

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AURUKUN SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT AURUKUN SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, 5
FEBRUARY 2009**

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| PRESENT | Councillors | Cr. Neville Pootchemunka Cr Phyllis Yunkaporta Cr Angus Kerindun Cr Jonathan Korkaktain Cr Patrick Koongotema |
| | Officers | John Bensch – Chief Executive Officer Neil Ewart – Chief Operating Officer Barry Bonthuys – Chief Finance Officer |

1. OPENING

The Mayor welcomed Councillors to the first meeting for the new year and reminded Councillors of the importance of their roles and responsibilities and declared the Meeting open at 9.30 am.

2. MAYOR'S MINUTES

The Mayor apologised that he did not have a written report which was due to the holiday period but advised Council of various meetings which he had attended.

2.1 Visit to Island and Cape Stores

The Mayor advised Council that the Chief Executive Officer, Cr Kerindun and himself had been invited by Mr John Smith of Island and Cape Wholesale to visit some of their stores on Badu and Darnley Islands in the Torres Strait. The Mayor advised that he and the Chief Executive Officer has also visited their warehouse in Cairns.

2.2 Meeting with Mr Jim McGowan

The Chief Financial Officer and the Mayor met with the Government Champion, Mr Jim McGowan and others in Cairns on 2 February 2009 to discuss various issues relating to Aurukun and Welfare Reform. The Mayor advised that he was not happy with the result of this meeting and he is inviting Mr Jim McGowan, Ms Pauline Peel and Mr Noel Pearson to meet with Council to talk clearly about Welfare Reform.

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

4. CONDOLENCES

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

09.4874

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2 December 2008 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 5 December 2008 be received as a true and correct record. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Korkaktain) CARRIED**

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

6. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

2.6 **Cultural Awareness Program**

Cr Korkaktain request to put procedures into place for the commencement of this program as it is important for staff throughout the community.

7.1 **Queensland Police Service**

The Mayor advised that he and the Chief Financial Officer had attended a meeting in Cairns with the Assistant Commissioner of Police regarding various policing issues in the community and as a result of this meeting, it was agreed that the Police Sergeant would liaise more regularly with Council. The decrease in staff numbers must receive urgent attention.

17.8 **Wik Media**

A meeting to be arranged in the next week with the Mayor and Daniel Bracegirdle to discuss the RIBS and Wik Media issues.

09.4875 **RESOLVED THAT** the Business Arising from the previous Minutes be received. (Cr Yunkaporta/Cr Kerindun) **CARRIED**

8. **RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE AND/OR DELEGATES REPORTS**

Nil.

Roslyn Kamradt entered the Meeting at 10 am.

9. **CDEP REPORT**

The Mayor welcomed Roslyn to the Meeting and Roslyn presented the CDEP Report to Council.

9.1 **Christmas Holiday Break**

Noted.

9.2 **Timesheet and Payroll Changes**

Noted

9.3 **CDEP Office**

Noted.

The request for concrete slab, a solid roof for shelter are approved on the condition that CEA funds the improvements. Cr Kerindun confirmed that the Department of Communities work force will supply labour and materials.

9.4 **Town Clean Up**

Noted.

9.5 **Aurukun Community Beautification Projects**

Noted.

9.6 **Entrance Statement**

Discussion took place regarding the proposal regarding the Welcome to Aurukun signs.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

09.4876 **RESOLVED THAT** Council support the proposal for CEA to commence the preparation and erection of the Welcome to Aurukun signs as set out in the report and that these signs be placed on the approach to Aurukun before the Telstra tower and at the Airport and Barge Landing and that Cr Angus Kerindun be the person to liaise with CEA on this project. **(Cr Koongotema/Cr Kerindun) CARRIED**

9.7 **Main Road into Aurukun**
This is to be incorporated in the Welcome to Aurukun signs and Cr Kerindun is to be Council's liaison person for this work.

9.8 **Community Streetscape**
The idea to plant a tree in front of every house is supported on the condition that it will not interfere with power lines and street lighting.

9.9 **Street Signs**
Council agreed that street signage should be upgraded and that the CEA Manager liaise with the Chief Executive Officer in regard to this.

9.10 **Tidy Town or Tidy Street Program**
Council agrees and supports the CEA Manager's idea with the proposal of Aurukun being nominated to be part of the "Clean Up Australia" campaign and later in the year to be nominated to take part in the Tidy Town or Tidy Street Program.

09.4877 **RESOLVED THAT** the CDEP Report be received. **(Cr Yunkaporta/Cr Korkaktain) CARRIED**

Roslyn Kamradt departed the Meeting at 10.15 am.

11. HOUSING REPORT

11.1 **General**
Noted.

11.2 **Community Houses**
Tenancy Agreements are to be signed, if they are not signed then other tenants can be put into the house.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that during March, officer from the Department of Housing will be in Aurukun for a period of weeks until all Tenancy Agreements are signed.

Kevin Sigai entered the Meeting at 10.35 am.

Council asked the Housing Officer to give to Council the houses where the "plug-ins" would be put. The relevant houses are :

- 20 Kang Kang Road
- 38 Kor' Street
- 114 Muttich Street
- 123 Muttich Street
- 148 Ku' Street
- 174 Apalech Street

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Council agreed that tenants should be made aware that they are not to move from house to house and the community is to be advised of this immediately.

Council requested that the Housing Officer inform them of the identified sites for the \$5 million project in his March report to Council.

11.3 Tradeswork

11.3.1 Carpentry

Noted.

11.3.2 Plumbing

Noted

11.3.3 Painting

Noted.

11.3.4 Electrical

Noted.

11.4 Up and coming Works Plan

Noted.

11.5 Applications and Letters

Noted.

11.6 Concerns around the community

11.6.1 Due to increase on job maintenance

Noted.

11.6.2 Vandalism on increase

Council agreed that when any vandalism occurs, the cost of repairs must be paid before the repair work can be carried out.

09.4878 RESOLVED THAT the Housing Report be received. **(Cr Koongotema/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED**

Kevin Sigai departed the Meeting at 11 am.

John Sue See, Jim Birch and Kelvin from CHALCO entered the Meeting at 11 am.

7. CHALCO Representatives

The Mayor thanked the CHALCO representatives for attending the Meeting and asked Jim Birch to speak to Council.

Jim Birch gave a report on the progress of the Feasibility Study and advised that at this stage it was going well and it should be completed by the end of March. The barge landing at Aurukun was discussed and Council was asked if it was happy about the location of the barge landing which CHALCO propose to build.

John Sue See explained about his position and that an EIA Meeting would be held on 13 February and that a JSC Meeting would be held on 26 February.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

John said that one of the main issues to be looked at is Training and Economic Development and to involve different people in this.

The Mayor thanked Jim Birch for stepping into the position of BPO Co-ordinator after Ron Billyard resigned and carrying out the role in an excellent and capable manner.

Jim Birch, John Sue See and Kelvin departed the Meeting at 11.30 am.

10. Works Manager's Report

10.1 Road Works

Noted.

10.2 Garbage Collection

Noted.

10.3 Mechanic Workshop/Depot

Noted.

10.4 Water and Sewerage

Council approve the upgrade of the water tower facility.

10.5 Housing Maintenance

Council approve that people have to pay for damages to their property before repairs are carried out.

10.6 Airport

Council regrets the behaviour of children and reconfirms its position that parents have to pay for damages.

10.7 Damage to Assets

Vandalism was discussed at length by Council and it was decided to hold a meeting with the Police, Justice Group members and Council and to try to talk to the relevant families whose children have been involved in these issues in the community.

10.8 Staff Issues

Noted.

10.9 Training

Noted.

09.4879 RESOLVED THAT the Works Manager's Report be received. (Cr Koongotema/ Cr Kerindun) CARRIED

The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.10 pm.

The Meeting resumed at 12.40 pm.

12. ART CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

Nil.

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13. COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS REPORT

13.1 Aurukun Community Justice Group

Noted.

13.2 Koolkan Early Childhood Centre and Family Hub Support

13.2.1 Staff and Training

Noted.

13.2.2 Children's Attendance

Noted.

13.2.3 Repairs and Maintenance

Noted.

13.2.4 Visitors

Noted.

13.2.5 Family Support Hub

Noted.

13.2.6 Community and Family Support Worker

Noted.

13.2.7 Wik Inana

Noted.

13.3 HACC/CACPS PROGRAM

Noted.

09.4880 RESOLVED THAT the reports for the Community Support and Justice Programs Reports be received. (Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) **CARRIED**

14. OUTSTATION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

14.1 Outstations Visited

Noted.

14.2 Harvey Douglas

Noted.

14.3 Bowhunting Business

Noted.

14.4 Outstations

Noted.

14.5 Love River

Noted.

14.6 Weed Control

Noted.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

14.7 **Comments**

Noted.

09.4881 **RESOLVED THAT** the Outstation Co-ordinator's Report be received.
(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

15. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

15.1 **Financial Statements**

09.4882 **RESOLVED THAT** if Cape York Partnerships and all other aged debtors be given final notice and if not paid in thirty (30) days then a letter be written to Council's solicitors to follow up this matter. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Korkaktain) CARRIED**

15.2 **Fees and Charges – Charge Rate for Drain Water Blaster**

09.4882 **RESOLVED THAT**

- (1) Council approves a rate of \$180.00 per hour or part thereof for the hiring of the Drain Water Blaster;
- (2) The rate be included in the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2008/2009 financial year.
- (3) Council approves a rate of \$100.00 per day for the hire of any of Council's vehicles excluding fuel.

(Cr Koongotema/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

Dereck Walpo entered the Meeting at 1.30 pm.

15.3 **Organisational Structure – Finance**

The Chief Financial Officer informed Council of his workload and requested that Council consider this and his request for the appointment of an accountant to be based in the Cairns Office to assist him in the workload.

09.4883 **RESOLVED THAT** Council approves the appointment of a new position of accountant for the Finance Department to be based in the Cairns Office. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED**

09.4884 **RESOLVED THAT** Council approves the organisational structure as set out in the Finance and Administration Report for the Finance Department. **(Cr Korkaktain/Cr Kerindun) CARRIED**

09.4885 **RESOLVED THAT** the Chief Financial Officer's Report be received. **(Cr Korkaktain/Cr Kerindun) CARRIED**

The Mayor thanked Dereck Walpo for attending the Council Meeting and asked him to speak to Council.

Mr Walpo informed Council that he had commenced his duties as the Co-ordinator of the Wellbeing Centre and that the Centre was now operating and all staff were in place. The Wellbeing Centre is planning quite a few community events during the year and Mr Walpo said that Council would be informed at each meeting by a report of what was happening at the Centre.

Dereck Walpo departed the Meeting at 1.50 pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

16. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT

16.1 General

Noted.

16.2 Correspondence Received

Noted.

16.3 Aurukun Wetland Charters

Noted.

16.4 Sam Kanjo – Kanjo Group

Noted.

16.5 Bowhunters Lodge – Blue Lagoon

Noted.

16.6 Written Off Equipment

09.4886 **RESOLVED THAT** Council endorses and approves that the following items which were written off for scrap have been sold and the money paid into Council.

Toyota Hilux purchased by Andrew Ballantyne for \$2,000

Tractor purchased by Andrew Ballantyne for \$800.

Dinghy purchased by Ben Upton for \$700.

(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

16.7 Wik Media

09.4887 **RESOLVED THAT**

- (a) Council approve Wik Media access to its facility through the Library with strict guidelines and that the library must be locked whilst the Librarian is absent;
- (b) That the RIBS room be out of bounds to anyone but the operator;
- (c) That Council approve the appointment of Lesley Pootchemunka as RIBS operator and that he be trained appropriately;
- (d) That Wik Media be charged for rental of the office space at the rate of \$57 per square metre per month as set out in the Budget.

(Cr Kerindun/Cr Koongotema) CARRIED

16.8 Corporate and Operational Plans

09.4888 **RESOLVED THAT** there be a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 4 March 2009 to consider the Corporate and Operational Plans for 2008/2012. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED**

16.9 Aurukun Three Rivers Tavern – License

Noted.

16.10 Animal Control Officer/Environmental Health Officer Report

16.10.1 Use of Drugs and Appropriate Licenses

Noted.

16.10.2 Quote for Medication and Equipment

Noted.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

16.10.3 Registration of Dogs

Noted.

16.10.4 Vehicle

Noted.

16.10.5 Burial of Dogs

Noted.

09.4889 RESOLVED THAT the Chief Operating Officer's Report be received. **(Cr Yunkaporta/Cr Korkaktain) CARRIED**

17. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

17.1 Tenders Aurukun General Store

Council considered the tenders received for the leasing of the General Store and after some deliberation it was agreed that the tender for the lease of the General Store should be given to Island and Cape Wholesale Stores.

09.4890 RESOLVED THAT the tender of Island Cape Wholesale Stores of 6% on turnover be accepted for a period of five (5) years and that the Council enter into negotiations regarding the takeaway, opening hours, prices of stock, fuel provision, capital expenditure, training and employment of local staff, takeover of stock and equipment etc. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED**

17.2 Application to operate a Business at Blue Lagoon

09.4891 RESOLVED THAT

17.2.1 Council take note of the submission and in principle agrees to rent out the property;

17.2.2 That Council invite tenders for leasing Blue Lagoon complex;

17.2.3 That Council commence negotiations with the Traditional Owners for the area in regard to leasing Blue Lagoon complex.

(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

17.3 Appeal Process – Tavern

09.4892 RESOLVED THAT

17.3.1 Council confirms the agreement with Kowanyama Shire Council to join in their attempt to appeal as part of our loyalty because of the history;

17.3.2 Council takes note of the recent developments regarding the Takeaway and confirms its commitment to support Mr Kanjo at the Tavern but not at the General Store.

(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

17.4 Application to retain House – Dereck Walpo

Council considered Mr Walpo's letter asking if he could sub-lease his house to Stephen Mairu as he, himself, had been appointed co-ordinator of the Wellbeing Centre and a house came with his appointment. Council considered this at length and it was decided to pass the matter on to the Department of Housing as the Department was now in control of housing and that Mr Walpo be advised accordingly.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

09.4893 **RESOLVED THAT** Council takes note of this request but does not approve the sub-lease arrangements and that this matter be passed to the Department of Housing for their instructions concerning the sub-leasing. **(Cr Yunkaporta/Cr Kerindun) CARRIED**

17.5 **Allocation of Funds – Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP)**

Council discussed the possibility of using the funds of \$100,000 from this grant for various projects, including water supply infrastructure for the town, new Council Administration Office and leisure facilities and equipment for older and younger children.

09.4894 **RESOLVED THAT**

17.5.1 Council take note of the grant and resolve to spend the money on upgrading of the water treatment plant;

17.5.2 the Chief Executive Officer is authorised to manage the process in collaboration with Connell Wagner, Engineers.

(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

17.6 **Upgrading of CBD Area**

Noted.

17.7 **Housing Improvement Program**

09.4895 **RESOLVED THAT**

17.7.1 The report be received and the Housing Department be supported to achieve the goal to get more than 80% rental agreements signed by the end of this year.

17.7.3 Council inform the Department of Housing, Minister Schwarten, that while every effort is made to get the agreement signed by the end of this year, it will be almost impossible to spend the allocated funds if the dollar for dollar requirement applies.

(Cr Korkaktain/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

17.8 **Progress with the Pikkuw Vessel**

Council discussed in detail the current situation of the Pikkuw and Wetland Charters.

09.4896 **RESOLVED THAT**

17.8.1 Council rescind its previous decision last year regarding the hire-purchase of the vessel and reconfirm its resolution taken in November 2008;

17.8.2 Council reconfirms its decision to take back the vessel, if the rental offer is not acceptable to Aurukun Wetland Charters, and invite tenders to lease the vessel.

17.8.3 Council disapproves of the vessel being in Weipa at the moment without consent and that Council obtain legal advice as to where the vessel must be kept;

17.8.4 Council obtain legal advice on the current situation and if necessary enter into a Court case to get out of the present arrangement.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

(Cr Korkaktain/Cr Kerindun) CARRIED

17.9 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2008 Report

Council discussed the Councillor Remuneration levels as set out in the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2008 Report.

09.4897 RESOLVED THAT Council accept the new recommended Remuneration rates as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 17.9.1 | Mayor | \$1,703.65 per week | \$88,590 per annum |
| | Deputy Mayor | \$1,034.42 per week | \$53,790 per annum |
| | Councillors | \$851.92 per week | \$44,300 per annum |

17.9.2 Council rescind the previous decision regarding forfeiting of the whole month's salary for not attending the Council Meeting;

17.9.3 If a Councillor neglects to attend a Council Meeting without a written application and approved by the Mayor, then the Councillor will forfeit one (1) week's salary;

17.9.4 Should a Councillor not attend a meeting of any kind of which Councillors are notified, then a fine of \$120 per meeting will apply and this will be deducted from the weekly salary.

(Cr Koongotema/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

17.10 Chief Executive Officer – Service Agreement

09.4898 RESOLVED THAT the salary of Mr John Bensch, the Chief Executive Officer, be increased by \$1,500 per month and that this increase apply from 1 January 2009 until the end of the Contract period. **(Cr Korkaktain/Cr Koongotema) CARRIED**

17.11 Application for Residential Status

09.4899 RESOLVED THAT Council endorses the following requirements that must be applied to all people applying for Residential Status:

- (a) Applicants have to prove that they have sufficient accommodation or will build a house in Aurukun;
- (b) Applicants need to be related to families or must have a job in Aurukun;
- (c) Applicants must submit a police clearance certificate for Council to consider;
- (d) Applicants must prove how they are going to contribute to the community's wellbeing;
- (e) Any application is subject to a probation period of six (6) months.

(Cr Kerindun/Cr Korkaktain) Carried

17.12 Increase in Rates – Skytrans

Council discussed the increases in Skytrans rates and it was felt that the costs were extremely high in comparison to similar planes that fly Weipa/Cairns with a different company.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

09.4900 **RESOLVED THAT** Council request a Skytrans Representative to attend the next meeting of Council on 3 March 2009 to discuss the matters with Council. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED**

17.13 **Approval to use Photo Material – Olga Artemova**
09.4901 **RESOLVED THAT** Council agrees for the photographs submitted to Council by Olga Artemova to be used by her in the book that she is producing. **(Cr Korkaktain/Cr Koongotema) CARRIED**

17.14 **Royal Flying Doctors**
Noted.

17.15 **Calendar of FRC Meetings**
Noted.

17.16 **Refurbishment of Pensioner Units**
Council discussed the situation regarding staff housing and the fact that Jobfind was no longer able to carry out the renovation to the old Pensioner Units as had been agreed and that CEA was not interested in doing this project and it has become quite urgent that Council look at the redevelopment of these units before they are damaged beyond repair.

09.4902 **RESOLVED THAT**
17.1.6.1 Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to appoint engineers to draft a tender document and possibly look at the design;
17.1.6.2 That as a matter of urgency, tenders be invited to refurbish the old pensioner units to be used for staff accommodation and that one of the houses in Muttich Street, ie 605 Muttich Street, be released for Darren Bryant and Mabel Peemuggina and possibly another one to the community after completion of the project.
(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED

09.4903 **RESOLVED THAT** the Chief Executive Officer's Report be received. **(Cr Kerindun/Cr Yunkaporta) CARRIED**

18. **CORRESPONDENCE**

18.1 **Ergon Energy**
Council took note of the request from Ergon to accommodate Darren Bryant.

18.2 **Department of Housing**
Advising that a Housing Workshop will be held in Cairns on 4 and 5 March and asking Council to nominate a Councillor and the Housing Officer to attend the workshop. Council appointed Cr Angus Kerindun as its representative to the Meeting in place of Lyall Kawangka who resigned.

18.3 **ROCCY MEETING**
09.4904 **RESOLVED THAT** the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to attend the ROCCY Meeting in Cairns on 25 and 25 February 2009. **(Cr Yunkaporta/Cr Koongotema) CARRIED**

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor

19. **DEPUTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Nil.

20. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

Nil.

21. **CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTIONS**

Nil.

22. **RECEPTION OF NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING**

Nil.

23. **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil.

24. **QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC GALLERY**

Nil.

25. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

25.1 **Robert Daylight (Cr Yunkaporta)**

Cr Yunkaporta informed Council that she had received a letter from Robert Daylight requesting accommodation to live in Aurukun as his employment with Community Enterprises Australia has been terminated.

Council agreed that a letter be written to Mr Daylight advising that there is no accommodation available at present.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the Meeting at 4.20 pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedingsMayor