



MINUTES

**Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, 8 April 2020**

Reports, recommendations and supporting documentation can be accessed via the City of Darwin Council Website at www.darwin.nt.gov.au, at Council Public Libraries or contact the Committee Administrator on (08) 8930 0670.

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIA WEBEX AND AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2020 AT 5.30PM**

- PRESENT:** Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Alderman Andrew Arthur, Alderman Paul Arnold, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, Alderman Justine Glover, Alderman Gary Haslett, Alderman Robin Knox, Alderman George Lambrinidis, Alderman Simon Niblock, Alderman Mick Palmer, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe, Alderman Emma Young
- OFFICERS:** Scott Waters (Chief Executive Officer), Joshua Sattler (General Manager Innovation Growth & Development Services), Polly Banks (General Manager Community & Regulatory Services), Melissa Reiter (General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs), Ron Grinsell (General Manager Engineering & City Services)
- APOLOGY:** Nil
- GUESTS:** Nil

WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER

In accordance with Policy 043, Meetings, Meeting Procedures and Committees, City of Darwin is live streaming the entire Open Section of this Ordinary Meeting. Members of the public are able to observe the meeting as an 'Attendee' via WebEx, however they will not be able to be viewed by members of Council or other members of the public. Recording and/or publishing of photos or videos of streamed meetings is not permitted.

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**1 MEETING OPENED****RESOLUTION SPE166/20**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis
Seconded: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

THAT the meeting opened at 5:38pm.

CARRIED 13/0

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**3.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted**

In accordance with Policy 043 and section 61(4) of the Local Government Act 2008, Elected Members are granted permission to attend the Special Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 8 April 2020 by means of an audio or audio-visual conferencing system.

3.2 Electronic Meeting Attendance Requested

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**4.1 Declaration of Interest by Members**

Nil

4.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

5 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**5.1 LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - CORONAVIRUS (COVID - 19) - COUNCIL RESPONSE #2****RESOLUTION SPE167/20**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

To deliver a clear position of support to our Community as Lord Mayor I will move the following support measures valued up to a \$55M for discussion and debate as an initial response:

1. THAT the current due date for rates and associated levies be deferred from 31 March 2020 to 30 June 2020, with a review to occur prior to 30 June 2020
2. THAT the current rate hardship policy be revised and amended to include criteria specifically

relating to commercial, residential and industrial ratepayers affected by COVID-19, taking into consideration any assistance provided by the Australian and Northern Territory Government;

Furthermore that a report be provided to Council at the next ordinary meeting to discuss and debate the amended policy

3. THAT all permit charges, fees and levies' – inclusive of the CBD Parking Levy, with the exception of waste associated charges be waived until 30 June 2020, with a review to occur prior to 30 June 2020
4. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, review and provide a report to Council in relation to loan borrowing options and a working capital facility in providing Council with options leading into the 2020/21 Financial Year Budget preparation for extraordinary measures to support the business community and provide employment during the recovery for the Darwin community
5. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, discuss with the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, dispensation for the use of restricted reserves in the recovery effort and report the outcome to Council
6. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, review and report to Council the pooling of all current debt accrued by Council into a single debt facility taking advantage of historically low interest rates
7. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, finalise Council's Strategic Projects and Economic Development Plan for final briefing and adoption by Council prior to 30 April 2020
8. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, provide a list of large scale infrastructure projects for Council's consideration to jointly fund with the Northern Territory and Australian Government on the basis of creating construction jobs in the recovery
9. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, continue to enhance and provide as many services as possible to the community on an online basis, including the broadcast community and social based programs via social media
10. THAT Council move a vote of thanks to Council Staff that are serving our community during this difficult time

AMENDMENT

11. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, commence planning and programming to provide additional employment to the Darwin Community as soon as possible, up to and including the 30th of June 2020. Furthermore, that the program be known as the "Green Army" focusing upon greening and beautification initiatives across the municipality.

CARRIED 13/0

6 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

7 OFFICERS REPORTS

7.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2020/21 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a COVID-19 Response Grants Program, with a total of \$150,000 allocated in two rounds, to support community groups or organisations to deliver innovative solutions to meet the changing needs of the community due to COVID-19.

RESOLUTION SPE168/20

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman Justine Glover

1. THAT the report entitled Community Grants 2020/21 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response be received and noted.
2. Council endorse the reallocation of current operational funding to open a new grant round of \$50,000, for community projects that respond to COVID-19 with innovative solutions to be delivered between from April to 30 June 2020.
3. Council endorse the repurposing of the 2020/21 Community Grants Program budget, to a second round of \$100,000, for community projects that respond to COVID-19 with innovative solutions delivered between 1 July and 31 December 2020.
4. Council endorse the COVID-19 Response Grants Program Guidelines, which will apply to both the 19/20 and 20/21 rounds.

CARRIED 13/0

Alderman Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Alderman Mick Palmer re-joined the meeting at 5:50 pm.

7.2 MY DARWIN - ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROPOSAL – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the development of the web application, “my.Darwin” to assist with stimulating the local economy.

RESOLUTION SPE169/20

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report MY DARWIN - Economic Stimulus Proposal – Coronavirus (COVID-19) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the allocation of car parking revenue from the month February 2020 to support the initiative.
3. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 32 (2) of the Local Government Act 2008 hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer to investigate internally restricted parking reserves for the re-appropriation into this financial year’s operating budget.

CARRIED 11/2

8 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

8.1 CITY OF DARWIN AND NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT SECURITY PATROL PARTNERSHIP – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of Security Patrol Arrangements in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

RESOLUTION SPE170/20

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman Emma Young

1. THAT the report entitled City of Darwin and Northern Territory Government Security Patrol Partnership – Coronavirus (COVID-19) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council receive the advice of an agreed partnership between the City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government in relation to a security patrol partnership until 30 September 2020

CARRIED 13/0

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act:

2.1 Rent Relief for Council Leased Properties - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

2.2 Proposal for an Artist Assistance Fund – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.

11 CLOSURE OF OPEN MEETING

RESOLUTION SPE171/20

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman Gary Haslett

THAT the Open Meeting closed at 5:57.

CARRIED 13/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Darwin held on 14 April 2020.

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CHAIR