



# **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

## **PUBLIC MINUTES**

**TUESDAY 8 JULY 2014 AT 10.04AM**

**Council Members >>**

The Mayor, Councillor Jenny Hill  
Councillor Suzanne Blom  
Councillor Colleen Doyle  
Councillor Gary Eddiehausen APM  
Councillor Pat Ernst  
Councillor Ray Gartrell  
Councillor Jenny Lane  
Councillor Anthony Parsons  
Councillor Trevor Roberts  
Councillor Vern Veitch  
Councillor Les Walker

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## Goals and Strategies of Townsville City Council >>

### Corporate Plan >>

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- Goal 1:** Economic Sustainability - A strong diverse economy which provides opportunities for business and investment with an integrated approach to long term planning where the city's assets meet the community needs.
- 1.1 Create economic opportunities for Townsville to drive community prosperity.
  - 1.2 Maximise opportunities through engagement and partnership with stakeholder achieve a strong resilient economy.
  - 1.3 Utilise the City Plan to inform the development of current and future infrastructure needs of Townsville.
  - 1.4 Promote and market Townsville as a vibrant destination for commerce, entertainment and lifestyle.
- Goal 2:** Environmental Sustainability - A sustainable future where our environment is valued through the protection and enhancement of our unique, natural and built environment with a commitment to reducing our environmental impact.
- 2.1 Effective management, protection and conservation of our environment to ensure a balance between built infrastructure and areas of environmental significance.
  - 2.2 Implement an effective integrated demand management approach to infrastructure planning and delivery.
  - 2.3 Preserve our natural environment through active management, education and compliance activities.
  - 2.4 Adopt urban design principles that create a distinct sense of place, enables and informs place creation, maximises efficiency, and enhances the built and natural environment.
  - 2.5 Research and implement environmental solutions utilising innovative smart technology and encourage behaviour change.
- Goal 3:** Social Sustainability - A vibrant community that is accessible, safe, healthy, creative and knowledgeable, where we embrace diversity and our sense of community.
- 3.1 Encourage active and healthy lifestyles through accessible public facilities and community initiatives.
  - 3.2 Support the community's access to and participation in a range of artistic, cultural and entertainment activities.
  - 3.3 Enhance wellbeing and safety in the community.
  - 3.4 Enhance a knowledgeable, inclusive and connected community that embraces growth and lifelong learning.
  - 3.5 Provide community infrastructure and services that support growth and meets community needs.
- Goal 4:** Responsible Governance - A well-managed, transparent and effective organisation that gives the community confidence, demonstrates financial sustainability, where our customers are satisfied with our services and our employees are proud to work here.
- 4.1 Undertake robust and accountable financial, resource and infrastructure planning and management to ensure affordable and sustainable outcomes for our community.
  - 4.2 Deliver best value customer service to our community.
  - 4.3 Enable innovation and technology capacity within council to drive organisational efficiencies.
  - 4.4 Engage with the community to inform council decision making processes.
  - 4.5 Provide inspirational leadership and contemporary management systems that drives a coordinated, motivated, highly effective and efficient organisation.
  - 4.6 Commit to open transparent and accountable governance to ensure community confidence and trust in council.
  - 4.7 Promote an organisational culture that values and empowers its workforce.

# MINUTES

**Opening of Meeting**

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**Close of Meeting**

**REPORT**            **COUNCIL MEETING**

**DATE**            **Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 10.04am**

**ITEMS**           **1**

**PRESENT**        The Mayor, Councillor J Hill  
                  Councillor V Veitch  
                  Councillor S Blom  
                  Councillor C Doyle  
                  Councillor G Eddiehausen APM  
                  Councillor P Ernst  
                  Councillor R Gartrell  
                  Councillor J Lane  
                  Councillor A Parsons  
                  Councillor T Roberts  
                  Councillor L Walker

### **Opening of Meeting**

The Chair, Mayor Councillor J Hill opened the meeting at 10.04am.

**The Mayor, Councillor J Hill thanked the Chief Executive Officer, staff and Councillors for their input into the Budget.**

### **Officers Reports**

#### **Corporate Services**

##### **1 Budget 2014/15**

### **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Authorised by** The Mayor, Councillor J Hill

**Department** Finance

**Date** 8 July 2014

### **Executive Summary**

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council must adopt a budget and Operational Plan for each financial year. The budget is integral to council's revenue raising powers and its planned spending. The recommendations in this report support the adoption of the Budget and Operational Plan for 2014/15.

The 2014/15 Budget complies with the *Local Government Act 2009* and associated Regulations.

The *Local Government Regulation 2012* states that the annual Operational Plan must:

- (a) be consistent with the annual budget; and
- (b) state how the local government will:
  - (i) progress the implementation of the five year Corporate Plan during the period of the annual Operational Plan; and
  - (ii) manage operational risks.

The Operational Plan and Budget have been developed in consultation with all departments and approved by the Executive Management Team.

The Operational Plan and Budget 2014/15, with supporting documentation and commentary, was tabled under separate cover, as follows:

Attachment 1 – Statement of Estimated Financial Position;  
Attachment 2 – Operational Plan and Budget 2014/15; and  
Attachment 3 – Register of Fees and Charges 2014/15.

All attachments are available to the public on council's website (following the special meeting).

### **Officer's Recommendation**

#### **1. FINANCIAL POLICIES >>**

That council adopt:

- 1.1. the Debt Policy as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 4 – *Debt Policy*;
- 1.2. the Investment Policy – as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 5 – *Investment Policy*;
- 1.3. the Pensioner Rates Concession Policy as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 6 – *Pensioner Rates Concession Policy*;
- 1.4. the Charitable and Community Organisation General Rate and Utility Charges Concessional Policy as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 7 - *Charitable and Community Organisation General Rate and Utility Charges Concessional Policy*; and
- 1.5. the Revenue Policy as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 3 – *Revenue Policy*.

#### **2. REVENUE STATEMENT >>**

That, pursuant to sections 169(2)(b) and 172 of *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the Revenue Statement for 2014/15 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 2 – *Revenue Statement*.

#### **3. FEES AND CHARGES >>**

- 3.1. That council adopt the Register of Fees and Charges for 2014/15 in Attachment 3 (as tabled).
- 3.2. That council note the register of fees and charges includes details of cost-recovery fees pursuant to section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.
- 3.3. That council note cost-recovery and commercial fees and charges may be amended by resolution at any time during the financial year.
- 3.4. That council note that the register of fees and charges includes:
  - in the first instance, landfill gate fees/charges that take account of Townsville Waste Services' liability under the carbon pricing mechanism; and
  - an alternate set of landfill gate fees/charges that will be applied in the event that the carbon pricing mechanism is repealed.

#### **4. DIFFERENTIAL RATING CATEGORIES >>**

That, pursuant to section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the differential rating categories and criteria for each category as set out in the Attachment 2 – Appendix 8 – *Differential Rating Categories*.

#### **5. RATEABLE VALUE OF LAND >>**

That, pursuant to section 74 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that the calculation of the rates for land is by using the rateable value of the land and the rateable value of the land for a financial year is the site or unimproved value of land for the financial year as advised by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

#### **6. LIMITATION OF INCREASE IN RATES LEVIED (CAPPING) >>**

That, pursuant to section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that for 2014/15 the amount of general rates levied will not be more than the amount of general rates levied for the property for the previous financial year, plus the increase, for the relevant rating category, as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 9 – *Differential Rates, Limitations on Increases and Minimum General Rate*; subject to:

- the limitation not being available retrospectively and only applying from the beginning of the financial year; and
- the limitation ceasing to apply on and from 1 July 2015 where the ownership of any land to which the limitation applied is transferred on or after 1 July 2014.

#### **7. DIFFERENTIAL RATES, LIMITATION ON INCREASES, MINIMUM GENERAL RATE >>**

That, pursuant to part 4, part 5 and section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to set the differential general rates, minimum general rates and limitation of increase in rates levied for 2014/15 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 9 – *Differential Rates, Limitations on Increases and Minimum General Rate*.

#### **8. UTILITY CHARGES >>**

##### **8.1. Water >>**

That, pursuant to part 7 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to make and levy the utility charges for water for 2014/15 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 10 – *Utility Charges - Water*.

##### **8.2. Sewerage >>**

That, pursuant to part 7 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to make and levy the utility charges for sewerage for 2014/15 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 11 – *Utility Charges - Sewerage*.

##### **8.3. Refuse and Recycling >>**

That, pursuant to part 7 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to make and levy utility charges for refuse and recycling for 2014/15 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 12 – *Utility Charges - Refuse and Recycling*.

## **9. SPECIAL RATES >>**

### **9.1. Nelly Bay Harbour Development >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the annual implementation plan, and make and levy a special rate for the Nelly Bay Harbour Development on the following basis:

- to rateable land identified in the overall plan adopted by council at its meeting held 22 June 2010;
- to recover the cost of service and activity outlined in the Nelly Bay Harbour Overall Plan adopted by council at its meeting held 22 June 2010;
- the annual implementation plan, as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 13 – *Nelly Bay Harbour Operational Plan*; and
- at the rate of \$0.00 applied to the rateable value of the land.

## **10. SPECIAL CHARGES >>**

### **10.1. Rural Fire Levy >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the following overall plan and annual implementation plan, and to make and levy a special charge for Rural Fire Brigades on the following basis:

- the Rural Fire Levy Special Charge will apply to all rateable land identified in the gazetted Rural Fire Board area maps for the following areas and on the following bases;
- the overall plan for the Rural Fire Brigades Special Charge is to provide financial assistance to the brigades to enable provision of a rural fire service in each area on an ongoing basis. The amount of the charge is based upon the 3 year budget for each brigade that has been provided to council by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service;
- the annual implementation plan is to remit to the respective brigades the levy collected, twice a year; and
- the annual charges per property in each rural fire brigade area be as detailed in Attachment 2 – Appendix 2 – *Rural Fire Levy*.

### **10.2. Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the annual implementation plan, and make and levy a special charge of \$1,050.00 per property per annum for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme to repay a capital contribution of \$10,500 per property for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme on the following basis:

- the overall plan for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme was adopted by council at its meeting held on 19 August 2008;
- the properties to which the charge applies are identified in the overall plan for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme was adopted by council at its meeting held on 19 August 2008; and
- the annual implementation plan for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme is to levy the charge to each property identified in the overall plan for the period stated in the overall plan.



### **10.3. Black River Rural Water Supply >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the annual implementation plan, and make and levy a special charge of \$920.00 per property per annum for the Black River Rural Water Supply on the following basis:

- the overall plan for the Black River Rural Water Supply was adopted by council at its meeting held on 10 January 2006;
- the properties to which the charge applies are identified in the overall plan for the Black River Rural Water Supply that was adopted by council at its meeting held on 10 January 2006; and
- the annual implementation plan for the Black River Rural Water Supply is to levy the charge to each property identified in the overall plan for the period stated in the overall plan.

### **11. WHEN RATES OR CHARGES MUST BE PAID >>**

That, pursuant to section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that all rates and charges must be paid within 30 days after the rate notice is issued.

### **12. INTEREST ON OVERDUE RATES >>**

That, pursuant to section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that overdue rates and charges will bear interest from 30 days after it becomes overdue and the interest will be calculated at a rate of 11.0% per annum compounding on a daily basis unless, the property owner is an Approved Pensioner as detailed in the Pensioner Rates Concession Policy, in which case overdue rates and charges will bear interest from 1 July 2015.

### **13. DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT >>**

That, pursuant to section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that a discount for prompt payment of 15% will apply to the General Rate, the Nelly Bay Harbour Development Special Rate and the Black River Rural Water Supply Special Charge upon full payment of all rates and charges, including arrears, by the due date shown on the notice.

### **14. LEVYING OF RATES >>**

That, pursuant to section 94(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, council resolve to levy rates notices for 2014/15 as follows:

- General Rates, Special Rates, Special Charges and Utility Charges will be levied in advance on a half-yearly basis, utility charges for water consumption on certain properties may also be levied on a monthly basis.

### **15. CONCESSIONS>>**

#### **15.1. Pensioner Rates Concession >>**

That, pursuant to section 119 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to allow a concession of up to 85% of the general rate to a maximum of \$800 as detailed in Attachment 2 – Appendix 6 - *Pensioner Rates Concession Policy*.

#### **15.2. Not-for-profit >>**

That, pursuant to section 120(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to continue granting a concession to entities whose objects do not include making a profit and that applications made to council for consideration of a concession must meet the criteria as defined in section 120 of the Regulation and as detailed in Attachment 2 – Appendix 7 - *Charitable and Community Organisation General Rates & Utility Charges Concession Policy*.

**15.3. Water and Sewerage Concessions >>**

That, pursuant to part 10 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to apply concessions for water and sewerage utility charges as detailed in Attachment 2 – Appendix 7 - *Charitable and Community Organisation General Rates & Utility Charges Concession Policy*.

**16. LONG-TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST >>**

That, pursuant to section 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the long-term financial forecast as set out in the *Strategic Financial Framework* commencing on page 274 of Attachment 2.

**17. OPERATING FUND BUDGET >>**

**17.1** That, pursuant to section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council note the 2014/15 Budget is consistent with the 5-year corporate plan adopted by council on 25 March 2014;

**17.2** That, pursuant to section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt as its Budget the *Budgeted Financial Statements* for 2014/15 as set out in tables 5 – 8 on pages 193 to 194 of Attachment 2.

**18. STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION >>**

That, pursuant to section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council note the Financial Report and explanation of material variances relating to council's estimated financial position as at 30 June 2014 as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.

**19. OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2014/15 >>**

That, pursuant to section 174 and 175 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the Annual Operational Plan as set out in Attachment 2 on pages 8 to 188.

**Council Decision**

**It was MOVED the Mayor, Councillor J Hill, SECONDED by Councillor V Veitch:**

"that the officer's recommendation be adopted."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Close of Meeting**

The Chair, Mayor Councillor J Hill declared the meeting closed at 10.06am.

**CONFIRMED this**

**day of**

**2014**

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**