



Maribyrnong City Council

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES

**Tuesday 23 October, 2018
6.30pm**

**Council Chamber
Level 1
Maribyrnong Council Offices
Corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray**

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Councillor Cuc Lam (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Carter
Councillor Simon Crawford
Councillor Catherine Cumming
Councillor Gina Huynh
Councillor Mia McGregor
Councillor Martin Zakharov

To be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting
to be held on 20 November, 2018

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 6.33pm.

The Chair, Mayor Cr Cuc Lam made the following acknowledgement statement:

"We acknowledge that we are on traditional lands of the Kulin Nation. We offer our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands, and through them to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples past and present".

PRESENT

Mayor Councillor Cuc Lam (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Carter
Councillor Simon Crawford
Councillor Catherine Cumming
Councillor Gina Huynh
Councillor Mia McGregor
Councillor Martin Zakharov

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Wall
Director Community Services, Clem Gillings
Director Corporate Services, Celia Haddock
Director Infrastructure Services, Steve Hamilton
Director Planning Services, Nigel Higgins
Manager Public Affairs and Community Relations, Deidre Anderson
Manager Governance and Commercial Services, Lisa King
Manager Community Development, Positive Ageing and Inclusion, Bridget Monro-Hobbs
Coordinator Governance, Danny Bilaver
Governance Support Officer, Adele Woolcock

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Catherine Cumming requested a leave of absence from 31 October 2018 to 25 November 2018.

Council Resolution

That Council grants the request for a leave of absence from Cr Catherine Cumming commencing from 31 October 2018 and concluding on 25 November 2018.

Moved: Cr Sarah Carter
Seconded: Cr Mia McGregor

CARRIED

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was moved by Cr Gina Huynh, seconded by Cr Catherine Cumming, that Council suspend standing orders.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall, present Councillors Sarah Carter and Martin Zakharov with certificates recognising 10 years of service as Councillors.

Mr Bon Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia, Ms Vivian Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia Victoria Chapter, and Mr Phong Nguyen, Chair of the Vietnamese Cultural and Heritage Centre, addressed the Council to give thanks to the outgoing Mayor, Cr Cuc Lam, and Councillors for their support of the Vietnamese Community.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion was moved by Cr Catherine Cumming, seconded by Cr Gina Huynh, that Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Ms Claire Halford, resident of Yarraville asked the following questions:

1. Since Maribymong took over the Recovery of Stony Creek community engagement has been minimal, with closed meetings and sparse updates released on a poorly designed webpage with no link. Many residents who live in proximity to the creek have had no say and feel shut out by the lack of transparency. We have serious questions about many facets of the recovery and deserve answers. I have written to council twice complaining about the lack of transparency and communication and received no reply, as of three weeks ago.

Does the Council realise that the residents who live near Stony Creek have a right to contribute to the discussion, a right to full disclosure of information considering the seriousness of even potential exposure to some of the chemicals involved?

Does Council realise consultation should have already occurred broadly and that 'sometime in the future' is not good enough?

2. Has the Council employed or consulted with professionals who have the relevant knowledge of what is the safest and most effective way of cleaning Stony Creek? If not, why not? If so, who are they?

Response

The Director Planning Services, Mr Nigel Higgins confirmed that Council is working with other agencies including the EPA and Melbourne Water on the recovery of the creek. Since Council has become the responsible authority for coordinating the recovery, there has been extensive community consultation at the Yarraville Community Centre, at shopping centres, ScienceWorks and at Cruickshank Park. In addition, Council are issuing weekly bulletins through our website. The EPA is continually providing advice to Council as to the risks and Council is advising residents accordingly. The EPA have also been regularly publishing the results of their monitoring on their website. Council will be calling for expressions of interest for a Stakeholder Advisory Group where Council will be looking for community representatives from community organisations and from the community. Council invites all residents to take part in that process.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that there have been two community information sessions at Council, and at the request of the Friends of Stony Creek and the Friends of Cruickshank Park, a smaller round table was set up with the EPA and Melbourne Water. Stony Creek is the responsibility of Melbourne Water. Melbourne Water is leading the cleaning of the creek in consultation with the EPA who are undertaking the water testing. Melbourne Water employ specialists in this area.

Question

Ms Shari Liby, resident of Yarraville asked the following questions:

1. Can you advise regarding what is being done to remediate the park and Stony Creek and what the anticipated costs are to restore it?
2. Can you explain how the method used for calculating rates compares to the used in other municipalities? (how much does the cost of rubbish removal, etc add to the rates charge in other Municipalities).

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall advised that the process for remediating the park and Stony Creek is an ongoing and costly one. The remediation of the creek is being led by Melbourne Water with their focus being on moving the bulk contamination. EPA testing has suggested that there is no threat to human health. Melbourne Water have been on site constantly since the fire and Council officers are working actively with Melbourne Water around Council's Parks and Green Space. Council is now the lead agency in the recovery action and in the consultation process. Advice has been coming from the MFB, Melbourne Water and the EPA as the situation has progressed.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Mia McGregor, seconded by Cr Sarah Carter, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Council is one of six Councils that use the Net Annual Value system for calculation of rates. The NAV system looks at rental values of properties and that becomes the basis

of the calculation of the rates. The rental return is actual rental return for commercial and industrial properties but is a flat 5% of the CIV rate for residential properties, which acts as a built in differential system as the actual rate of commercial return can vary across the city. Council has used the NAV system since Council was formed. 73 other Councils use the Capital Improved Value as the basis for their rates. The difference between these systems is that they have differential rating categories, as well as different charges like general charges, waste charges, and municipal charges. When comparing rates between Councils it is important to note what components are included in the rates charge.

Mr Wall continued by saying that the total amount of revenue that Council can generate from rates is capped in Victoria. For the current financial year, the rate cap was set at 2.25%; therefore the sum of funds that Council can raise from rates could only grow by 2.25%. The re-valuation process sees the valuations moving in different proportions across the City, which leads to changes in the distribution of the rates burden.

Question

Mr Kiro Manceski, resident of Seddon asked the following questions:

1. How has valuation increased by \$500,000 from last year on my property?
2. How did Council make this valuation – real estate agents have advised that my house will not sell for the price it has been valued at?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that Council's rates collection is governed by two pieces of legislation, the Valuation of Land Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1989. Council doesn't assign the valuation on properties within the municipalities, the Valuer-General does. If residents are concerned with an increase in property valuation, through Council, residents can contest the valuation with the Valuer-General. The Valuer-General will then review the valuation on the property.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Sarah Carter, seconded by Cr Martin Zakharov, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Question

Mr Steve Meddis, resident of West Footscray asked the following questions:

1. Valuations are not (real time) should consider current economic status.
2. Property valuations out of whack with the rest of Melbourne Councils.
3. Elderly residents should not be forced to sell their homes so as to pay rates

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that valuations are a lag indicator. The methodology of the Valuer-General is to look at property sales in prior years and

assess the valuation on the basis of that market. Mr Wall continued that there are a variety of valuations from Yarraville to Braybrook and Maidstone. There is wide-spread difference in valuations both across the municipality and across Melbourne. Mr Wall confirmed that Council has a Hardship Policy which can assist those who are having difficulty paying their rates.

The Director Corporate Services, Ms Celia Haddock noted that Council has the highest pensioner rebate in Victoria, and also offers payment plan to any resident. The other opportunity for ratepayers is for those who cannot pay their rates at all, Council will withhold the rate payments until the property is sold.

Question

Ms Irene Bongetti, resident of Yarraville asked the following questions:

1. Why do the community survey always ignore the level of rates in this municipality?
2. For years Council has told ratepayers that there are many unrateable properties in this area that no longer apply – why haven't the rates been reduced?
3. Is the Council willing to have a referendum or vote on the level of rates in this Municipality?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that there are questions in the community satisfaction survey in relation to rates and services provided. Council receives that feedback from the residents.

Mr Wall noted that the Local Government Act 1989 sets out the properties that are rateable and those that are not rateable. Those that are not rateable include churches and universities. Further development in the municipality increases the number of developments and means that the rates burden is shared amongst a greater portion of properties within the municipality.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Martin Zakharov, seconded by Cr Catherine Cumming, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Question

Ms Michelle Thomas, resident of Footscray asked the following questions:

1. Is there a strategy to remove single dwelling properties from the Footscray Activity Centre Zone
2. Could single dwelling properties be revalued at a reasonable market value that recognises the value of a family home rather than a potential development site

Response

The Director of Planning Services, Mr Nigel Higgins noted that there a range of plans for Footscray and none of them include removing single dwelling properties. There is a focus on Footscray to protect Council's heritage and neighbourhood character.

Demographics show that there is a need for a diverse range of housing types and Council are planning accordingly.

Question

Ms Joanne Canny, resident of Seddon asked the following question:

1. What can the Council do to cap individual properties at the CPI overall cap of 2.5% rather than the total rates income capped where some properties rates increase disproportionately to others?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that Council is currently reviewing its rates system, and modelling rates distribution models.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Martin Zakharov, seconded by Cr Sarah Carter, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Mr Wall continued by noting that Council would implement a community forum to talk through the issue of rates, increase the understanding of the rating system, and get representatives from the State Government and the Valuer-General's office to discuss what options might exist for Council to consider. Mr Wall also noted that in the rate capping environment, Council was looking at an \$86 million reduction in income over a 10 year period. Mr Wall confirmed that Council spending is under constant review, and Council is looking at its core services and service delivery within the rate capping context.

Question

Mr Robert Wiatrowski, resident of Maribyrnong asked the following questions:

1. With the clear over development policy this Council promotes compared to Councils in the inner East that have far stricter planning overlays, at what stage does this council expect the over represented number of dwellings to reach a point where this Council will become a financially viable and self-sustaining entity that can comfortably meet its budgetary requirements like the majority of Victorian Councils and charge CIV rates using a rate percentage formula that is more in line with mainstream Victorian Councils budgetary targets. If there are no firm expectation of meeting financial sustainability targets and simply continuing to over tax its rate payers, then is the financial sustainability of this council up in the air and you address the issue by adopting tangible strategies such as extending council boundaries or amalgamate the council altogether.
2. Can this council explain why it feels the need to charge its residential rate payers the same charges as commercial and business entities who place a higher strain on municipality services and infrastructure which works out to be at least twice those of neighbouring councils who charge an added differential tax charge on these higher polluters to keep their residential rates lower, Is this council charging blanket

commercial rates charges to compensate for its smallest municipal boundaries, higher on average to other council social costs and aged infrastructure compared to more viable councils in these matters and if that's the case, why are councillors here claiming around twice the average expenses of other metro councils? Recent press articles stated that Maribyrnong Councillors have claimed the second highest expense claims out of all Melbourne Councils in the last 12 month period which begs the question 'if we're such a financially stressed council to begin with, why are Councillors lodging virtually the highest expense claims in the State when our rates charges are virtually the highest as well?

3. Do you agree to a rates review forum where rate payers look at your financial health and decide on your behalf what is the appropriate action to take? We do not wish to have council members make any financial or long term strategic decision on our behalf such as deciding to recently try and increase your councillors wages but only have rate payers make those decision who are the prime benefactors of your core revenue stream (something like 75% at last count) and are given the courtesy of making any decisions that impact what actions are necessary for the council to operate on their behalf. If so, we would like a guide as to what times and dates this forum will implemented.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that while there had not initially been a decision to have a community forum on rates, following the feedback from the Council meeting, it has been suggested that it would be a good idea.

Mr Wall continued by noting that all major Council decisions involve consultation with the community prior to adoption. Items such as Council's budget and community plans are put up for weeks of community consultation to ensure proper feedback is received.

Cr Mia McGregor left the Chamber at 8.15pm and returned at 8.18pm

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Mia McGregor, seconded by Cr Gina Huynh, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Question

Mr Kevin Pritchard, resident of Yarraville asked the following question:

1. Given the ratepayer has borne the cost of paying Maribyrnong's historic debt, why isn't the Council seeking every opportunity to reduce expenditure and reward the ratepayer with significant reductions? Why doesn't the Council live within its means?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that Council is debt-free. Mr Wall also noted that he felt that Council is living within its means. Mr Wall continued by noting that Council does set the level of rate increase each year and in doing so,

would argue that the rate cap isn't enough to meet Council costs that are going up in excess of CPI. While Council can set the rate increase at a level that is lower than the rate cap, the cost of Council materials and other associated costs is increasing at a greater rate than recent rate caps.

Question

Ms Wil Stracke, resident of Yarraville asked the following question:

1. Will Council commit to keeping services in house due to the level of community concern and need for community consultation?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that Council has not made a decision to outsource or move away from the home support service. Council has made the decision to look at options, and run a tender process. At this stage there is no decision to outsource that service. There will be a decision coming to Council in the coming months regarding that service.

Question

Ms Ann Beck, resident of Footscray asked the following question:

1. Are Councillors aware that Maribyrnong has sought at rate payers expense a federal court interpretation, in an attempt to deny redundancy payments to long standing, hardworking predominately mature aged women?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that Councillors are aware of a decision to seek a legal interpretation of Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. Mr Wall noted that Council and the Australian Services Union could not come to an agreement on the interpretation of the Agreement, and as such Council has gone to the Federal Court to receive an interpretation.

Question

Ms Fran Ryan, resident of Maidstone asked the following question:

1. In the event that there is no suitable tender or Council decide to delay a decision – has Council applied for an extension of federal funding as most Council's appear to have till June 2020?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that Council is looking to sub-contract the service but maintaining the contract over the next two years.

The Manager Community Development, Positive Ageing and Inclusion noted that Council has funding allocated until 30 June 2019. The current service agreement ends on 30 June 2019, there has been no offer from the Federal Government for an extension after June 2019. There is no opportunity to request an extension, as there is no offer to apply for additional funding as yet.

Question

Ms Tess Jolley, resident of Footscray asked the following question:

1. What does Council anticipate their withdrawal from homecare delivery will have on the aged care system – particularly in light of concerns that have led to the announcement of the royal commission?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that Council is constantly reviewing Council services, and the home care service is one that is heavily subsidised by rate payers. Council is reviewing all the options to understand what is the best future for the Home and Community Care Services.

The Director Community Services, Ms Clem Gillings further noted that Council made a decision to test the market to see what other providers are out there. Council made the decision in order to offer the most efficient, effective and best value services for the community and to see what other options are available. Council is concerned about the quality of the service and ensuring that rate payers money is spent in a responsible way.

Question

Mr Bill Atanasovski, resident of Seddon asked the following question:

1. Parking issues in Charles Street Seddon – a non-resident, commercial vehicle was initially given a visitors permit and has now been given a two residential parking permits.

Response

The Director Planning Services, Mr Nigel Higgins advised that he would take Mr Atanasovski's details and contact him after the meeting to discuss this issue further.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Mia McGregor, seconded by Cr Sarah Carter, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Question

Mr Mike St Clair - Miller, resident of Seddon asked the following question:

1. According to my calculations based on the 2016 census and current Budget papers, Maribyrnong Council charges around 20% more per head on average than other Councils. Maribyrnong = \$1214, Moonee Valley = \$968, Brimbank \$842, Bayside = \$1060, Port Phillip = \$1239. Can the Councillors explain the relative expense in a predominantly working class area? How is this justified?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that although it was a great exercise to benchmark against other Council's, Council has not done a expenditure per head of population as Mr St Clair-Miller had done. Mr Wall noted that Council's

population is likely to double over the next 25-30 years so the metrics are changing all the time. Development and apartment blocks are bringing in more rating assessments into the mix and will again change the rating metrics.

Mr Wall confirmed that Council is regularly benchmarking average rates charged against other Councils, and on a service by service basis. For example, Council has recently undertaken benchmarking on the costs of delivered meals per head; and costs of grass mowing in open space per area.

Question

Ms Gemma Cafarella, resident of Seddon asked the following questions:

1. How is it possible that the cost of delivering services has increased at the same rate that rates have increased?
2. What are you doing to combat the incredibly rapid gentrification in the area? ie, by making sure long-time residents on pensions aren't forced out by rate increases?
3. Is your council a case study in support of the abolition of local government?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that the cost of delivering services is increasing at a greater rate than the rate cap. Mr Wall noted that Council's home support services had seen a reduction in clients, but the cost to Council has increased by over 2%. Other material costs used by Council, including emulsion, aggregate and cement, have seen an increase of 80-100% due to their short supply.

Mr Wall continued by noting that there was nothing the Council could do regarding the gentrification of the municipality. Mr Wall noted that Council has deferred payment plans for pensioners and other options available to them.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Martin Zakharov, seconded by Cr Sarah Carter, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Question

Mr Neil Brewster, resident of Footscray asked the following question:

1. What are the Councillors thoughts on "Quiet enjoyment of home" with reference to the rezoning of homes which were purchased as houses and are not yet used as developed.

Response

The Director Planning Services, Mr Nigel Higgins noted that the changes in Footscray to an activity centre underwent extensive community consultation, with many people involved in setting the direction for the town centre. Mr Higgins confirmed that following the community input, Council approved the process and the changes were further assessed by the State Government.

Councillor Simon Crawford noted the Activity Zones are designed in areas that are close to employment and transport linkages. Activity Zones allow Council to guide development in the right direction and to make decisions for the whole City that are as fair as possible. Development decisions cannot be made based on the potential changes to rates for some areas of the City.

Question

Mr Eugene Milograd, resident of Yarraville asked the following question:

1. Is Council prepared to review its current rating approach in order to arrive at a fairer/equitable imposition of rates on ratepayers? If not, why not? And if so, when and in what manner will such a review be undertaken?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that the rating system is a system that is governed by legislation imposed by the State Government. The Council has advocated to the State Government to consider making changes to the legislation. Mr Wall further noted that the Council is looking for ways to support residents through the peaks and troughs of the market valuations of properties.

Mr Wall confirmed that in recent years, Council has taken the total permitted rate cap every year. Mr Wall noted that many of Council's services are struggling because Council's costs have been increasing at a greater level than the rate cap.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Martin Zakharov, seconded by Cr Mia McGregor, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Question

Mr Craig Mercer, resident of Footscray asked the following questions:

1. Why aren't our council representatives advocating for their residents by trying to get the State Government to apply a universal 2.25% cap on rate increases?
2. Are Council representatives aware of the political consequences for them as a result of their defeatist attitude and inaction in regards to the issue of rates?
3. Is this simply land tax by stealth?

Response

Councillor Sarah Carter noted that the Council had made submissions under the Local Government Act review, along with making individual submissions. In addition, the Municipal Association of Victoria has received motions and is coordinating Councils to approach the State Government collectively. Councillor Carter noted that the Councillors are ratepayers as well, and that the Council was working with a system that is outdated. Councillor Carter continued by saying that the community forum was a good idea to discuss the different ideas around the rating system, and will help mobilise the community alongside Council.

Question

Mr Simon Wilkins, resident of Seddon asked the following questions:

1. Are Seddon residents subsidizing business and commercial ratepayers with our personal rates increasing 35%?
2. Why are there so few public toilets in the Municipality, with these staggeringly high rates?
3. How much were the Commercial and Industrial rates in 2017? How much were the Commercial Rates and Industrial Rates in 2018?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall confirmed that Mr Wilkins would be provided with information on the Commercial and Industrial Rates comparison between 2017 and 2018.

Mr Wall continued by noting that residents are not subsidising businesses and commercial ratepayers.

Question

Mr George Hatzikostas, resident of Yarraville asked the following questions:

1. Media tells us that property values are dropping and will continue to drop into the next financial year. What is the likelihood of reduced rates into the future?
2. We are often reminded that one of the reasons for high council rates is due to a small population base compared to other councils. What is the Council doing to expand this base and thus redress the imbalance and to avoid the unfair and unjust situation for the rate payers of the City of Maribyrnong?
3. What is the total sum that the City of Maribyrnong has collected in Council rates for 2016, 2017? What is the projection for 2018?

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A motion was moved by Cr Mia McGregor, seconded by Cr Martin Zakharov, that Council extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that he did not have exact figures with him at the meeting, but would be happy to forward the information on. Mr Wall continued by stating that Council's total sum of rates to be collected for this financial year is approximately \$99 million. Mr Wall confirmed that sales history is the major measure in developing property values, and that this is a lag indicator. Mr Wall noted that this year's valuations were being prepared from January to May looking at previous sales data, and rates notices aren't issued until August and September. There is a chance that the market has moved since the initial valuations. Mr Wall continued stating that moving to an annual valuation system may help level out some of the peaks and troughs associated with the valuation data.

Question

Ms Maria Stogiannis, resident of Yarraville asked the following questions:

1. Please explain the justification for the use of the NAV system over the CIV for determining your Council rates and why this differs to other Council who use exclusively the CIV system.
2. When did the Valuer General come into existence as the entity that created the valuations on our properties. Who is he (name) and who elected him to that position and who does he answer to. Who do we address correspondence to directly when we don't want to do it via the Council. Can a meeting with the Valuer General be organised to discuss matters directly?
3. What is the justification for increased rates when the CPI is 2.5%. Why should we link increased rates to property values in a way that is unjustifiable and inequitable. This is grossly unfair and disadvantaging for rate payers.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Wall noted that Victoria's Valuer-General is Robert Marsh who is the government's authority on statutory valuations. Mr Wall further noted that Council would be hosting a forum and inviting Mr Marsh to attend to provide residents with further information on the rating system.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The purpose of this report was to present for confirmation, the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 September 2018.

Council Resolution

That Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 September 2018.

Moved: Cr Sarah Carter
Seconded: Cr Martin Zakharov

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.1. Noting of Confirmed Minutes of Special Committees

The purpose of this report was to present for noting the confirmed minutes of the Council's Special Committees established under section 86 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the confirmed minutes of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan Meeting held on 25 May 2018 and the City Development Special Committee held on 26 June 2018.

Moved: Cr Gina Huynh
Seconded: Cr Mia McGregor

CARRIED

7.2. Noting of Confirmed Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 26 June 2018 & 21 August 2018

The purpose of this report was to present for noting the confirmed minutes of the Council's Audit and Risk Committee established under section 139 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the adopted minutes of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes of 26 June 2018 and 21 August 2018.

Moved: Cr Sarah Carter
Seconded: Cr Mia McGregor

CARRIED

8. PETITIONS

8.1. Petition: Keep Cycle Saloon in Pipemaker's Park

The purpose of this report was to table a petition received in relation to a request to keep the Cycle Saloon operating in Pipemaker's Park.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition requesting Petition: Keep Cycle Saloon in Pipemaker's Park.*
- 2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to consider the petition and determine the appropriate response.*

Moved: Cr Gina Huynh
Seconded: Cr Sarah Carter

CARRIED

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1. Public Art Strategy 2019 - 2029

The purpose of this report was to present the Public Art Strategy 2019 - 2029 for consideration by Council.

Council Resolution

That Council endorse the Draft Public Art Strategy 2019 – 2029 to be exhibited for public comment for a period of four weeks.

Moved: Cr Martin Zakharov
Seconded: Cr Mia McGregor

CARRIED

9.2. Consideration of the Maribyrnong City Council Annual Report 2017/2018

The purpose of this report was to allow Council to consider the Maribyrnong City Council Annual Report 2017/2018, including a report of operations, and audited Performance and Financial Statements.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Maribyrnong City Council Annual Report 2017/2018.*
- 2. Pursuant to S133 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989, gives public notice that the Maribyrnong City Council Annual Report 2017/2018 has been prepared and can be inspected at Council Offices and on Council's website.*

Moved: Cr Sarah Carter
Seconded: Cr Martin Zakharov

CARRIED

9.3. Review of Risk Management Policy

The purpose of this report was to provide Council with the updated Risk Management Policy.

Council Resolution

That Council adopts the Risk Management Policy 2018.

Moved: Cr Catherine Cumming

Seconded: Cr Mia McGregor

CARRIED

9.4. Assembly of Councillors - September 2018

The purpose of this report was to receive and note the record of Assemblies of Councillors for September 2018.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the record of Assemblies of Councillors for September 2018.

Moved: Cr Simon Crawford
Seconded: Cr Catherine Cumming

CARRIED

9.5. Delegates Report - September 2018

The purpose of this report was to present the Councillor delegates' reports for the period September 2018.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the Councillor delegates' reports September 2018 which will be made available on Council's website for the term of the current Council.

Moved: Cr Gina Huynh
Seconded: Cr Mia McGregor

CARRIED

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with clause 20.16 of Council's Meeting Procedures, the Mayor, Cr Cuc Lam, vacated the Chair to the Deputy Mayor, Cr Sarah Carter, in order to move Agenda Item 10.1.

10.1. Notice Of Motion: Solar Access Program

Council is aware of the growing problem of energy hardship for our most vulnerable residents, including our pensioners. The cost of energy has increased significantly in the past ten years and those on the lowest incomes have the greatest exposure to financial stress from energy bills, and are also the least likely of our community members to be able to access affordable forms of finance to enable them to purchase renewable energy systems.

This program will provide affordable options for low income households to access renewable energy systems, and at the same time address the issue of energy hardship community by reducing energy bills in their homes. We currently have 4,200 pensioner homes in the city which could be eligible to participate in such a program over time.

The program also directly supports Council's commitment to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Maribyrnong City Council became a Zero Carbon Council in 2015 and has a target to assist our community to become Zero Carbon by 2020.

Council Resolution

That Council request the Chief Executive to prepare a Business Case and indicative Implementation Timeline, as soon as practicable, for the introduction of a Council supported Solar Panel Access program for pensioner households to assist them in gaining access to renewable energy sources and reduce their household energy costs.

Moved: Cr Cuc Lam
Seconded: Cr Catherine Cumming

CARRIED

The Mayor, Cr Cuc Lam resumed the Chair.

Cr Sarah Carter left the Chamber at 9.55pm and returned at 9.56pm.

10.2. Notice Of Motion: Council Support for transition to Renewable Energy Powered Trains in the Melbourne Metropolitan Rail Network

The energy sector is undergoing a transition as investment moves away from coal, oil and gas towards clean sources of energy including wind, solar and energy storage.

The transport sector is the second largest emitter of carbon pollution and Melbourne's trains are the second largest consumer of electricity in Victoria.

The PTUA estimates the train network currently consumes roughly 450-500 gigawatt hours of electricity annually. This is likely to increase in coming years as new train lines & services become active.

By contracting a combination of wind, solar and energy storage projects Melbourne's Metropolitan train network can source its electricity from renewable energy sources.

The initiative will assist the Metropolitan train network both to promote and to take advantage of the transition to renewable energy in the electricity sector, with cost savings as well as reduced pollution.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- 1. Welcomes the State Government's recent action in transitioning Melbourne's Tram network to run on renewable power.*
- 2. Proposes that the State Government commits to necessary actions to extend this transition to the Melbourne Metropolitan train network.*
- 3. Notes that such an initiative will assist in reducing the carbon footprint of travel within the City of Maribyrnong, and is consistent with Council's Environmental Policies.*

Moved: Cr Simon Crawford

Seconded: Cr Martin Zakharov

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

12. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Council Resolution

That Council, in accordance with section 89(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989, close the meeting to members of the public at 9.56pm to consider Confidential Agenda item 12.1, Personnel Matter, as it contains information in relation to personnel matters.

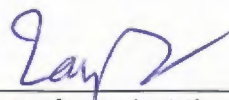
Moved: Cr Catherine Cumming

Seconded: Cr Martin Zakharov

CARRIED

13. MEETING CLOSURE

The Chair, Mayor Cr Cuc Lam, declared the meeting closed at 10.03pm.



To be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting
to be held on 20 November, 2018.

Chair, Mayor Cr Cuc Lam