

MINUTES

for the Special Meeting of Council held in the council chamber –
104 Hovell Street, Wodonga on Monday, June 16, 2014.

Present

Cr M Byatt

Cr M Fraser

Cr E Kerr

Cr L Mahood

Cr A Speedie

Cr J Watson

In attendance

Mr T Ierino	Director Business Services
Ms D Mudra	Director Community Development
Mr L Schultz	Director Planning and Infrastructure



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INVEST**

1. Calling to order

The meeting commenced at 9am and was called to order by the director community development, Debra Mudra.

Ms Mudra advised that she was the CEO's delegate for the meeting and that in the absence of the Mayor it was necessary for the councillors to elect a chairperson. The election process would be undertaken at item five.

2. Statement of acknowledgement

Ms Mudra read the following:

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

3. Apologies and requests for leave of absence

An apology was received from the Mayor, Cr Rodney Wangman. It was also noted that the chief executive officer, Patience Harrington, was an apology.

4. Declaration under Acts, Regulations, Codes or Local Laws

Recording of council meeting

Ms Mudra advised that council's Meeting Procedure Local Law states that audio, video, or still image recording devices are not to be used, unless prior approval has been given by the Chairperson or by council. Members of the public gallery were requested to observe this requirement.

5. Election of chairperson

Ms Mudra invited nominations for the position of chairperson. Cr Fraser nominated Cr Speedie. The nomination was seconded by Cr Watson, and the nomination was accepted. There were no other nominations. In the absence of any other nominations Cr Speedie was declared chairperson and assumed the chair.

6. Declaration by councillors of any conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

7. Officers reports for determination

6.1 Request to be heard - draft 2014-15 budget

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8. Confidential business

Nil. There was no confidential business.

9. Close of meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.15pm.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2014.

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Chairperson

Request to be heard - draft 2014-15 budget

Purpose of report

This special council meeting is being held to hear from persons who have requested to be heard in support of a submission under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) on the draft 2014-15 budget. This report explains the process to be followed.

Background

At its meeting of May 12, 2014 Council resolved to give public notice of the draft budget.

When the period for submissions on the draft budget closed eight submissions had been received (and a copy of all submissions provided to councillors). One of the submitters, Mr Tim Levesque, chief executive officer, SS&A Club, has asked to be heard in support of the written submission.

Mr Levesque has been advised that:

- *All councillors have received a copy of the submission.*
- *You will have up to 15 minutes to speak to the submission. The Chairperson may extend the period if it appears that the time allowed is insufficient where there is complexity in the submission.*
- *The comments, or a summary of them, may be included in a report to a future Council meeting at which a report on the section 223 process will be considered.*
- *Your comments should be in support of the written submission.*
- *Other than to clarify procedural matters through the Chairperson, there will be no opportunity to ask questions of the councillors.*
- *There will be no questions directed at you while you speak to the submission. The Chair or other councillors may ask questions once you have finished speaking to the submission in order to clarify or explore matters raised.*
- *You are requested to observe any directions that the Chairperson may give.*

Council plan / key strategic activity

Strategic Objective	Strategy
We are innovative, responsive and responsible in the way we conduct business.	Responsible financial management.
We are innovative, responsive and responsible in the way we conduct business.	Practice good governance, act with transparency and integrity in our decision-making.

Request to be heard - draft 2014-15 budget (cont'd)
Council policy / strategy implications

Council has issued Guidelines on the section 223 process and this special meeting is being conducted in accordance with those Guidelines.

Risk management implications

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation action
Section 223 hearing is not held and council is in breach of the Act.	E	4	Significant	Conduct the hearing in accordance with the requirements in the Act.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications with holding this hearing, with all costs covered in council's operational budget for 2013-14.

Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Social/cultural implications

There are no social / cultural implications associated with this report.

Legislative implications

This hearing is part of the legislative process by which council considers submissions received under section 223 of the Act.

Consultation proposed / undertaken

This special council meeting is a part of the legislated process involving a public call for submissions, and an opportunity to be heard.

Options for consideration

Council is required by legislation to provide for submitters to be heard in support of section 223 submissions. This process complies with the resolution of council of May 12, 2014.

Request to be heard - draft 2014-15 budget (cont'd)

Conclusion

The request to be heard is a right for any submitter who responds to a section 223 public notice on a proposed action by council. This meeting will provide the opportunity for this to occur.

Attachments

There are no attachments. Separate to this report councillors have received a copy of the submission from Mr Levesque.

Declaration of conflict of interests

Under section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Director business services - Trevor Ierino

In providing this advice as Director, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Governance officer - Kevin Scully

In providing this advice as the report author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Recommendation

That the presentation made in support of the section 223 submission from Mr Tim Levesque, chief executive officer, SS&A Club be noted, and a summary of the presentation be included in a report on the section 223 process for the 2014-2015 budget to the ordinary meeting of Council scheduled for June 23, 2014.

Request to be heard - draft 2014-15 budget (cont'd)

In support of the written submission from Tim Levesque, chief executive officer, SS&A Club, the Club was represented at the special council meeting by Mr Gerard Darmody, chief operating officer, David Broad, Vice President, and Rod Carmody, finance controller.

The following points were made:

- The recent adoption of a business plan and the financial improvements achieved, are aimed at achieving a viable golfing operation.
- There has been a large debt reduction over the past three years, and the SS&A Club expect to achieve a \$200,000 improvement in the current financial year.
- The financial improvements have included the leasing of the Club House and savings to the maintenance budget of \$100,000.
- In the last four years the SS&A Club has attempted to sell the golf club but there has been no significant interest.
- The SS&A Club has met on a number of occasions with council, with staff and councillors, to look at how council might assist.
- The Club is now formalising its request for \$100,000 a year for the next three years, and a \$300,000 one-off grant to assist with a NECMA permit.
- A new board was elected some 3½ years ago, and five of the current board are residents of Wodonga.
- The core business of the SS&A Club is propping up the golf operations.
- The future of the Club cannot be guaranteed, and the Club needs an ally to help.
- With no poker machines on site, the Club should receive non-rateable status.
- The volunteer commitment from members has been substantial and has helped minimise losses.

Motion

Crs Michael Fraser / John Watson

That the recommendation be adopted.

(Carried)

Request to be heard - draft 2014-15 budget (cont'd)

Following the presentation from the SS&A Club it was noted that the Murray Valley Centre had also requested to be heard, but due to an administrative oversight they had not been invited to attend the special meeting. A subsequent phone call to the Murray Valley Centre had confirmed that a representative could attend the special meeting at 11am.

In accordance with clause 50 of the Meeting Procedure Local Law the meeting was adjourned at 9.20am, to reconvene at 11am for the purpose of hearing from Mr David Martin of the Murray Valley Centre.

The meeting reconvened at 11am.

David Martin, chief executive officer, Murray Valley Centre (MVC) presented to the special council meeting. The following points were made:

- The MVC is in its 55th year, as a not for profit, charitable, incorporated body, with a voluntary committee of management.
- The MVC currently has 70 clients. It is a feeder for Belvoir Special Development School. It has a workforce of 13 people with disabilities.
- It accepts people with all disabilities, including those with challenging behaviours.
- With the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the MVC needs to strategically plan its future.
- It has an annual turnover of \$2M.
- It has ongoing expenses, as well as one-off expenses such as \$95,000 for a new bus to service clients from across the region. The acquisition of the bus is one of the requirements for quality accreditation.
- The introduction of the NDIS will change the method of funding to the individual, who will then choose the preferred service.
- It is acknowledged that council has assisted the MVC workforce with purchasing services.
- The MVC is seeking \$15,000 as a contribution towards a strategic plan.

Motion

Crs Lisa Mahood / Mark Byatt

That the presentation made in support of the section 223 submission from Mr David Martin, chief executive officer, Murray Valley Centre be noted, and a summary of the presentation be included in a report on the section 223 process for the 2014-2015 budget to the ordinary meeting of Council scheduled for June 23, 2014.

(Carried)