

September 28, 2016

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 2

JAMES RONCON
GENERAL MANAGER

FURTHER BUSINESS

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 5/16 - DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 -
PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL (12/82) 3

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

September 20, 2016

MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 5/16SUBJECT: PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL12/82**Summary**

I would like to take this opportunity as part of our first meeting as the newly elected Council for the City of Broken Hill, to welcome you all, offer my sincere congratulations on your election and express my commitment to working collaboratively with you all, over the next four years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to use my first Mayoral Minute as the platform to provide my priorities for the next four years and commence the conversation with you to gain your support. I appreciate that each of you will have your own list of priorities and things you would like to achieve and I am very eager to hear from you about what those priorities are, what the synergies are with the list I have provided and from there ensure we collate an agreed direction for the ensuing period.

It is important that I acknowledge that we do have a current budget in place that is due for review in the first half of 2017; we also have a set of priorities that our community has asked us to focus on through the Community Strategic Plan so we will need to be mindful of these when we make decisions around how we progress. We also need to acknowledge the past financial position of Council and significant deficit that the previous Council has sought to address through a number of key initiatives such as the organisation review and the transition away from Council run ventures that were costing the Council significant sums of money year on year and were contributing to sizeable budget deficits. While the current budget position of BHCC is improving because of the decisions taken to address these issues (I do expect that the Council Auditors, who will present to the October Ordinary Meeting of Council, will confirm this) we are by no means in the clear and able to simply 'spend big', so we will need to be well coordinated, reasonable, patient and prudent with the decisions we make, understanding the resource implications – both financial and human.

The focus' I would like to put forward to you through this Minute are as follows:

- Resource our community based Heritage Committee to drive recognition of Broken Hill as Australia's first Heritage City with representation from the Heritage Advisor
- Lobby state government to reveal details of the business case for the proposed Wentworth-Broken Hill water pipeline, including projected water cost to the people of Broken Hill
- Lobby state government for the return of TAFE College opportunities, upgrade of airport to jet service standards, and for a second weekly Outback Explorer rail service and ensure that the proposed 'Western Authority does not impact on the integrity of Broken Hill , or its Council
- Reinstate a committee system of governance and restore a public service culture to all areas of Council. Return to Councillor interviews process to restore public confidence in the decision making process
- Maintaining our 'Greening of the City' and our local heritage programmes both of which were Labor initiatives. Restore integrity to the Art Gallery
- Support the shop local campaign and review Council's purchasing policy.

It is acknowledged that some of the above will involve a direct role for Council and staff and others will require an advocacy role with liaison with state and commonwealth government agencies with the depth and breadth of each to be determined. It is also acknowledged that the most appropriate way to determine these may be through a series of workshops that seek to establish priorities, have these adopted by the Council and then request the General Manager to provide advice back to Council on how we can address each item. As part of the advice back to Council the General Manager will advise any implications (staffing & budget) these might have on the current long term financial plan and Council's planned return to budget surplus in 2023/24.

As per recent past practice, it is proposed that the January Council meeting not be held in order for Councillors and staff to enjoy Christmas and the holiday season, and to take some much deserved annual leave. In past years the business paper for the January meeting was often very limited due to staff annual leave. Council's Code of Meeting Practice states that Council must hold at least ten (10) Ordinary Meetings each year with each meeting being held in a different month (Section 365 of *the Local Government Act 1993* refers); if a meeting is not held in January, Council still meets the requirements of Section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Recommendation

1. That Mayoral Minute No. 5/16 dated September 20, 2016, be received.
2. That standing committees be established by December 2016 and will be aligned to our key strategic areas.
3. Resource our community based Heritage committee to drive recognition of Broken Hill as Australia's first Heritage City. And invite the Broken Hill City Council Heritage Advisor to be a part of the committee.
4. Lobby state government to reveal details of the business case for the proposed Wentworth-Broken Hill water pipeline, including projected water cost to the people of Broken Hill
5. That Council agree to lobby state government for the return of TAFE College opportunities, upgrade of airport to jet service standards, and for a second weekly Outback Explorer rail service.
6. That Council continues to take an active role in negotiations around the establishment of the proposed 'Far West Initiative' to ensure Council's and the Broken Hill community's interests are protected.
7. Maintaining our 'Greening of the City' and our local heritage programmes.
8. Support the shop local campaign.
9. That the Ordinary Council Meeting for January 2017 not be held.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

D TURLEY
MAYOR