street especially as we are building four units to a site and Gum trees make a mess?

Mayor Best said he acknowledged the concerns about tree species, leaf drop etc. but that the street tree planting is covered by the City's Street Tree Policy and in a drying climate we also have issues with water and tree species.

Lyn Giblett – what can be done about the appalling mess outside the four Homeswest units opposite my property in Amery Street which I have reported to Council on many occasions?

Mayor Best – said he acknowledged the concerns, however, as this is a Homeswest property, Homeswest need to manage the site. He suggested that any anti-social behaviour needs to be reported to Homeswest and to the Member for South Perth, Mr John McGrath.

Shelah Perrot, Bruce Street, Como – in relation to the recent issue with changes to the Dogs Local Law - in the past, when owners register their dogs, what information do they get?

Mayor Best replied that a pamphlet, detailing their responsibilities, is provided.

Shelah Perrot – believe the suggestion of a 'map' to identify dog exercise areas within the City is a good idea.

Mayor Best stated that the suggestion of a map by Cr Doherty has been taken up and a map has been created identifying dog exercise areas.

Barrie Drake, Scenic Crescent, South Perth – Has the City changed its policy on rainwater in recent times? Believe we should be looking at using run-off to divert on to lawns etc.

Mayor Best – replied that the library facility development next door to the Council Chamber is harvesting rain water off the roof for use in the building.

Director Infrastructure Services – responded further that earlier this year a presentation was made to Elected Members on Water Sensitive design identifying the way to utilize our water. The City has developed a policy which is still to come to Council once guidelines are finalised. The Infrastructure Services area are also progressing catchments areas for water to be better stored for use in the parks.

Director Development and Community Services - stated that under the R Codes there is no requirement to harvest water, however the City is looking at putting in place guidelines to ensure rainwater is harvested when looking at Precinct Plans.

Barrie Drake – in relation to weed spraying - would the City 'test' not spraying weeds one year, save dollars and see what effect it has?

Director Infrastructure Services – responded that the City is always looking at more efficient ways to deal with weeds and does use non-toxic sprays. The current practice is to spray weeds until we have a more efficient way to deal with them. We are looking at research by Curtin University to more effectively manage our weed issue.

Barrie Drake – in relation to rate increases, Mr Drake made the following statement to which he stated he required no response. Acknowledge we are in a healthy position, however, do rates continually have to be put up every year – there is a lot of money in reserves and if its not for residents, then who is it for?.

Mr Drake – in relation to the Old Mill Redevelopment Open Day - I have concerns about the City putting money into this project?

Mayor Best – responded that no money has been put into the Old Mill project as such. He said the goal was to find the economic income to protect the future of the Old Mill and that is the reason for the public consultation as a way for the community to put forward ideas for the Heritage centre for the future.

Mr Drake – how much did the City invest in the printed matter for the Old Mill Open Day?

Mayor Best – said the ‘post card’ distributed advertising the Open Day and calling for comments had to be of a sufficient standard to get residents’ attention. We have already received thousands of responses which is an indication the community is very interested in this project.

Mr Drake – will there be more discussion with the community on the Old Mill project?

Mayor Best - replied yes. The consultation period will run until the end of January 2011 following which the submissions will be collated, processed and a report presented back to Council.

Geoff Defrenne – the *draft* Minutes of the November 2010 Council Meeting state that my written questions were ‘tabled’ after the commencement of the meeting whereas I put my questions in the box 10 minutes before the meeting?

Mayor Best responded that the Minute Secretary was unaware of this. He then suggested it would be preferable for Mr Defrenne to email his questions to the administration in advance of the meeting as others did.

Cr Cridland – said this type of question is ‘rubbish’ we should be dealing with something of substance at an Annual Electors Meeting.

Geoff Defrenne – did the City provide the Mayor with a Note Book for responding to emails?

Mayor Best - replied, yes.

Geoff Defrenne – can the City explain why the email sent in March 2010 cannot be found?

Mayor Best – replied that the word ‘Defrenne’ was not in the subject line.

Cr Skinner – is this the forum for Mr Defrenne to air his personal issues?

Geoff Defrenne – currently the Town of Victoria Park encourages its employees to give blood – does the City of South Perth?

COUNCIL DECISION TO CLOSE GENERAL BUSINESS ITEM 5

Moved Cr Lawrance, Sec Cr Skinner

That General Business – Question Time - now be closed.

CARRIED (11/1)

Note: Cr Ozsdolay voted against this decision.

6. CLOSURE

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

These Minutes were received at a Council meeting on 14 December 2010

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