



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 2012
held in the Council Chamber on
Monday 3 December 2012 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 (*Mobile Phones Required to be turned off*)

This 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

Mayor Doherty (Chair)

Councillors:

I Hasleby	Civic Ward
V Lawrance	Civic Ward
G W Gleeson	Como Beach Ward
S Hawkins-Zeeb	Manning Ward
C McMullen	Manning Ward
C Cala	McDougall Ward
P Howat	McDougall Ward
R Grayden	Mill Point Ward
B Skinner	Mill Point Ward
K Trent, OAM, RFD	Moresby Ward

Officers:

Mr M Kent	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Bell	Director Infrastructure Services
Ms D Gray	Manager Financial Services
Mr P McQue	Manager Governance and Administration
Mr M Taylor	Manager City Environment
Mrs K Russell	Minute Secretary

Gallery

There were 7 members of the public present.

Apologies

Cr G Cridland	Como Beach Ward
Cr F Reid	Moresby Ward
Mr C Frewing	Chief Executive Officer (leave)

4. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

The Mayor highlighted the year's achievements and covered the following topics:

Our Mission - Working together to create a city for everyone

Our mission statement outlines the purpose and core business of the City of South Perth. This statement identifies the important roles of the community, the Council and the staff in ensuring that the strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan 2013 – 2023 can be achieved.

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.

Values

The City of South Perth Conducts its business based on its corporate values:

Trust – Honesty and integrity

Respect – Acceptance and tolerance

Understanding – Caring and empathy

Teamwork – Leadership and commitment

Our City Snapshot

Current Population 2012	45,000
Estimated Population 2031	57,600 (+28%)
Annual Population Growth 2012-2031 1.	3% p.a.
Median Age 2012	
• City of South Perth	36
• Greater Perth	36
• Western Australia	36
• Australia	37
• Population born in Australia	62%
• Population born Overseas	38%

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework will allow us to sustainably and strategically meet the needs of our community.

Objective – a stronger focus on place shaping and wellbeing with an increased level of community engagement.

Development and implementation of the following plans by 30 June 2013:

- Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023
- Strategic Financial Plan 2013-2023
- Corporate Plan 2013-2017
- Asset Management Plan
- Workforce Plan

Strategic Directions

Our Vision Ahead identified a number of key emergent themes and focus areas which are outlined as six key strategic directions.

1. Community - Create opportunities for an inclusive, connected, active and safe community.
2. Environment - Enhance and develop public open spaces and manage impacts on the natural environment.
3. Housing and Land Uses Accommodate the needs of a diverse and growing population.
4. Places Develop, plan and facilitate vibrant and sustainable community and commercial places.
5. Infrastructure and Transport Plan and facilitate efficient infrastructure and transport networks to meet the current and future needs of the community.
6. Governance, Advocacy and Corporate Management Ensure that the City has the organisational capacity, advocacy and governance framework and systems to deliver the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.

Community Highlights

- Upgrade to Collier Park Golf Course Island 9 was officially opened on 17 January 2012
- Developed a Public Open Space Strategy
- Completed first stage of a master plan for Ernest Johnson Reserve
- City rangers hosted the inaugural Dogs' Day at Sir James Mitchell Park
- Library Service launched its National Year of Reading program
- 20,000 people attended 12 events over two weeks for Fiesta

The Mayor then called on the Acting Chief Executive Officer to provide an overview of the Financial Statements for 2011/2012. The Acting CEO gave a presentation covering the following topics:

- Financial Snapshot 2011/2012
- Expenditure Snapshot 2011/2012
- Major Categories of Expenditure 2011/2012
- Capital Works 2011/2012
- Funding 2011/2012
- Key Performance Indicators 2011/2012
- Preview of the 'Report It' customer relationship management system
- New Internet Home Page

MOTION TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor called for a 'Procedural Motion' from the public gallery to receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements which was adopted at the October 2012 Ordinary Council Meeting.

MEETING DECISION ITEM 4.0

Moved Geoff Defrenne, Kennard Street, Kensington, Sec Barrie Drake, Scenic Crescent, South Perth

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012 be received.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

The Acting Chief Executive Officer advised that the Audit Report from Macri Partners, was considered and approved at the November 2012 Council Meeting. The Independent Audit Report is contained in the Annual Report at pages 129 and 130 and was considered at Agenda Item 10.7.1 of the November 2012 Council Meeting.

MOTION TO RECEIVE AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Mayor called for a 'Procedural Motion' from the public gallery to receive the Auditor's Report which was adopted at the November 2012 Ordinary Council Meeting.

MEETING DECISION ITEM 5.0

Moved Shelah Perrot, Collier Park Village, Sec John Stewart, Keaney Place, Waterford

That the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2012 be received.

CARRIED

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor opened the meeting to questions from the gallery.

The following is a 'summary' of questions / responses:

John Stewart, Keaney Place, Waterford

1. In relation to the Robson Report on local government reform, is there any appetite for a unified local government response seeking to shorten the public submission period and pressure the State Government to provide some definitive detail of intention prior to the March election?

Acting CEO said that to the best of his knowledge, the government have identified the date for closing submissions as 5 April next year - after the State Election. There is no cost benefit analysis that has been included within the context of the report.

2. In Key Finding 10 of the Robson Report there seems to be some suggestion of erosion of local government's role. Is that a widely held view among the Council and City officers?

Mayor Doherty asked the Manager Governance and Administration for comment. Mr McQue said that the question is Taken on Notice

3. Should the State Government elect to impose Preferred Option B, irrespective of local government and community input in the absence of any indicative timelines for amalgamations, what disruptive effects, if any are envisaged for proposals under consideration ie. if there are major proposals in hand by South Perth, and the amalgamation process occurs, what disruptions would occur to normal operations?

Acting CEO said that the primary potential disruption would relate to where or how local governments function in this interim period - ie do we continue on a 'business as usual' process which then opens up a series of challenges in relation to contract negotiations (such as the collection of household domestic waste) and may lead to a heightened degree of caution from prospective employees moving into local government at this time. The history of amalgamations and de-mergers in other jurisdictions would suggest that it will take several years to successfully conclude and during that period of time there will be a degree of uncertainty.

4. Finally Key Finding 7 – a sense of place and local identity can be maintained through appropriate local governments regardless of the size of the local government. Under Preferred Option B it could have a detrimental effect to those that are exercised from their current local government with whom they have both familiarity and affinity. Option B requires the aforementioned groups to undergo significant adjustment to a completely new sense of place and identity. Any comments?

Mayor Doherty – responded that is certainly one of the challenges. Reference to ‘place making’ has been very successful in the City of Swan. The understanding is that the State Government is using that ‘place making’ model as one that can be transferred to larger local governments as an outcome of the Robson Report. Mayor Doherty suggested Mr Stewart provide a submission to the government in respect of that and said that the City will be sending out some information on 14 January in the form of a survey for community comment. Comments from the community can then be included in the City’s submission to the State Government.

Warrick Boardman, Unwin Crescent, Salter Point

1. I am pleased to note cycling funding in the Budget, however the existing Bike Plan does say that it will not make roads worse when cycling. In respect of Goss Avenue, narrow roads do not make cyclists feel safe, so does the Council really support safe cycling? It would be good if it could be taken on board before narrowing roads ie implementing traffic calming measures.

Manager City Environment said that the question is Taken on Notice.

2. Note revegetation on the cliff-face at Redman Reserve on the eastern side, but the western side has not. A track has become visible up the cliff face. Years ago the Council put some brushing on it however now there is a big gully on it. My understanding is that Council is not interested in funding it. There has also been high tides, it would be good if that side of the stairs could be looked at too.

Manager City Environment acknowledged money, included riverbank funding, has been spent on the eastern side of the stairs to shore up some slippage. We have money in the capital works budget to design stairs, so felt there was no point in doing any more revegetation there until we look at the stairs - the current stairs are not compliant to the codes any more. We are looking at stairs that will be very similar to the Sulman Avenue stairs and once the design is completed, approved and installed we will look at the vegetation. Council is committed to foreshore revegetation works. A report on the December Council Agenda deals with the Aquatic Use Framework that the Swan River Trust and the Department of Transport have put out which will assist in reducing erosion on buffer zones in ski areas.

3. In relation to customer response relationships and the ability for someone to subscribe to new Out of Comment notices – I always have to remember to look for any ‘Out for Comment’ notices and the last time I looked I was too late.

Acting CEO said that he had recently been in discussion with the City’s web developers in relation to a mechanism for people to subscribe to whether it be ‘Out for Comment’, Tenders or other news. It is anticipated that this new mechanism will be implemented by the conclusion of the 2012/2013 financial year.

Barrie Drake, 2 Scenic Crescent, South Perth

1. In relation to the Financial Statements, I previously asked Council that with the cash reserves of \$26m how will that be protected for the CoSP when we amalgamate with other areas, and the answer I received was - *it is a hypothetical question*. As it is not quite so hypothetical any more has there been any consideration put towards earmarking those reserves for projects such as underground power or something that is going to specifically benefit the CoSP ratepayers before the goalposts change?

Acting Chief Executive Officer - replied that the reserves accumulated through the hard work of the community are able to be quarantined for them. Of the \$26m or so in reserves there are two different classifications. Quarantined Reserves and others that are listed as Discretionary Reserves. Quarantined reserves make up about 60% of those monies, a vast majority of which is monies refundable to residents of the Collier Park Village and Hostel that are the subject of legal agreements - I do not foresee the State Government being able to access that. Waste Management Reserves are perhaps a little less well protected but the City is currently seeking legal advice on how best to achieve that outcome. In terms of the remaining discretionary reserves, we have built a schedule of projects and allocated funding to them. The purpose of each Reserve is contained in the Annual Report at pages 107 and 108.

2. With that amount of reserves why do you need to keep increasing rates every year?

Acting Chief Executive Officer - responded that when there have been assessments done on the financial sustainability of local governments, the one area that local governments get criticised on in most cases is the 'lack of effort in terms of generating rate revenue', to use the phrase of those who conduct the assessments. I would make the point that one of the local governments in the metro areas that has arguably the weakest financial position, is known for 0% rates increases. In general, in my view it is not prudent to have a 0% rate increase. In general it is important that one has to look at CPI but the biggest inputs into local government operation are labour and materials (in particular petroleum based materials) and the third one is energy. Fuel and petroleum based products go up at a rate far far in excess of CPI and wage growth in WA unfortunately has been for a number of years a minimum of 2.1% over and above CPI. They are the three biggest cost areas in local government. I do not believe a 'rates freeze' would be prudent or responsible.

3. In relation to the \$26m in reserve does the City have a target – do they want to get \$28m or \$30m or \$40m. Is there a target where you would feel comfortable with the amount you have in reserve?

Acting Chief Executive Officer - said first of all, we just need to exercise a little caution quoting the \$26m number - because of that \$26m around 60% of that relates to the Collier Park Village and Hostel, so we can not actually influence that ourselves. Those reserves increase by deposits from incoming residents and they decrease by existing residents departing. What that really means is that a much smaller number than \$26m is discretionary reserves to the City. In relation to the question of - *is there a monetary number* – the number is not necessarily fixed because it is relevant to the upcoming future projects. At some stage for example, if the City were to complete a couple of large land disposals, the number in reserves could temporarily increase quite significantly. However, the balance of those reserves are worked out over the next 10 years to filter back to fund projects such as the Manning Community Hub or EJ Oval refurbishment or what may happen at George Burnett Leisure Centre. Based on the forward financial modelling the discretionary reserves at the end of the next 10 years are about 15% higher than they are at the moment. It is still significantly less than \$10m.

4. Next year, could Council look at the re-introduction of verbal questions, rather than the system that has been in place for the past 5-6 years?

Mayor Doherty – said this will be taken into consideration when we next review our Standing Orders Local Law.

Lyn Giblett, Amery Street, Como – the issue is the road works in Baldwin Street. Amery Street runs into Baldwin Street and I cannot understand why they have gone and put ‘almost’ a roundabout in to address, I have been told, the speeding traffic. Cannot understand why not traffic calming measures in Henley Street where it comes down from Canning Highway.

Manager City Environment – responded that when traffic calming measures are installed they are usually as a result of a traffic study undertaken by City staff, that look at the whole precinct of road networks and traffic flows and then design a regime that is not just about one street but a whole area. He further stated that a more detailed response would be provided to Mrs Giblett. The questions was Taken on Notice.

Lindsay Jamieson

The Annual Report states the ‘Values of the City’ - Trust and Respect, Understanding, Integrity, Teamwork, Honesty, Tolerance, Caring and Empathy. I note in the City’s Code of Conduct, demonstrable for Members and officers to observe the highest ethical and professional standards in performance of their duties and functions and trust the development in environment and transparency. Mr Jamieson raised questions in relation to the Director Development and Community Services and the CEO.

Mayor Doherty – stated that these questions have been raised before and dealt with. Council at its meeting in March 2012 carried a number of resolutions in relation to some matters that you have identified, including *“to consider this matter closed and, in the event of any further communications by the former Councillor to the City about this matter, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to inform the former Councillor that the matter has been finally determined by the Council and will not be reconsidered”*.

Geoff Defrenne, 24 Kennard Street, Kensington

1. I refer to the earlier questions on amalgamation - the current rate in the \$ is about 6.2 cents. Having looked up the residential rate in the City – if Manning Road north go to the City of Perth, our rates may be an amalgamation of the City rate and \$ for residential amalgamation is 3.8 cents, considerably lower than ours. There is also a concessional rate. The commercial rate is 4. With the amalgamation of the rates would residents be better off?

Acting Chief Executive Officer – said that there are two important factors. The City of Perth generates \$120m a year in parking revenue which makes it easy for them to keep the actual rate in the \$ low. Secondly if amalgamations were to occur, the City of Perth rate may well go up because the new local government would actually have to commit more money to look after the people in the suburbs.

2. What about the commercial rate?

Acting Chief Executive Officer said that Perth was unlike the City of South Perth which has only 11% of rates from commercial properties - 45% of that is from just two properties.

3. In relation to the Local Housing Strategy, what do you mean by innovative planning?

Mayor Doherty responded that is in terms of looking at ‘different’ forms of housing, for example to look at ancillary housing in a different light, take into consideration the sustainability components in houses, solar passive aspects etc.

4. The Waste and Management reserve is about \$4.5m. If the majority of South Perth goes to the City of Perth, there is Tamala Park which may or may not still be in dispute with the Town of Victoria Park. Is there any way that could perhaps be quarantined or reimbursed back to the residents or how to preserve it?

Acting Chief Executive Officer said that with the likelihood of what may come out of the local government reform process, the one thing we feel pretty confident about as opposed to a few years back, is that this City and other local governments are highly unlikely to be investing significant sums of money in alternative waste treatment technologies. One thing that swayed local government as to why it was a bad idea, was when WA Treasury Corporation indicated that they would expect any borrowings associated with such facilities to appear on our balance sheets and no-one was keen on having a share of potentially \$80m liabilities on their balance sheet. Out of this process, it is likely that responsibility for waste will be dealt with in a different way. Whether it is under the control of State Government which is quite likely, there will be a different treatment used. Those types of facilities, because of the huge capital cost are likely to be run by a private consortium, and this local government (and others) would simply become a paying customer, which leads us to the point that the money sitting in that Waste Management Reserve is unlikely to be needed to make a significant upfront capital contribution. This is the very reason why the City has been seeking legal opinions on how it can best facilitate the proposal to get those monies put back in a place where they can be used to a specific advantage of the residents of CoSP, rather than sitting in a fund which may be tempting to someone outside.

5. Recently I took IT rubbish eg. monitors on a trailer to the tip only to be told the load was more than 'private stuff' and could not be dumped in the private IT dump. The other choice was to pay \$40-\$50. When I asked if I could use my tip pass I was advised, yes. However, I didn't want to use my tip pass and again asked why I could not use the IT bin and was told that it would cost \$700/ton to get rid of. Why are we paying \$700/ton? Is this correct?

Manager City Environment said that sometimes the City embarks on programs that are not necessarily cost efficient. What they are trying to do is get the public to recycle. Recycling programs actually cost the City money - our recycling service is expensive. We are trying to educate the community into taking their IT waste to recycle as the City believes it is the right thing to do from a recycling perspective .

6. Back in 2001, I responded to the question "*do you want to receive the monthly Agenda emailed to you direct?*" but I never received it. Can this be arranged?

Acting Chief Executive Officer said that once we get the E-campaign Manager happening that is one of the things we will be able to do – ie probably email you the 'link'.

7. Instant reports are a great idea – Can the type of headings such as Breach of Conduct or Standing Orders etc be included?

Acting Chief Executive Officer said that at this stage we have focussed on the areas for which the City get the highest frequency of reports - things that actually require a structured workflow process that people can track along the way. As time goes by, this application will be able to be expanded. There is quite a substantial list of the processes where we have a significant number of requests for service and those are the highest priority.

7. In relation to the *draft* Economic Development Strategy brochure cover picture, is there any real plan to change the direction of the traffic from right hand drive to left hand drive?

Acting Chief Executive Officer confirmed that the brochure has been corrected.

7. CLOSURE

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting on 26 February 2013

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