



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 2011
held in the Council Chamber on
Wednesday 7 December 2011 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. She then advised on the format of the meeting.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PRESIDING MEMBER

2.1 Audio Recording of Meeting

The Mayor requested that all mobile phones be turned off. She then advised that the meeting is being audio recorded in accordance with Council Policy P673 "Audio Recording of Council Meetings" and Clause 6.16 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*". As the Presiding Member I hereby give my permission for the Administration to record proceedings of this Council meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Mayor Doherty (Chair)

Councillors:

I Hasleby	Civic Ward (until 7.59pm)
V Lawrance	Civic Ward
C Cala	McDougall Ward
P Howat	McDougall Ward
B Skinner	Mill Point Ward
F Reid	Moresby Ward

Officers:

Mr C Frewing	Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Bell	Director Infrastructure Services
Ms V Lummer	Director Development and Community Services
Ms D Gray	Manager Financial Services
Mr P McQue	Manager Governance and Administration
Ms G Nieuwendyk	Corporate Support Officer
Mr R Woodman	Corporate Projects Officer
Mrs K Russell	Minute Secretary

Gallery

There were 12 members of the public present.

Apologies

Cr G Cridland	Como Beach Ward
Cr R Grayden	Mill Point Ward
Cr G W Gleeson	Como Beach Ward
Cr K Trent, RFD	Moresby Ward
Cr S Hawkins-Zeeb	Manning Ward (applied for Leave of Absence)
Mr M Kent	Director Financial and Information Services (leave)

4. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

The Mayor called on the Chief Executive Officer to provide an overview of the Annual Report. The CEO gave a presentation covering the following achievements and highlights for the year ended 30 June 2011.

- 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
- City Population / Property Ownership Change
- City Statistics
224 employees (fte)
64,750 calls to the Call Centre (80% resolved at first point)
123,097 direct customer contacts
3189 reported graffiti incidences removed
34,495 tubes planted in bushland
865 street trees planted
104,444 visitations at Collier Park Golf Course
4,300 bookings at the George Burnett Leisure Centre
\$54K in grants awarded to community groups
29,800m2 of road rehabilitated
10,909KL of water saved on previous year
- City of South Perth Planning for the Future
- Council adopted the Strategic Plan 2010-2015 in 2010

Goal 1 Highlights - Community

- \$11.5M Civic Centre and Library opened February 2011
- South Perth Learning Centre and Child Health Clinic opened early 2011
- Use of City facilities increased by 28% in 2010/2011
- 50,000 people attend Celebration Zone on Australia Day
- \$5.76M works commenced on Island 9, Collier Park Golf Course
- Fiesta – 20,000 people attend 14 events

Goal 2 Highlights - Environment

- Adopted Climate Change Risk Assessment Adaptation Report, March 2011
- Sustainable Living Strategy, May 2011
- Review of Street Verge Policy
- Completed sections of Canning Bridge River Wall
- Achieved (ICLEI) Milestone 4 – Water Action Plan, June 2010
- *Discover Your Rivers* Campaign launched, October 2010
- Upgraded pathway lighting in Sir James Mitchell Park

Goal 3 Highlights - Housing and Land Uses

- 20,000 tourist maps distributed to 270 outlets throughout WA
- Commenced Local Housing Strategy Review
- Progressed Waterford Triangle Study
- 695 planning approvals, up from 558
- 919 building approvals, up from 836
- 95% of applications processed under delegated authority
- Value of building projects increased from \$169,202,426 to \$179,018,060.

Goal 4 Highlights - Places

- Old Mill Redevelopment community consultation, Nov 2010 – Feb 2011 and revised concept plans
- Manning Community Hub – progressed road closure / UGP / land consultation
- Developed a MOU with Main Roads for maintenance of western foreshore
- Completed Redmond Reserve works
- Completed Sir James Mitchell Park Viewing Deck

Goal 5 Highlights - Transport

- Cities of South Perth, Melville & WAPC adopt Canning Bridge Precinct Vision in November 2010
- Minister for Planning endorsed the Canning Bridge Precinct Vision, June 2011
- Completed South Perth Station Precinct Plan in partnership with WAPC, January 2011
- Prepared South Perth Railway Station Business Case
- \$1.36M road rehabilitation program

Goal 6 Highlights - Governance

- Adopted the new Dog Local Law 2011 following extensive community consultation
 - City won a Bronze Australasian Reporting Award for the 2009/2010 Annual Report
 - Achieved Silver Status for Occupational Health and Safety
 - Clean Compliance Audit Return
 - Negotiated new Employee Enterprise Agreement
- Moving Forward
 - Ongoing implementation of new Strategic Plan 2010-2015,
 - Participate in Local Government Reform Process
 - Planning for our future (*Directions 2031*, various studies)

MOTION TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor called for a procedural Motion from the public gallery to receive the Annual Report.

MEETING DECISION ITEM 5

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

That the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2011 be received.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

The Chief Executive Officer provided an overview of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2011, on the following topics, together with the Audit Report approved at the November 2011 Council Meeting. The Independent Audit Report is contained at **pages 137 and 138** of the Annual Report and was considered at Agenda Item 10.6.10 of the November 2011 Council Meeting.

Financial Statements

- Rate Revenue
- Financial Snapshot 2010/2011
- Expenditure Snapshot 2010/2011
- Capital Program 2010/2011
- Net Assets
- Clean Audit Report 2010/2011

MOTION TO RECEIVE AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Mayor called for a procedural Motion from the public gallery to receive the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the Year ended 30 June 2011.

MEETING DECISION ITEM 5

Moved John Stewart, Sec June Davies

That the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2011 be received.

CARRIED

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor opened the meeting to questions from the gallery at 7.29pm

Lynne O'Hara - Chairman of the South Perth Historical Society & May Gibbs Trust- Regarding the future use of Heritage House - in July we were advised that the future use of Heritage House would be the subject of a report to Council. Has this report been presented to Council. If not, when will a report go to Council and will the Historical Society be kept informed as part of the process?

Chief Executive Officer responded that the outcome (Motion passed) of the Special Electors Meeting held in July 2011 to discuss the future use of Heritage House was the subject of a report to Council in August 2011. At the August meeting Council resolved to hold a workshop (following the October Council Elections but before the end of the year) to carry out a comprehensive review of the future use of Heritage House. The workshop was scheduled to be held in December, however at the request of Elected Members this has now been deferred until January 2012. He further stated that in regards to "where to from here" he believed that following the workshop there will be a need for more consultation and confirmed that the Historical Society will be informed of the progress on this matter.

Lyn Giblett, Amery Street, Como issue is rubbish bins in the district - in particular outside the four Homeswest units opposite my property in Amery Street where rubbish bins are packed to overflowing so bins are unable to be closed. Even after collection, bins are left out on the verge, some for as long as 8 weeks - I have reported this to Council on many occasions. Amery Street, one of the first streets in the district, is a short street but very neglected by the many renters in the street. None of our rates have been spent on upgrading the street, with the exception of it being resurfaced (twice) - however now Baldwin Street is being resurfaced - Why?

Director Infrastructure Services responded that he was not aware of the rubbish bin situation referred to and said that he would be happy to follow up the concerns raised. In regard to resurfacing Baldwin Street he acknowledged it was a long project and may appear to be a slow process as there is a lot of drainage works required to be done in preparation for re-surfacing. In relation to Amery Street having been resurfaced twice he believed this was an indication of the City wanting to maintain its streets.

Robert Simper, Sandgate Street, South Perth I refer to the street gardens / plantings in Sandgate and Hensman Streets and ask why is Council removing shrubs/plants etc and in some instances replacing the plants with concrete paving - there is no shortage of water (plenty underneath us here) for this to be used as an excuse for ripping out gardens. In this same area large trucks are coming down the streets damaging the garden beds and smashing the concrete kerbing surrounds - have previously been advised large trucks would be prevented from accessing these streets? What is going to be done about these issues?

Director Infrastructure Services said that in regards to vegetation in roundabouts the City, in some cases, has planted incorrect species (ie not water tolerant) which are slowly being removed as the City is endeavouring to reduce the amount of water used on landscaped areas. He said that the City needs to meet its target water usage and to this end put in hardier plant species that require less water. In relation to the large trucks, Council does not have the power to regulate trucks entering the City streets. If it is a public road then trucks can go down them - we cannot instruct owners in this regard.

Chief Executive Officer referred to the water usage and in particular the statistics he identified as part of the Annual Report presentation which show a third of the City of South Perth is made up of sports grounds, public open space, parks or foreshore and the problem with that is that these areas all require watering. In the future Council will have the problem of not having sufficient water allocation and will need to make the hard decision to turn off water to some parks etc. That is why we have restricted the plantings in roundabouts.

Robert Simper I refer to the footpath in Carr Street, in particular in front of 2.5 houses where the old type of slab path (in a dangerous condition) still exists and needs replacing/repairing. Is this going to happen or does it need a serious accident to occur first?

Director Infrastructure Services responded that the City is pro-active in inspecting/replacing footpaths across the City and to this end stated he would investigate the footpath situation in Carr Street and provide a written response to Mr Simper.

Geoff Defrenne, Kennard Street, Kensington The City attempted to prosecute me for allegedly having breached s.5.3 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. What written law was breached?

Chief Executive Officer responded that it was not an attempted prosecution - the City did begin prosecution proceedings against Mr Defrenne for "obstructing Local Government" but voluntarily entered into an agreement which resulted in Mr Defrenne absencing himself from Council premises for a period of 6 months. The City voluntarily withdrew the prosecution following this agreement with Mr Defrenne.

Geoff Defrenne What was I charged with and can I have it in writing?

Chief Executive Officer said he would provide the information in writing.

Note: Cr Hasleby left the meeting at 7.59pm.

Geoff Defrenne The City was summons to provide documents in the case which included two emails from Kay Russell to me which the City failed to provide. What confidence can the public have in Council when the CEO destroys documents.

Chief Executive Officer said that the public can have every confidence in Council. As far as we are aware, the City has provided all documents to the Court as requested and there are no outstanding requests for documentation to be provided. He further stated that the action is finished at this time.

Geoff Defrenne following a statement made at the February 2011 Council Meeting by the CEO regarding the quality of debate by Members and a subsequent letter from the Department of Local Government in relation to this, part of which was read out, stating that the Council would be used as a module for other local governments - will the City release that letter from the Department?

Chief Executive Officer said as the relevant text of the letter in question was read out at the Council Meeting and is recorded in the Minutes, it is not the intention, nor is there a need to make the letter available.

Barrie Drake, Scenic Crescent, South Perth I have been to many Annual Electors Meetings over the years and have raised this issue previously - Is it possible for Council to keep rates for next year the same as this year? Perhaps we could be a 'progressive City' and hold rates for a year. There could be cost saving in the areas of office cleaning - perhaps savings could be made by hiring two people instead of using contractors - also promotional material - not necessary to promote the CoSP - at some point it must be held back - perhaps spend a bit of the huge cash reserves.

Mayor Doherty referred to the suggestion of reducing the amount of brochures/communications and stated we are hearing more and more from residents that they need to know what the City is doing as not everyone has internet access. The feedback from the broader community is that people want us to continue with publications such as the Peninsula, draft Housing Strategy etc

Chief Executive Officer stated that obviously the City endeavours to keep rate increases to a minimum but in ordinary circumstances the starting point is around CPI - if not then the City would be going backwards in providing services. The City is also a big consumer of utilities such as street lighting, power, asphalt costs etc. and there is an increasing demand from the community for improved services and facilities. He acknowledge that the reserve balances are high but stated that a vast majority of this is isolated to one area - the Collier Park Village. In relation to the cleaning costs mentioned these are not solely for the Council offices but cover many buildings across the City including public toilets, halls etc. We have moved away from day-labour because of the costs involved - by contracting we believe we get best value for money. The CEO said he endorsed the Mayor's comments in relation to communication documents which engaged with our community and said he could in fact see the City producing more brochures more often.

7. CLOSURE

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting on 28 February 2012

Signed _____

Chairperson at the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed.