



MINUTES

**Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, 3 August 2021**

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**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE,
DARWIN
ON TUESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2021 AT 5:30PM**

- PRESENT:** Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Deputy Lord Mayor Paul Arnold, Alderman Andrew Arthur, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, Alderman Justine Glover, Alderman Gary Haslett, Alderman George Lambrinidis, Alderman Mick Palmer, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe
- OFFICERS:** Scott Waters (Chief Executive Officer), Simone Saunders (Chief Financial Officer), Matt Grassmayr (General Manager Community & Regulatory Services), Ron Grinsell (General Manager Engineering & City Services), Melissa Reiter (General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs), Joshua Sattler (General Manager Innovation Growth & Development Services)
- Gemma Perkins (Governance Business Partner), Angela O'Donnell (Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services), Emma Young (Executive Manager Environment, Climate and Waste Services), Vanessa Green (Executive Manager Governance Strategy and Performance), Alice Percy (Executive Manager Growth and Development Services), Alexandra Vereker (Executive Manager HR and Safety), Michael De Luca (Executive Manager Innovation and Information Services), Drosso Lelekis (Executive Manager Technical Services),
- APOLOGY:** Alderman Robin Knox and Alderman Simon Niblock
- GUESTS:** Richard Fejo

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Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe was not in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris was not in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris joined the meeting at 5:34 pm.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

1.1 SALTWATER CEREMONY

Larrakia Elder Richard Fejo performed a Saltwater Ceremony and presented a Welcome to Country.

2 THE LORD'S PRAYER

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

RESOLUTION SPE227/21

Moved: Alderman Justine Glover

Seconded: Alderman Mick Palmer

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5.36 pm.

CARRIED 10/0

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION SPE228/21

Moved: Alderman Andrew Arthur

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the apology from Alderman Robin Knox, be received.

THAT the apology from Alderman Simon Niblock, be received.

CARRIED 10/0

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

5.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED

Nil

5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Nil

6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

8 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**8.1 LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - ALLOCATION OF EMERGENCY STIMULUS FUNDING****RESOLUTION SPE229/21**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

1. THAT Council approve the allocation of up to \$200,000.00 in emergent funding from its Unrestricted Car Parking Reserve in accordance with Section 204 of the *Local Government Act 2019*; and
2. THAT Council delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 40 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2019* to apply those funds for the purposes of economic stimulation or recovery activities for the Darwin economy should there be a lockdown and that the funds be made available following the conclusion of a COVID-19 lockdown during Council's Caretaker Period, in accordance with Caretaker – Policy 036.

CARRIED 10/0

SUSPENSION OF MEETING PROCEDURES – BY-LAW 147**RESOLUTION SPE230/21**

Moved: Alderman Gary Haslett

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT in accordance with By-Law 147, meeting procedures be suspended at 5.41pm for up to 5 minutes.

CARRIED 10/0

RESUMPTION OF MEETING PROCEDURES – BY-LAW 147**RESOLUTION SPE231/21**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT in accordance with By-Law 147, meeting procedures be resumed at 5.46 pm.

CARRIED 10/0

Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe joined the meeting at 5:47 pm.

8.2 LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - ADDRESS

RESOLUTION SPE232/21

Moved: Alderman Paul Arnold

Seconded: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

THAT my address be received and noted.

Tonight, is the last meeting of 22nd Council and I believe this is not time for valedictory speeches but a review of the past 4 years and a look into the future and what can be done with the new 23rd Council.

4 years ago, we had a new Council with 4 new elected members, the will to do things to benefit the community and no idea how our world was going to change.

On 15 March 2018, a tropical low formed in the Arafura Sea north of the Northern Territory; the Bureau of Meteorology issued a cyclone watch for Darwin, the Tiwi Islands and parts of the north-west Top End.

The low developed into a Category 1 tropical cyclone early on 16 March and was named tropical cyclone Marcus. Marcus reached Category 2 status in the hours before it crossed the Northern Territory coastline on Saturday 17 March; it passed directly over Darwin just before midday, an hour earlier than originally estimated. Wind gusts of 130 kilometres per hour were recorded in Darwin, and a new March record of 126 kilometres per hour was recorded at Darwin Airport.

Cyclone Marcus was the most destructive storm to hit Darwin since Cyclone Tracy and it caused devastation on Christmas Eve of 1974. The insurance loss were over A\$85 million. In all, Marcus caused an estimated total of A\$97.46 million (in damages).

But what can't be estimated in dollar value is the loss of the urban forest and the amenity that trees bring to our urban environment.

The clean-up response was coordinated by the Northern Territory Emergency Services and included soldiers from the 5th Battalion and the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment of the Australian Army. The US Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D) also contributed to the clean-up effort and I would like to formally thank them for their support and hard work for the post cyclone clean up.

And when we thought that we were coming out of cyclone Markus disaster a pandemic hit the world, Australia, the NT and of course our city in January 2019.

I think we are the only Council in Darwin to get through 2 such significant events in just 2 years!

COVID 19 was something we had never experience before and the national response was sudden and affected every aspect of our lives and continues to do so.

Closed borders, lockdowns, people losing their jobs, people who are stuck here without any means of support and a community that was stressed to its limit.

Our Council responded quickly and efficiently. We managed to keep our city alive, functioning, provided economic relief to our citizens via a number of measures (rates, green army etc), and economic stimulus to the business community through a massive capital works program of \$57 million and myDarwin Vouchers and kept our workforce intact, in contrast to what happened in other local govt authorities in the rest of Australia.

We came out of these 2 incidents very strong, very respected by the community and the NTG alike and most importantly as a strong team that worked closely together to deliver for our community.

But let me highlight some of our other achievements:

In 2017 this Council had a capital work budget of \$17 million, this year we presented a capital works budget of \$92 M

We have managed our finance responsibly and effectively, so our reserves have not been affected

despite of all the measures we took during the pandemic.

We have created a modern digital city with the infrastructure we have put in place (cameras, wi-fi, LED lights etc)

We have invested in the CBD but also in the suburbs:

Daly street is a good example of what we have achieved using our own workforce and within budget. And look at Smith Street west or Progress drive, Nightcliff.

We have planted 15000 trees and 60000 flowering plants and bushes. As many people have told me Darwin now looks very different and beautiful.

Today Nightcliff foreshore, Trower road, Rockland drive, Lee Point road and many others have been planted with suitable tree that will provide a shady canopy in years to come.

We have spent millions in the suburbs, beautifying roads and shopping centres and all these was done through consultation with the public and as decided by you Aldermen.

We have invested in sports infrastructure throughout the suburbs (Moi, Malak, Tiwi, Coconut Grove etc)

Our parks look beautiful, the playgrounds have been upgraded and public facilities are some of the best.

We have declared a climatic emergency the first Council in the NT to do so and one of the few in Australia.

Today we have some of the most up to date policies about climate, greening the city and waste management.

And we have planned for a massive infrastructure upgrade with the Cas pool and the Civic centre. DCC will continue to be an economic powerhouse for Darwin.

These are some of our achievements more have to be done to truly transform our city to a tropical city of colours and I really hope that the next council can make this a reality. And it is my intention should I am re-elected as the Lord Mayor to do my best to achieve this.

Finally I would like to thank our staff for their continuous support and most of all our CEO Scott Waters for creating a cohesive, hardworking effective team that has helped translating our policy directions to reality on the ground.

And of course I would like to thank you all for been part of a team, we may have differences in our views and opinions but we are united by our desire to do the best for this city and its citizens.

I wish you all the best for the coming elections and I hope that you will be back here to further the progress of our city that we all love and care for.

Thank you

CARRIED 10/0

Alderman Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Alderman Mick Palmer re-joined the meeting at 6:17 pm.

9 REPORTS BY MEMBERS - VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

9.1 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

RESOLUTION SPE233/21

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman George Lambrinidis

THAT the following Reports by Members be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/0

Alderman Want de Rowe provided the following address to the meeting.

I wanted to say thank you to everybody, everybody who is in this room but also previous Elected Members, Lord Mayors and staff. Since being elected I feel like I was a different person, married 6 months, 28 years old and shortly after, I had my son William. The amount of support the staff showed me, raising two little people while being on Council. William was only 2 weeks old when he attended his first Council Meeting. Isabel was 10 days old when she attended her first Meeting. They've grown up with me being on Council. William very proudly tells everyone at school, his mummy is a Council boss and she looks after the bins. Council has a very special place for me, it is where I have grown up and matured. It's where my family has also grown up and matured.

Since being on Council, my three big achievements are;

First thing, the pet park. It was the reason I first ran for Council. It took me 4 years of lobbying the Council, including a petition that thousands of people had signed. It just would not get supported. Today, we now have two with more on the way. The pet parks are really well used. They have become their own community, it's really beautiful. I am really proud of that and probably my biggest achievement.

My second big achievement that I am really proud of is our playground shading. I was really surprised that we didn't shade our playgrounds. This one was pushed through fairly quickly, in a plan over 3 years. They are now very heavily used. Another thing that I have started to push is having all access swings at every playground, at least one and that should become a standard.

My third one is Casuarina Pool redevelopment. I love that pool, that's where I learnt how to swim. I have photos of me doing belly flops, that has a special place. It is very well loved but has aged. To be able to say that myself and the other two Ward Alderman have been pushing and we can now say that soon we have delivered that and that is one of the reasons why I have decided to run again. I want to see the end of that, I want to be there to cut the ribbon, to be able to say we delivered that.

I want to thank especially the staff and fellow Alderman. Everyone would know it's been a very tough year for me and especially the staff. The Chief Executive Officer said to me that we aren't just a Council, we are a family. Different staff reached out and I really appreciate it.

Alderman, past and current. Thank you so much, we do really work as a team and I know we don't always see eye to eye but we can have that respectful debate and I really do appreciate it. I have made so many friendships and if I don't get re-elected the one thing that I am happy about is those friends I have made and will hold on to them.

Thank you to everyone and goodluck for the upcoming election.

Alderman Arthur provided the following address to the meeting.

Firstly, it has been a privilege working on this council, it has been a learning experience. I would like to thank Alderman Haslett for his mentorship during the first year, fabulous. Looking back, my first motion was in regards to Barneson Boulevard. I lost that 3 to 8. The time as acting Lord Mayor over Christmas was very cool. I got to light the Christmas tree so I took my boys to that and that was so much fun, sharing the love there. My first real win was the Busking Motion. The last Council, Busking permits were daily and up to 5pm. The night time economy was not value adding and we know that Council has spent so much money trying to activate the CBD and busking is a very low cost way to activate spaces. This Council opened it right up, we can go much later during the week and Friday and Saturday and we've opened up the whole CBD to busking. We still have a lot of work to do, as we know, we don't have a lot of buskers on the books.

Myself and Alderman Glover have been heavily involved in activating Robyn Lesly Park. Justine and myself have taken Robyn Lesley Park on and with Ngaree Ah Kit's instigation and Council's support we have the Karama Community Garden. We are there every Saturday and we have people calling past and right now we are producing fruit. Fabulous way to give back to the community, get them talking and evolving a sense of place and we have achieved that. Next term we're looking at Hozerland Park. We will really focus on that one.

Our activation cultivated with the Karama Music Muster with Council's support. We had maybe 500 people there and it was great to get that community together particularly after all the trouble we have seen there.

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee, that was a big one, Council got behind me on that one and I can see that, that is one of our biggest asset as far as hectares go. That is going to be developed with greening and biodiversity. That is in safe hands.

The Greening Strategy that we have produced is fabulous. With the next term, we really need to step it up and engage the community with many more projects to get many more trees in the ground to keep Darwin green and cool.

Robin Knox moved the single use plastic free motion on Council land. I'm happy to say that Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival, which I chair, lead the way on that, we went single use plastic free, 5 years ago and we showed it could be done, a major festival with no single use plastic and I'm chuffed that Council has taken that up. Now you see at all the markets that most of the packaging is cardboard and recyclable. It is a really great initiative.

I look forward to perhaps another term on Council, we'll see what the electors think. Thank you Elected Members and Lord Mayor.

Deputy Lord Mayor Paul Arnold provided the following address to the meeting.

I was elected to Council via the Lyons Ward by-election in February 2020, at the same time the COVID 19 pandemic came to Darwin. My first Council meeting finished at 11pm and I was wondering what I had put my hand up for. But 18 months later, I know and I have proudly represented the people of Darwin.

One reason for joining Council was to give the CBD and its users a voice and to make the CBD a safe and vibrant place you wanted to visit. As a daily user of the CBD for the past 20 odd years, I knew our CBD streets needed to be cleaned up, and the level of acceptable behaviour needed to be lifted. This began with the implementation of the revised busking rules and procedures. Then began the long re-education process to understand the difference between crime and Anti-Social behaviour and who was responsible for what. This led to the passing of a motion for council to co-fund the CBD Security Program with the NTG. Whilst not a forever solution, the CBD security continues to lift the level of behaviour in the city and allows the work of activation and social engagement to have a greater effect.

It's the small changes that often make the greatest difference, and being a daily user of the CBD, I noticed that the gathering of people around public power points was a major reason for anti-social behaviour. During my time on council, all public power points have been locked up securely and that reason to gather has now been removed. Property owners have been contacted around town and asked to isolate external power points on their buildings, and the CBD security have said this was the single most important action that made their job easier.

Some 25 years ago the pay booths in Westlane arcade were moth balled for electronic systems. They remained in situ until parking funds were used to remove them earlier this year, and the confusing, unsafe, 2 lane exit became one easy exit lane, with an additional 10 undercover motorbike parking bays created.

A green city is the future of the city as per our policies, but last year I noticed many of our parks and gardens had dead and dry areas. Whilst we were planting trees and improving areas such as Smith Street and Daly Street, many of our existing parks had poor irrigation and were falling behind. This year, as I drive around, our parks and gardens are still green and lush, well into the dry season.

During my short time on Council, I have worked with many residents and been involved in many wins including, but not limited to, the resurfacing of Cullen Bay Crescent, the re-edging and re-shouldering of Frances Bay Road and the work with Kahlin Oval Residents in regards to the building of the cricket shed, and the pavement and park at Warrego Court. I have also presented a petition to council on behalf of the Ruddick Circuit residents in regards to heavy haulage on Dinah Beach Road, which has resulted in a tonnage limit change on the road to protect the amenity and peaceable living of the residents.

One of the roles of an elected member is to sometimes pound the pavement for a cause and get the people to take the time to write to council, as it is the public voice that can make a change. I saw this with the alfresco dining where I visited peak bodies and individuals affected by the reinstatement of charges. Council listened to their collective voice and continued the moratorium, and my motion to incentivise alfresco can be revisited by the next council.

Parap Village Master Plan is one of my new involvements in the community and I am now meeting with business owners and key stake holders, as I look forward to bringing the Parap Master Plan to council, should I be re-elected for the coming turn.

Bagot Park Master Plan is a work in progress, but through a motion, I have secured \$100k to develop the master plan for the park. I brought council and Friends of Bagot together to secure this money, which the next council will be able to act on. I envisage that, with all the budget considerations and timings, these monies produce a master plan to create a council park, green space and asset that is nation leading for the community.

I have worked hard for the ward and especially for the CBD, and I feel this was recently recognised by my appointment to the Activate Darwin Board, in a role that will facilitate lines of communication and mechanics of council, and the views of Council, through a formal process to the next level of government.

There are many small wins, some big wins, and then there are some game changers, and my red tape motion I believe is a game changer. This motion voiced to everyone in the community that the City of Darwin is here to do business! I presented this to the Activate Darwin board, and it was received with enthusiasm and positivity.

The business of being an Alderman, is a daily commitment that I take seriously and enjoy. Probably the biggest daily satisfaction I get, is when I sit in the mall on a daily basis and people watch. The activity in the mall sees people laughing, joking and enjoying the shade of a tree, for lunch or coffee. Business people and friends gather and enjoy the space. They easily forget what the mall and CBD was like 18 months ago and they will never know the work that has gone on behind the scenes to improve the heart of the CBD, but I know, and I use that to drive me forward! I will be re-nominating for Council and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support over a tough time and it was a sink or swim for me and I've loved it and look forward to continuing.

Alderman Bouhoris provided the following address to the meeting.

I had a few pages and I was reading them before I was coming here and I realised that I could say a lot of things that we have done but one of the greatest achievements is working in a team, being a part of this team. All the different ways of thinking and changing the way that I think. The way that I was brought up, being an electrician, it is safety first and it's methodical, a step by step. You didn't have to think outside of the box because you knew if you touched that, you would die, it's live.

Further into my career, at my work, being a manager and into a leadership group and also working amongst this team and working at a Director level, I started to understand it's not about what did I do and how am I going to do it, it's about understanding how people work and why they do what they do and how to use that positive energy to gain those positive outcomes and those tangible outcomes are that's what I am about and that's why I wanted to join Council and get these tangible outcomes in the Northern Suburbs.

We have achieved so much in this time, with all the trees that have been planted and cooling the city. It is eye opening for people who are coming back. The staff have been wonderful, thank you. The reason I didn't bring my paperwork was because, I had the top 10 things, my collateral for the upcoming election and I realised when I was sitting with my daughter and realised that the greatest achievement that I had was my older kids are not going to leave Darwin anymore.

Getting the gym equipment at East Point, it's Australia's best and everyone in this room should be proud. It's fully inclusive, working with the disability sector, working with Total Recreation and understanding all the dynamics of the community and how broad and different it all was and having to think outside the square. Thank you Lord Mayor and Scott for doing that.

The excitement for me now is the webpage and what is happening on the actual webpage. It was my birthday and I met a lot of people who did not understand how many things there were to do in Darwin. The fact that we are going to have somewhere consolidated, one stop shop, to show and showcase our city is truly wonderful.

Working with everyone in the room has been great, haven't seen eye to eye with a lot of stuff but that has showed understanding to come half way.

I'm coming back because the greatest thing out of all my achievements is getting the asset management plans through and I haven't seen them come through so I want to stay and have oversight of the Casuarina Pool.

I look forward to working with you all and thank you to the Lord Mayor for all you've done.

Alderman Haslett provided the following address to the meeting.

After Andrew spoke, I felt that I had to say a few words. I've known Andrew for 25 to 30 years. I took him under my wing but he taught me a lot of things and changed my perspective on a lot of things so I thank him for that and we work well together in Waters Ward.

We had a team building workshop, Alderman attended, we were divided into groups and it became obvious that the more diverse the group, the more success we had at that task because we're all not thinking the same thing. Sometimes that helps Council as well, that we're not all thinking the same way. At the end of the day we can't achieve anything unless we all work together because it is the vote of 13 people and we've got to agree on something or nothing will happen. Somehow we've managed to do it.

Alderman Pangquee provided the following address to the meeting.

Alderman Pangquee provided the following address to the meeting.

Reflecting back when I first started, when I got here and I thought, what have I gotten myself into. I tried a number of times to get elected and when I finally got here we had our Chief Executive Officer resign and General Managers leaving and I thought what have we done. Maybe they saw that we were different and a very diverse team. That counts in the way that we deal with things here. One of the things I reflect back on, I put a lot of work into meetings. I guarantee, I read my papers. I make comments and I write everything down that I need to say and that reflects in the small things that sometimes get away from us. It's good to be able to pick up on things.

Some of the things I hated were making decisions around the place. One of the things that come to mind is Darwin RSL. People we have to deal with, they are part of the community and we have to listen to both sides of the fence. Deal with things out of the blue. Then other things dragged on. I'm hoping to get some closure.

On the other side is the great projects we have done. Like Daly Street and bringing our projects to the community. I've lived in Nightcliff for over 40 years and I can guarantee that there has not been as much work done then in the last 4 years. Things like lighting Nightcliff Oval, a new canteen, the 126 trees we've put in at the Nightcliff Foreshore, the exercise gym equipment and shade. All of those projects are being delivered as good activities. We try to share those projects around, like Jingili Watergardens.

I'd like to reflect on our previous Alderman, Sherry Cullen. She was part of that diverse team, as well as Emma. She was a sounding board for me. I've known Alderman Knox for a long time and she brings the diversity. Also Alderman Niblock and George.

Reflecting back on some of the Committees I've been on. LGANT, Development Consent Authority and working with Top End Tourism Board.

I just want to also acknowledge my son, I was at NT Government at the time I was elected and he knew that Tuesday night was Council night.

I would also like to thank all the staff, the management team and my fellow Alderman

Alderman Palmer provided the following address to the meeting.

I in no way intend for this to be a valedictory address. I do intend to come back. I'm not going to reflect on the many good things I think we've done in this term of Council. I'm not going to reflect on how well the City of Darwin is looking. Garramilla looks good, Tiger Brennan looks good, Smith Street looks good and we should be proud of how we've got the city looking. It hasn't looked this good ever.

We do have an opportunity now going forward as a Council to really leave a legacy in this City. I think we are being presented with opportunities to change the face, change the nature of Darwin forever. We can really do good things that in 20, 30, 50 years' time people will take for granted but not knowing the genesis of it and we really have to grasp the opportunity that these next few years will present. To bring Darwin to the fore front of a tropical first world city. We have a naturally beautiful environment.

I'd love to come back, I want to come back, to see out the next 4 years to leave a legacy for my city because I believe, we are in a unique position here, right now in 2021 to go forward and to leave things for our kids, our grandkids and their grandkids and I'd just like to thank you all for being mostly supportive to me in what I do and mostly cooperative in what I do so thank you very much and Lord Mayor, all the best.

Alderman Lambrinidis provided the following address to the meeting.

My story begins when I was ten years old, going to the park across the road and all we had was coffee rock, it was just coffee rock and we would ride our bikes around and fall over and get grazes. I mentioned that to my father and I said can't we do something. He talked to his friends and they were politicians and then we had some politicians come and visit us and asked what we wanted. We wanted a BMX track, we wanted trees, we wanted grass, we wanted playground equipment etc and then nothing happened for about two or three years and then about four years later suddenly all these trees came in and playground equipment and the whole area, what it looks like now is completely different to what it looked like in the past. So I thought well that's interesting but I thought nothing of it until about a decade later when we started to have a lot of issues with crime and violence and so, again, I went to my dad. There's problems, everyone's feeling unsafe so we went to the local member back then. Again, we had a meeting in the park and police were there, we had everyone come and that's when we formed the Wagaman Residents Committee. From there, all these things that went on for over a decade and we were able to get lights, grants for lights in the park, in the laneways. We lobbied the government to change laws so that the Council could the gates and then we as community members could open and close the gates in trials.

I was active in Council, I was on the Sister Cities Committee, I was on some sporting groups and a whole lot of other things, people kept saying, why don't you just join Council. That's where they're making all the decisions and that's where I first got an interest. I ran first in 2004 and unfortunately the preferential voting system meant that fourth person knocked me off and then the same thing in 2008, 2012. They changed the rules plus there was an opening, speaking to my local member they said keep trying, if you if you don't try, you'll never be successful. I tried again and I got in in 2012 so it's been almost 10 years.

One of my first motions that I put forward was to upgrade 10 parks, playgrounds in our Ward and from there we got a lot of support and we saw things can be done and that really helped my motivation. Last night I was looking at my 2004 points and I realised that a lot of these things are still valid, increased sport and access for people, greening the city. It's an ongoing thing.

Very early on in this, I realised that we have to do more than just have projects. We needed to have strategies, we needed to have plans. I pushed to put in a plan so that regardless of what you do, whatever you implement now, you know in 10, 20 years those things are going to fall apart what we need is good strategies and management plans. That's one of the things that I tried to focus on moving and I think that's a good legacy for us. We've seen the trilogy that came out in the last meeting, that's really made me proud because we've talked about it as long as I've been on

Council and now we've got an opportunity to move forward.

We have a lot of strength within the Council particularly with our subcommittees. I've been active with the Youth Advisory Committee, extreme talent coming through the ranks. We have this wonderful new International Relations Committee that it's still yet to see the fruition because of COVID.

I think the jewel in the crown would have to be the Casuarina Pool. It's something that I lobbied for from 2004. It's wonderful that this Council has supported it. If you're looking for a name, feel free. People say to me, why are you not running and I do want to run. I do want to be back here and I do want to be part of the next Council. I spend a lot of time going through all the materials, reading it and making notes and following things up and with a full time role, it is time consuming.

I've done two and a bit terms. I have every confidence in the next Council moving forward and making the decisions, we have a lot of good strategies, a lot of good plans.

I want to wish everyone the very best. It's been wonderful working with everyone. One of the biggest changes that I've seen from within this Council is the change in our culture and I think that's something that from the beginning in my first Council we focused on. It wasn't until this Council that we started to see a change in the culture. One of the key changes that helped drive that was from the bottom level. Making sure that staff would actually do the work without being told we will get a contractor and giving them the autonomy. Trusting in their abilities, all I hear is the great work that all the staff do and that's a true testament, Scott as a leader, to all our managers.

Thank you very much.

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis provided the following address to the meeting.

I would also like to thank very much ex-Alderman Young. To spend 2 terms in Council, her expertise and knowledge in environmental issues. Emma was fundamental in helping us. Thank you very much for that Emma. I'm looking forward to working with you in the future.

Another one I would like to pay tribute too is young Pangquee, who spent a lot of time by himself because his father was too busy doing other things. Sometimes your family is the lonely sufferer.

I'd like to thank you very much my dear wife, she had to put up with me as a member of parliament for two years and then she thought everything finished because I got another job and then in 2017 I was re-elected. She had to put with another four years of this and another four years to come hopefully. Thank you very much Amy, I really appreciate your help and support.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

RESOLUTION SPE234/21

Moved: Alderman Justine Glover

Seconded: Alderman Gary Haslett

1. THAT the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.35pm.

CARRIED 10/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Darwin held on 28 September 2021.

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CHAIR