

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting 5 July 2022

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MINUTES OF CITY OF VINCENT SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AS E-MEETING AND AT THE ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIC CENTRE, 244 VINCENT STREET, LEEDERVILLE ON TUESDAY, 5 JULY 2022 AT 6:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Emma Cole Presiding Member

Cr Susan Gontaszewski South Ward
Cr Ron Alexander North Ward
Cr Alex Castle North Ward

Cr Dan Loden North Ward (electronically from 6.53pm)

Cr Suzanne Worner North Ward
Cr Jonathan Hallett South Ward
Cr Ross loppolo South Ward
Cr Ashley Wallace South Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: David MacLennan Chief Executive Officer

John Corbellini Executive Director Strategy &

Development

Andrew Murphy Executive Director Infrastructure &

Environment

Virginia Miltrup Executive Director Community &

Business Services

Rhys Taylor Executive Manager Financial Services
Peter Varris Executive Manager Corporate Strategy &

Governance

Wendy Barnard Council Liaison Officer

Public: Approximately twelve members of the public.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Presiding Member, Mayor Emma Cole declared the meeting open at 6:00pm and read the following Acknowledgement of Country statement:

"The City of Vincent would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging".

2 APOLOGIES / MEMBERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3 (A) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND RECEIVING OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The following questions and statements were received at the meeting. This is not a verbatim record of questions and statements made at the meeting.

3.1 Anna Kelderman of Mount Hawthorn

- Spoke in support of paid parking.
- Encouraged ongoing consideration of increased rates of parking payable for longer term parking, particularly the all day repeat parkers.
- Mentioned that the current scenario incentivises driving in the City, when alternative modes of transport could be used.
- Stated that if car parks are not earning money for the City then the ratepayers are subsidising the choice of others to drive, many of whom are not City ratepayers.

- Mentioned that research and evidence has shown that higher rates of accessible and public transport in any given precinct increases average expenditure and dwell time, which is what the businesses want. A transition should be encouraged, with businesses being supported.
- Stated that paid parking is an obvious choice to pave the transition to sustainable transport.
- Mentioned that subsidising a choice to drive is not an equitable distribution of costs among precinct
 users. As a small business owner the lease includes a fee for onsite parking via the lease, and
 commercial rates and charges are also passed on to the business. Businesses that do not have
 onsite parking, have their parking is subsidised by the City.
- Stated that Leederville has one of the most accessible locations in the metro area, incentives should be in place to encourage public transport.
- Mentioned that lunch or dinner on the strip in Leederville is poorer due to the traffic noise and smell, and lack of safety. The safety will not be improved by the transition to e-vehicles. The only way to improve the situation is that vehicle movement should be reduced.
- Stated that multiple City plans demand reduced vehicle movement as a core strategy, making the centres safer and better for business.
- Stated that in the Imagine Vincent survey, the community asked for a sustainable city, specifically sustainable transport. This paid parking increase is the least we can do to achieve this.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Cole, thanked Ms Kelderman for her comments.

3.2 Andrew Parissis of North Perth

- Spoke against paid parking.
- Stated that he owns a business in Leederville and that the paid parking will not affect his business, especially during the day, as there is nobody around during the day however retail is reliant on car parking.
- Mentioned that retail in the precinct is dying and we should be encouraging people to come to Leederville.
- Stated that the City of Perth is offering free parking to save the retail stores, an example the City should be following.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Cole, thanked Mr Parissis for his comments.

3.3 Greg Johnson of Mt Hawthorn

- Spoke against paid parking.
- Stated that he owns Treadway Shoes in Mount Hawthorn, which has been operating for over 70 years
- Mentioned that retail depends on passing traffic, and feels that people will choose not to come to Leederville when they could go to shops with free parking.
- Stated that the economic environment is not good, and now is not the time to make this change.
- Queried the parking infrastructure that has been placed on the street in Oxford Street and asked who approved it, is the Council aware of it and where did the budget come from?
- Stated that he feels the Council wants to impose an uncompetitive environment on the retailers.

David MacLennan, CEO, advised that the infrastructure referred to is parking sensors in time limited car bays, not cameras. The sensors alert the Rangers electronically if somebody has exceeded their parking time limit.

3.4 Daniel Habib of Mt Hawthorn

- Spoke in support of underground power, but does agree with the funding proposals, which he feels are neither appropriate nor equitable.
- Stated that the City proposes a blanket 2.1% rate increase for every ratepayer, for a fund to be used for underground power. Some ratepayers will not be able to access the underground power, due to the location of their homes, and some ratepayers already have underground power.
- Stated that only ratepayers that will benefit should contribute.

 Mentioned that the City should pay down its debt, so that it could be used to finance the underground power.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Emma Cole, advised that the City has recently become eligible for a further five underground power projects, covering parts of Perth, Highgate, Mount Hawthorn, North Perth, Leederville and West Perth. The City has not yet received maps from Western Power, but understand that these projects will cover most, if not all, of the City of Vincent that is not yet covered by underground power.

3.5 Dudley Maier of Highgate

I do not support this budget and think it is a window into Vincent's financial management.

Firstly, the treatment of businesses is appalling. Last year the City stopped collecting commercial waste, saving \$921,000. Rather than pass on that saving through reduced rates, the logical and fair thing to do, they provided a one-off rebate. If the ongoing savings had been reflected in a reduced rate-in-the-dollar it would mean that this year's rate in the dollar is 20.9% higher than last year.

Businesses are effectively paying 20.9% more than they did last year – and they then still have to pay for waste collection.

Secondly, to have the Director include in her presentation that a "lower commercial rate is designed to support local businesses" is misleading. The lower commercial rate in the dollar reflects the previous minister's directive that rates should stay the same, at the same time the Valuer General reviewed the GRVs. The review showed that residential GRVs were significantly reduced, while commercial GRVs stayed the same. In order to meet the 'no change' requirement, the residential Rate in the dollar had to increase. Commercial and residential essentially paid the same as they did before, just the way of calculating it changed.

For the City to say that this was 'designed' to support local businesses is misleading.

Then there is the 2.1% increase for underground power. It's essentially providing bridging finances to the residents who choose to pay off underground power over time. It is inequitable – the whole community pays, yet a small number benefit. People who have already paid to put power underground, including those in the Highgate East area, will have to pay; the people outside of the three initial areas have to pay even though they are unlikely to get underground power for years; businesses have to pay although the scheme is in residential areas.

You should have chosen to go down the Subiaco model, but you didn't, so you should adopt a user pays model funded by short term loans or from municipal funds, with full cost recovery, just like the current rate instalment system. Vincent can borrow more money, and there currently is \$12.7 million in unrestricted funds in the bank, and this is near the low point of the revenue cycle.

Once again, the capital budget is unrealistically too high. Last year your said you'd spend \$22 million – \$10 million of which came directly from ratepayers. You ended up spending \$8.8 million of that \$22 million. And this year you want \$20.4 million. You promise, but fail to deliver, and take our money while you do it.

To me it looks like a lot of padding to compensate for poor financial management or project management. Rates would be a lot less, at least in the short term, if you got a handle on capital projects.

There are other points in the information you provided to the community, like the fact that, in order to justify a pay increase, you said employees had a pay freeze for one year without mentioning that they were compensated with time off that year; or that they in fact received a 1.5% pay rise last year.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Cole, thanked Mr Maier for his comments and clarified that there are some commercial areas being covered by underground power. One of the project areas covers Scarborough Beach Road and Oxford Street in Mount Hawthorn town centre, and the City will be exploring further commercial underground power in the new project areas.

3.6 Ray Stevenson of North Perth

- Thanked Council for approving \$50,000 for the Beatty Park Reserve drainage.
- Requested that the City communicates with residents and keeps them informed of progress.

- Provided some background on the drainage.
- Stated that in this economic environment the \$50k may not be enough.
- Stated that the residents are looking forward to the approved works taking place.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Cole, thanked Mr Stevenson for his comments.

3.7 Bec Johnson of Mt Hawthorn

- Spoke against the budget.
- Stated that on this budget ratepayers, residents and businesses of Vincent are being asked to shoulder the City's budget burden through significant rate rises and increases to fees and charges
- Mentioned that a 7.6% rate increase has been proposed, along with increases to fees and charges, including parking fees in Leederville.
- Stated that in an environment where the cost of living is increasing, these are significant increases that will hurt ratepayers and residents, particularly the most vulnerable and business that are already hurting.
- Mentioned that some increases to rates are to be expected, what is proposed is too much and without any corresponding action to curb City spending this is neither a fair nor a balanced approach.
- Mentioned that costs are going up everywhere and now is the time for prudent budgeting and operational efficiency. It is also the time to strike a balance between cost cutting and rate rises that is fair.
- Notes that the City overbudgets capital expenditure, with an average capex budget of \$15.6 million for the past 5 years, while the expenditure is only \$8.6 million. This means that work promised to residents is not getting done and the City needs to revisit capex budget figures and adjust them to be realistic. Additional funding could be found if the budgeting in this area was more accurate.
- In relation to operational efficiency, the City has not reduced its head count, in fact workforce spend has gone up 25%, which equates to \$7 million, in five years. This may correspond with the discretionary projects and activities that the City undertakes or with an organisation that is not working efficiently.
- Stated that an urgent review of operational efficiency is required.
- Materials and contracts expenditure, excluding last year, which involved a large one off payment, has
 hovered between \$14 and \$17 million since 2017. This year it has jumped to nearly \$22 million, an
 increase of \$5 million. Costs are going up, which presents a compelling reason to trim outgoings such
 as discretionary projects, marketing and the high fees paid to consultants.
- Mentioned that she believes Council, in uncertain environment and rising costs, would reduce
 outgoings on all but essentials, pay down debt, budget as accurately as possible run their households
 more efficiently.
- Urges Council to treat ratepayers' money as they would their own.
- Urges Council to the reject the current budget to ensure a sustainable future for the City of Vincent.
 Consider a reduced rate, budget accurately and trim costs, for example by reducing discretionary projects.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Cole, thanked Ms Johnson for her comments.

3.8 Vern Gardam of Mt Lawley

Questioned what an "artlet" is?

Executive Director Strategy and Development advised that an "artlet" is public art provided in the road reserve.

Mayor Cole pointed out the terminology is similar to parklets, which provide public amenity in road reserves.

3.9 Wayne Crofts of Wembley Downs

- Stated that he is the CEO of GoodGrocer IGA in Leederville.
- Mentioned that customer numbers are significantly down this year, and the store is underperforming compared to stores in other suburbs. The reduction is largely attributable to the reduction in customer count.
- Feels that paid parking will reduce those numbers further.
- Asked Council to consider a balanced approach to payment for parking, by considering people who
 want to do a quick shop, specifically during the day when the majority of customers attend the shop
- Paid parking is a significant barrier to shoppers attending the store.

The Presiding Member, Mayor Cole, thanked Mr Crofts for his comments.

The following questions and statements were submitted prior to the Meeting.

Fiona Rose of Mt Hawthorn

Since the previous meeting minutes and communications have been a little unclear in regards to who pays for what, and how much the project will cost residents within the proposed area and outside the proposed area, there are a few questions that might be able to be answered by the Project Manager.

If not, could you please table the following questions about the 2.1% rate increase to fund the replacement of Western Power assets.

- Typically under NRUPP programs, Western Power will cover all costs associated with replacing
 existing network except for the property owners asset, however in this program it is requested that the
 City of Vincent provide the gap between replacing Western Power assets with overhead assets to
 underground assets.
 - a. How much of the \$17.4million is to cover the gap and how much is to cover the cost to replace property owners assets?
 - b. Will the 2.1% increase from all residents pay the cost of the gap with residents in the area paying 2.1% plus the cost for replacement of assets in their property boundary? or will the 2.1% be just to fund a rolling budget, and residents in the proposed area will be required to pay back the full \$17.4million?
 - c. If costs will be recouped solely from residents in the area, why was this decided given Western Power can pick and choose how they cover the cost of replacing their assets, and future programs might not require co-contribution to upgrade Western Power assets?
- 2. Under the Victoria Park NRUPP Program Properties with an existing underground power line on their property paid a small fee just to reconnect and did not have to cover the cost of works twice. Will this be the case for residents in the current area? And if so, how much will residents pay if their power is already underground to the pole?
- 3. City of Vincent has agreed to pay \$17.4 million, what is the risk to City of Vincent and Rate Payers if the cost of construction increases during the negotiation or construction period? Will any additional costs be passed on to City of Vincent to pay?
- 4. The survey results show that 70% of property owners would happily pay the cost upfront, will this be an option provided? Is there any financial benefit to City of Vincent or Shire Residents to pay upfront?
- 5. The agenda for this meeting suggests Western Power has identified another 5 areas for replacing existing assets with underground power. Will these sections fall under the same NRUPP program, how much of the replacement cost of Western Power assets (not within residential boundaries) will the Shire be responsible to subsidise? Will there be an increase to the 2.1% rate increase to accommodate these projects too?
- 6. The Shire identified benefits included reduce street pruning in these areas, how much vegetation funding will be moved from vegetation maintenance to the project budget?

- 7. Given Western Power will be reducing their operating and maintenance costs by implementing this program, how much of their operating and maintenance budget will be allocated to their contribution to the project costs?
- 8. Was there consideration in charging Commercial Rate payers more % increase to assist with covering more cost of the gap, as they typically require more substantial infrastructure to be installed and have a greater capacity to pay? What was the reason for not charging Commercial Rate payers more?
- 9. Given the construction industry is currently over inflated, pushing both labour and resources costs up significantly, has the City of Vincent and Western Power investigated whether it is the best time to implement the program?
- 10. At what point will Western Power provide a forward program which covers the entire CoV shire? Will they always require City of Vincent Residents to cover the gap?

Ben Farrell of Perth

Firstly, I want to confirm my support for the proposed residential rate increase. Although this may not be a popular decision, addressing historical financial management issues now rather than continuing to ignore them seems like the right approach.

Secondly, the annual budget report drew my attention to a \$60,000 Capital Budget carry forward for - Stuart Street Reserve - remove playground and reinstate reserve (refer report excerpt below) with \$70,000 proposed in Attachment 2 - Capital Budget 2022/23 (refer attached highlighted excerpt).

Description	Carry Forward Budget
Stuart Street Reserve - remove playground and reinstate reserve	60,000

As a resident of Orange Avenue, which abuts Stuart Street Reserve, this came as a disappointing surprise. The playground is well utilised by locals and to my knowledge no community consultation has been undertaken to justify its removal. It also appears to be the only playground the City is proposing to remove and not replace/renew. The attached excerpt lists the project as 'renewal' but removal is not renewal and it should state 'removal' if that's the intent.

I was unable to find the \$60,000 budget amount or project reference in any publicly available documents including the City's <u>Annual Budget 2021/22</u> or <u>Corporate Business Plan 2021/22</u> (including Four Year Capital Works Program 2021/22 – 2024/45).

This decision to remove the playground doesn't appear to align with the City's Public Open Space Strategy, Public Health Plan or Strategic Community Plan – Enhanced Environment Priority:

THE OUTCOMES WE WILL WORK TOWARDS	WHAT WE'LL DO
Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and well utilised	Invest in our parks and reserves which may include increased planting, improving or establishing playgrounds or skate parks and providing improved infrastructure such as water fountains and seats.

- 1. When was the decision to remove the Stuart Street Reserve playground made and was there any consultation with the surrounding community?
- 2. Is there an opportunity to reconsider the playground removal?

Daniel Tarttelin of Mt Hawthorn

How can the CoV apply an increase in rates to its residents for the installation of underground power when this is only a Pilot? The understanding is the extra funds will be used for 'other' community improvements if underground power does not go ahead after the pilot.

Why would we pay for other improvements we don't yet know what they are? Why is there a complete lack of transparency over these funds, whether they be used for underground power, or for the purpose of improvements. Be specific.

Lately CoV has been vocal on social media about the high chance of underground power being rolled out across the suburbs. What do you know that the rate payers don't? If you know its happening, announce it. If you don't know it's happening, don't assume or provide information to rate payers that makes the council sound like they are delivering something they potentially may not be. Again, be more transparent about the current dealings with Western Power. Surely it isn't that hard.

Ross Buncle of Mt Hawthorn

Do you want Leederville to be a thriving centre of shops, restaurants, filmgoers and cultural events, or to be deserted like Subiaco?

If you impose a parking fee in the area in place of the current 1 hour of free parking, people will abandon Leedy in droves. You owe it to rate-paying businesses in Leederville and all COV residents who love patronising Leederville to retain free parking.

Cut all non-essential expenditure, abandon the ridiculously unfair 2% underground power rates levy and renegotiate with Western Power (timing is not crucial – fairness is). Prettification and vanity projects of any kind are NOT essential. Tighten your belts like your ratepayers and be responsible in your allocation of our money at this time of uncertainty and exponentially rising costs. PLEASE.

Shawn Offer of Mt Lawley

I am a proprietor of Fresh Provisions business on the corner of Walcott and Beaufort Street in Mount Lawley. I have been involved in this business for close to 30 years now have a good experience with how the area operates. I also live within the City. I would like to take the opportunity to discuss the issues at today's special council meeting, in particular parking.

Beaufort Street has suffered its boom bust cycle over the last decade. Beaufort Street has been promised plenty of support from the City Vincent in the last few years. Over \$200,000 was put forward for lighting which has beautified the street, it has done little to bring any new business to the area. We have even had pedestrian accidents on the street probably due to lack of lighting since that spend. Throwing about these high value one off projects is a lot less valuable than providing tangible ongoing support to deliver real business. This is in the form of parking in the easiest form. I was recently shocked to read that the Barlee Street carpark was viewed with a ROI in mind that was narrowly focussed on the return from the parking meters. Many years ago parking was free within the city, now parking is a revenue stream. It was heralded to punish those who rely on cars and the growth of our City and Perth as a Capital. Today it is less about that and only about the revenue.

What the area desperately needs is leadership and support from the local council. I know we are pushing for a dynamic environment to attract people to area, the unfortunate reality is that people need parking to enjoy this space, especially if the aim is to attract people from outside of our small municipality. The number of businesses that operate in these areas now is staggering compared to ten years ago or twenty years ago. The Beaufort recently opened with a massive three storey venue and provided very limited parking support for the size of venue.

Free parking is an important signal to the world that we are open for business. The nuisance of having to get a ticket was accepted to allow efficient policing of the area by the City's Rangers. This is great and should be used. Unfortunately, if I call to request the Ranger to enforce the parking requirements on vehicles in adjourning carparks, they are not available because of short staffing issues. I am told that on the phone. Immediately nothing will come of this. During the week, the guys are great. Always willing to call in and tell us what they have been up to.

We need parking to be available. There are no businesses in the City that require more than four hour business. Why do we allow for such long parking times? If you need to repair your budget, get some minds together to work at it a little harder rather than taking easy decisions that affect the greatest number of people. Encourage short term parking and discourage long term parking by increasing those parking rates.

This will motivate the behaviour we need. I would certainly be happier to have a higher rate of rates to insulate my customer base from parking issues especially when my customers have options just outside our City.

Administrations' responses will be provided in the Agenda for the 26 July 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting.

There being no further speakers, Public Question Time closed at approximately 6:31pm.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTE: The Executive Director of Local Government for the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (under delegated authority) granted approval under section 5.69(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* for Cr Wallace (4.1), Cr Hallett (4.2), Cr Worner (4.3) and Cr Alexander (4.4) to fully participate in the discussion and decision making relating to Item 5.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2022/2023, specifically relating to the Vincent Underground Power Project (VUPP), subject to certain conditions, which are listed in the <u>letter</u> from the Department.

- Cr Ashley Wallace declared a proximity interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of the Annual Budget 2022/2023. The extent of his interest is that the Annual Budget includes proposed expenditure and reserve transfer related to the Vincent Underground Power Project (VUPP). He has an interest in a property within the VUPP area. This is an interest in common with a significant number of ratepayers (est. 5,336 services). A previous report into the VUPP identified that underground power may provide an estimated increase in property value of approximately \$12,000 per residential property. He is requesting approval to participate in the debate and vote.
- 4.2 Cr Jonathan Hallett declared a proximity interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of the Annual Budget 2022/2023. The extent of his interest is that the Annual Budget includes proposed expenditure and reserve transfer related to the Vincent Underground Power Project (VUPP). He has an interest in a property within the VUPP area. This is an interest in common with a significant number of ratepayers (est. 5,336 services). A previous report into the VUPP identified that underground power may provide an estimated increase in property value of approximately \$12,000 per residential property. He is requesting approval to participate in the debate and vote.
- 4.3 Cr Suzanne Worner declared a proximity interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of the Annual Budget 2022/2023. The extent of her interest is that the Annual Budget includes proposed expenditure and reserve transfer related to the Vincent Underground Power Project (VUPP). She has an interest in a property within the VUPP area. This is an interest in common with a significant number of ratepayers (est. 5,336 services). A previous report into the VUPP identified that underground power may provide an estimated increase in property value of approximately \$12,000 per residential property. She is requesting approval to participate in the debate and vote.
- Cr Ron Alexander declared a proximity interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of the Annual Budget 2022/2023. The extent of his interest is that the Annual Budget includes proposed expenditure and reserve transfer related to the Vincent Underground Power Project (VUPP). He has an interest in a property within the VUPP area. This is an interest in common with a significant number of ratepayers (est. 5,336 services). A previous report into the VUPP identified that underground power may provide an estimated increase in property value of approximately \$12,000 per residential property. He is requesting approval to participate in the debate and vote.
- 4.5 Cr Alex Castle declared an impartiality interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2022/23. The extent of her interest is as the President of the Floreat Athena Soccer Club supported her during her election campaign. She also purchased a ticket to the Floreat Athena vs Adelaide United match and received an additional minor amount of hospitality, below the threshold for declaration. Floreat Athena Soccer Club are being recommended for a rates waiver.
- 4.6 Mayor Cole declared an impartiality interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2022/23. The extent of her interest is that her son is a junior player of the Floreat Athena Soccer Club, and she is a social club member of the North Perth Bowling Club. Both Clubs are being recommended for a rates waiver.

- 4.7 Cr Dan Loden declared an impartiality interest Item 5.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2022/23. The extent of his interest is that he plays indoor soccer with people who are members of the Floreat Athena Club and executive, and his daughter plays for the Club. The Club is being recommended for a rates waiver.
- 4.8 David MacLennan, CEO, declared an impartiality interest in Item 5.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2022/23. The extent of his interest is that his niece plays for Floreat Athena Soccer Club, who are being recommended for a rates waiver.

5 COMMUNITY & BUSINESS SERVICES

At 6:35pm Executive Director Community & Business Services and the Chief Executive Officer <u>presented</u> a brief overview of the changes that have occurred since the budget was last discussed with the community.

6:53pm Cr Loden joined the meeting electronically.

7;08pm The Presiding Member, Mayor Emma Cole, invited questions from Council Members on the budget.

5.1 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2022/23

Attachments:

- 1. Statutory Budget Statements
- 2. Capital Budget 2022/23
- 3. Summary of Income and Expenditure by Service Area
- 4. Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/23
- 5. Differential Rates and 30 minutes free parking submissions
- 6. Presentation Special Council Meeting 7 June 2022
- 7. Imagine Vincent The Sequel

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY:

1. BUDGET:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, ADOPTS the City of Vincent Annual Budget as detailed in Attachments 1 and 2 for the year ended 30 June 2023, which includes:

- 1.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature or Type showing a net result for that year of \$1,714,860;
- 1.2 Statement of Cash Flows showing a net cash provided by operations of \$9,593,571 and net decrease in cash held of \$4,580,313;
- 1.3 Rate Setting Statement by Nature or Type showing an amount required to be raised from rates of \$39,753,189;
- 1.4 Transfers to/from Reserves as detailed on the Cash Backed Reserves Statement showing a 30 June 2023 closing balance of \$12,397,174 which is a net increase in cash reserves of \$405,223:
- 1.6 Notes to and forming part of the Budget as included in Attachment 1; and
- 1.7 Capital Works Program showing a total of \$20,484,527 (including 2021/2022 carry forward projects of \$5,378,365).

2. RATES:

NOTES multiple community submissions were received in response to the Notice published in accordance with section 6.36(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, detailed in Attachment 5.

Pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, IMPOSES the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental Values (GRV):

2.1 General Rates:

Differential General Rate	Cents in the dollar
Residential	8.579
Residential Vacant	8.191
Commercial Vacant	13.791
Other (Commercial and Industrial)	7.229

2.2 Minimum Payments:

Differential General Rate	Minimum Payment on GRV
Residential	\$1,335.32
Residential Vacant	\$1,180.00
Commercial Vacant	\$1,631.65
Other (Commercial and Industrial)	\$1,288.73

2.3 RATE PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS the following due dates for payment in full by one payment on the due date or in 4 instalments:

Option	Instalment	Date
(a)	Due Date/First instalment	26 August 2022
(b)	Second instalment	28 October 2022
(c)	Third instalment	6 January 2023
(d)	Fourth instalment	10 March 2023

2.4 INSTALMENT, RATES SMOOTHING AND ARRANGEMENTS, ADMINISTRATION FEES AND INTEREST CHARGES:

- 2.4.1 Pursuant to Section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an instalment administration charge of \$8.00 per instalment for payment of rates by 4 instalments, to apply to the second, third and fourth instalment;
- 2.4.2 Pursuant to Section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates through an instalment option, rates smoothing or alternative payment arrangement.

2.5 LATE PAYMENT INTEREST ON OVERDUE RATES AND AMOUNTS:

ADOPTS an interest rate of 7% per annum, calculated daily from the due date and continuing until the date of payment:

2.5.1 On overdue rates in accordance with Section 6.51(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, subject to Section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*; and

2.5.2 Amounts due to the City in accordance with Section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995.*

Subject to the following exclusions - deferred rates, current instalment amounts not yet due under instalment payment options, registered pensioner portions and current government pensioner rebate amounts;

3. REPORTING OF BUDGET VARIANCES:

Pursuant to Regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations* 1996, ADOPTS the monthly reporting variance for the 2022/2023 financial year of 10% or more, where that variance is also more than \$20,000;

4. FEES AND CHARGES:

- 4.1 PURSUANT to Section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, ADOPTS the Schedule of Fees and Charges in Attachment 3
- 4.2 NOTES community submissions were strongly opposed to the proposal to reduce the first hour free parking to 30 minutes free parking in City Car Parks, and this proposal has been withdrawn.
- 4.3 APPROVES a fee of \$1 for first hour parking, as detailed in the Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/2023 at Attachment 3, in lieu of 4.2.

5. RATES WAIVER:

Pursuant to Section 6.47 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, WAIVES the 2022/2023 local government rates for the following groups:

Floreat Athena Soccer Club Inc.	Litis Stadium	10,680.85
Leederville Cricket Club Inc.	Britannia Reserve	2,439.79
Earlybirds Playgroup Inc.	87 The Boulevarde	1,288.73
Pride Western Australia	4 View Street	2,067.49
Town Team Movement	245 Vincent Street	1,288.73
Highgate Forrest Park Playgroup	Forrest Park	2,124.60
Volleyball WA	Royal Park	3,831.37
North Perth Community Garden	Woodville Reserve	1,288.73
Vincent Men's Shed	Woodville Reserve	1,445.80
North Perth Bowling Club	Woodville Reserve	3,650.65
North Perth Tennis Club	Woodville Reserve	2,638.59
Tennis West	Robertson Park	6,361.52
Forrest Park Croquet Club	Forrest Park	5,204.88
Perth Junior Soccer Club	Forrest Park	1,662.67
Perth Soccer Club	Dorrien Gardens	19,089.62
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Loton Park Tennis Club	Loton Park	2,927.75
Leederville Tennis Club	Richmond St Leederville	3,433.78
East Perth Football Club Inc	Leederville Oval	13,241.32
Subiaco Football Club Inc.	Leederville Oval	11,228.69
Mount Hawthorn Toy Library Inc.	Mt Hawthorn Community Centre	1,288.73
Mount Hawthorn Playgroup Inc.	Mt Hawthorn Community Centre	1,288.73
Floreat Athena Junior Soccer Club	Britannia Reserve	2,439.79
Total		119,907.35

- 6. APPROVES a reserve to be created for *Public Open Space Reserve General* to be utilised for the future development of public open space in the City.
- 7. NOTES a provision of \$50,000 within the budget that will be used to assist ratepayers in financial hardship, as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

Moved: Cr Gontaszewski, Seconded: Cr Castle

That the recommendation be adopted.

At 7:56 pm, Cr Dan Loden left the meeting. At 7:56 pm, Cr Dan Loden returned to the meeting.

At 7:58 pm, Cr Dan Loden and John Corbellini left the meeting. At 8:00 pm, Cr Dan Loden John Corbellini returned to the meeting.

At 8:02 pm, Cr Susan Gontaszewski left the meeting. At 8:03 pm, Cr Susan Gontaszewski returned to the meeting.

AMENDMENT 1

Moved: Cr Hallett, Seconded: Cr Ioppolo

That the recommendation be amended as follows:

That Council:

4. FEES AND CHARGES:

- 4.1 PURSUANT to Section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, ADOPTS the Schedule of Fees and Charges in Attachment 3:
- 4.2 NOTES community submissions were strongly opposed to the proposal to reduce the first hour free parking to 30 minutes free parking in City Car Parks, and this proposal has been withdrawn;
- 4.3 APPROVES a fee of \$1 for first hour parking, as detailed in the Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/2023 at Attachment 3, in lieu of 4.2;
- 4.4 REQUESTS Administration monitor the impact to number of transactions and revenue following the change to \$1 for first hour to ascertain any detrimental impact on occupancy or use in City car parks and provide a report back to Council by April 2023 in time for setting fees and charges for the 2023/24 Annual Budget; and
- 4.5 REQUESTS Administration monitor and review the usage of time limited 15 minute and 30 minute only on street bays in Town Centres following the introduction of \$1 for the first hour in City car parks to ensure short term visitor parking availability.

REASON:

The amendment seeks that Administration monitor the proposed change from First Hour Free to First Hour \$1 in the City's carparks from September to April to understand any trends or changes in occupancy or visitor numbers from a nominal change in fee to \$1. Carpark pricing does need to be responsive and demand driven, as per the City's Accessible City Strategy, and this would allow Council to consider if the proposal has unintended impacts and look at alternative pricing mechanisms. Given the change requires signage stickers and reprograming of machines and Easy Park, it is not a costly exercise to test and change if Council does decide to support Administration's recommendation.

Carpark users currently need a ticket for First Hour Free, and would continue to for the First Hour \$1 proposal. 15 min and 30 min bays do not require a ticket and are a good option for people seeking a convenient and quick 'drop in' to pick up coffee, takeaway food, prescription or supermarket essentials. The amendment proposes that Administration review the usage of 'short term' bays to see if there are sufficient bays servicing this need in the City's town centres. The Administration is also recommending the addition of Seniors and Parents with Pram parking in the City's carparks, so a range of parking options would be available.

AMENDMENT CARRIED (9-0)

For: Mayor Cole, Cr Gontaszewski, Cr Alexander, Cr Castle, Cr Loden, Cr Worner, Cr Hallett,

Cr loppolo and Cr Wallace

Against: Nil

8:20pm

AMENDMENT 2

Moved: Cr Ioppolo, Seconded: Cr Alexander

That the recommendation be amended as follows:

- 4. FEES AND CHARGES:
 - 4.1 PURSUANT to Section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, ADOPTS the Schedule of Fees and Charges in Attachment 3;
 - 4.2 NOTES community submissions were strongly opposed to the proposal to reduce the first hour free parking to 30 minutes free parking in City Car Parks, and this proposal has been withdrawn:
 - 4.3 APPROVES a fee of \$1 for first hour parking, as detailed in the Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/2023 at Attachment 3, in lieu of;
 - 4.4 REMOVES the proposed fee of \$1 for first hour or part hour thereof within selected-City of Vincent carparks as detailed in the Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/2023 at Attachment 3; and
 - 4.5 AMENDS the Annual Budget 2022/2023 and Capital Budget 2022/2023 in Attachments 1 and 2 to defer Capital Expenditure or cut Operating Expenditure to a total of \$496,555, at the Chief Executive Officer's discretion; and
 - 4.6 AMENDS the City of Vincent Annual Budget detailed in Recommendation 1 and Attachments 1 and 2, to reflect the reduction in Fees and Charges and the Capital Budget, as detailed in this amendment.

REASON:

- 1. Community sentiment is overwhelmingly against removal of one hour free because it has adverse and severe consequences for the vibrancy of our town centres and the small businesses that operate within these areas and the collateral damage cannot be undone.
- 2. Even if Administration's assumption is true, a 20% reduction in demand will have significant adverse effect on businesses. This is in addition to the other challenges small businesses are currently facing (COVID, shopping centre competition).
- 3. I believe the 20% traffic reduction to our car parks is conservative:
 - 89% of Visitors indicated that they would no longer visit our town centres or their frequency would significantly reduce if one hour free were to be reduced to 30 minutes. This is likely worse with visitors expected to pay \$1 from the first minute.
 - It's a fallacy to believe the removal of one hour free will have little or no effect on visitors utilising the select car parks, even for a flat fee of \$1. This is backed by the Neuro Marketing and Behavioural Economic principles known as "The Power of Free". This is well understood by marketers where it has been proven that a 1 cent fee has a significant difference and changes purchasing decisions, compared to the Power of Free. See article https://sixthfactor.com/the-power-of-free/ as an example.
- 4. This action is converse to what other local governments are doing in light of increased competition from shopping centres where parking is free.
 - o In 2022, City of Perth introduced free night time parking in City bays after 6pm, as well as extending one-hour free parking in select West Perth streets to try and reignite these areas.
- 5. For \$500k of new revenue, the risks are too great. Collateral damage is likely irreversible. Subiaco is the comparative. Look at the 2015 news report and they still haven't recovered and recaptured its former vibrancy. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z12zlgynrs
- 6. The proposed change announced to go from 'one hour free' to '30 minute free' to 'no free' is policy on

the run. It was never discussed or even contemplated with Council.

At 8:38 pm, Cr Dan Loden left the meeting. At 8:41 pm, Cr Dan Loden returned to the meeting.

At 8:42 pm, Cr Dan Loden left the meeting. At 8:43 pm, Cr Dan Loden returned to the meeting.

AMENDMENT LOST (3-6)

For: Cr Alexander, Cr Worner and Cr Ioppolo

Against: Mayor Cole, Cr Gontaszewski, Cr Castle, Cr Loden, Cr Hallett and Cr Wallace

8:50pm

AMENDMENT 3

Moved: Cr Ioppolo, Seconded: Cr Alexander

That the recommendation be amended as follows:

That Council BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, amends Resolutions 1 and 2, as follows:

2. RATES:

NOTES multiple community submissions were received in response to the Notice published in accordance with section 6.36(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, detailed in Attachment 5.

Pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, IMPOSES the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental Values (GRV):

2.1 General Rates:

General Rates to increase by 4.5% from 2021/22 values, being:

Differential General Rate	Cents in the dollar	Cents in the dollar
Residential	8.579	8.332
Residential Vacant	8 .191	7.955
Commercial Vacant	13.791	13.394
Other (Commercial and Industrial)	7.229	7.020

2.2 Minimum Payments:

Minimum Payments to increase by 4.5% from 2021/22 values, being:

Differential General Rate	Minimum Payment on GRV	Minimum Payment on GRV
Residential	\$1,335.32	\$1296.85
Residential Vacant	\$1,180.00	\$1180.00
Commercial Vacant	\$1,631.65	\$1584.64
Other (Commercial and Industrial)	\$1,288.73	\$1251.60

AND

2.6 NOTES there is no change to the Minimum Payment for the Residential Vacant category in resolution 202, in accordance with Section 6.33(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, in anticipation of the likelihood that the minimum payment cannot be imposed on more than 50% of the total rates properties in each differential category.

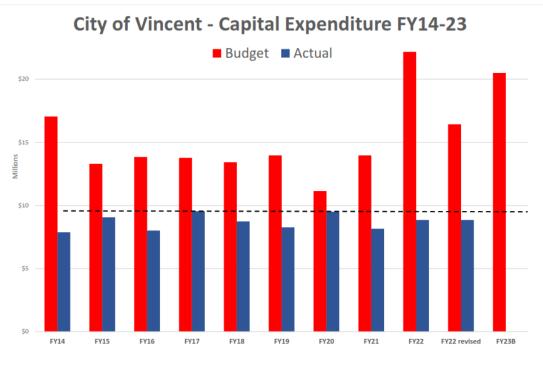
AND

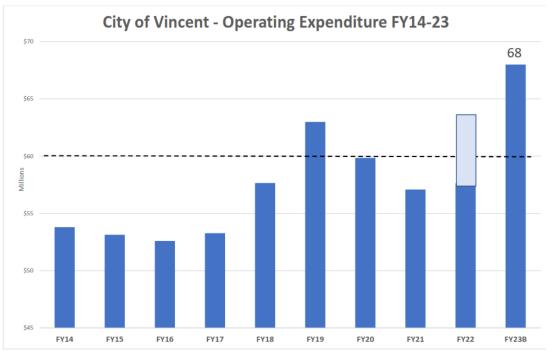
- 8. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - 8.1 AMEND the Capital Budget 2022/23 in Attachment 2 to defer or cancel Capital Expenditure of \$1,108,707 that would have been funded from municipal funds (ie net of grants, third party contributions, carry forwards); and
 - 8.2 AMEND the City of Vincent Annual Budget detailed in Recommendation 1 and Attachments 1 and 2, to reflect the reduction in General Rates and a reduction in the Capital Budget, as detailed in this amendment.

REASON:

Council to respectfully consider a rate increase of 4.5% in lieu of 7.6%

- 1. Community sentiment was strongly against the size of a 7.6% rate rise given the current economic climate (COVID, rising interest rates, high inflation, share market collapses affecting superannuation).
- 2. A 4.5% rate rise is justified based on inflation and is at the upper amount of what other Perth metropolitan Councils have levied for FY23.
 - Nedlands 0%
 - Perth 0.5% hotels and 1% residential
 - Peppermint Grove 2%
 - Claremont 3.5%
 - o Belmont 3.5%
 - o Stirling 3.75%
 - South Perth 4.9%
- 3. We all support underground power, but the 2.1% levy charged to all ratepayers is (a) not required and (b) grossly inequitable.
 - Not necessary because its purpose is to create a reserve for funding costs between when the program starts and when costs are recouped from ratepayers that will receive underground power. This can be funded with short term loans at a cost to those that choose to defer payment.
 - o Inequitable because some residents already have underground power, some will never receive it and only 1/3 of ratepayers will receive it in the next few years. Also 2.1% won't be enough and if we go down this path, there may be further calls from ratepayers.
- 4. FY23 Capital Expenditure budget request of \$20,484,528 is unrealistic that the City of Vincent will ever spend anywhere near this amount in FY23. See attached graph. It represents twice the amount ever spent since FY14.
- 5. \$7,089,044 of the \$20,484,528 capital expenditure budget for FY23 is to be funded by municipal rates.
- 6. I would like Council to consider instructing Administration to defer \$1,145,664 of capital expenditure out of the \$7,089,044 to be funded by ratepayers through FY23 municipal rates which will reduce the capital budget from \$20,484,528 to \$19,338,864, still way over anything that I believe is reasonable or realistic. As Administration is the best position to know what is more realistic than not to proceed, this should be at the discretion of Administration.
- 7. To address the future loan required for the estimated \$2-3m of initial works from when undergrounding power starts and when it is recouped from taxpayers, I propose that Administration seeks certain operational cost savings to pay down the existing debt in FY24 so that it will have the borrowing capacity to provide this short-term loan to the community, recoupable from ratepayers that receive underground power and choose not to pay upfront.
- 8. Attached is a graph of the cost escalation of Operating Costs that I believe need to be addressed in the coming year. I believe the reduction from 7.6% to 4.5% rate increase can and should be delivered through deferral of capital expenditure alone but there is always the option to have this financed from operating cost savings (given the substantial increase requested in FY23), again at Administration's discretion.





At 8:52 pm, Peter Varris left the meeting. At 8:54 pm, Peter Varris returned to the meeting.

AMENDMENT LOST (2-7)

For: Cr Alexander and Cr Ioppolo

Against: Mayor Cole, Cr Gontaszewski, Cr Castle, Cr Loden, Cr Worner, Cr Hallett and Cr Wallace

9:10pm

COUNCIL DECISION ITEM 5.1

That Council BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY:

1. BUDGET:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, ADOPTS the City of Vincent Annual Budget as detailed in Attachments 1 and 2 for the year ended 30 June 2023, which includes:

- 1.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature or Type showing a net result for that year of \$1,714,860;
- 1.2 Statement of Cash Flows showing a net cash provided by operations of \$9,593,571 and net decrease in cash held of \$4,580,313;
- 1.3 Rate Setting Statement by Nature or Type showing an amount required to be raised from rates of \$39,753,189;
- 1.4 Transfers to/from Reserves as detailed on the Cash Backed Reserves Statement showing a 30 June 2023 closing balance of \$12,397,174 which is a net increase in cash reserves of \$405,223;
- 1.6 Notes to and forming part of the Budget as included in Attachment 1; and
- 1.7 Capital Works Program showing a total of \$20,484,527 (including 2021/2022 carry forward projects of \$5,378,365).

2. RATES:

NOTES multiple community submissions were received in response to the Notice published in accordance with section 6.36(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, detailed in Attachment 5.

Pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, IMPOSES the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental Values (GRV):

2.1 General Rates:

Differential General Rate	Cents in the dollar
Residential	8.579
Residential Vacant	8.191
Commercial Vacant	13.791
Other (Commercial and Industrial)	7.229

2.2 Minimum Payments:

Differential General Rate	Minimum Payment on GRV
Residential	\$1,335.32
Residential Vacant	\$1,180.00
Commercial Vacant	\$1,631.65
Other (Commercial and Industrial)	\$1,288.73

2.3 RATE PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS the following due dates for payment in full by one payment on the due date or in 4 instalments:

Option	Instalment	Date
(a)	Due Date/First instalment	26 August 2022
(b)	Second instalment	28 October 2022
(c)	Third instalment	6 January 2023
(d)	Fourth instalment	10 March 2023

2.4 INSTALMENT, RATES SMOOTHING AND ARRANGEMENTS, ADMINISTRATION FEES AND INTEREST CHARGES:

- 2.4.1 Pursuant to Section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an instalment administration charge of \$8.00 per instalment for payment of rates by 4 instalments, to apply to the second, third and fourth instalment;
- 2.4.2 Pursuant to Section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates through an instalment option, rates smoothing or alternative payment arrangement.

2.5 LATE PAYMENT INTEREST ON OVERDUE RATES AND AMOUNTS:

ADOPTS an interest rate of 7% per annum, calculated daily from the due date and continuing until the date of payment:

- 2.5.1 On overdue rates in accordance with Section 6.51(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, subject to Section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*; and
- 2.5.2 Amounts due to the City in accordance with Section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995.*

Subject to the following exclusions - deferred rates, current instalment amounts not yet due under instalment payment options, registered pensioner portions and current government pensioner rebate amounts;

3. REPORTING OF BUDGET VARIANCES:

Pursuant to Regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations* 1996, ADOPTS the monthly reporting variance for the 2022/2023 financial year of 10% or more, where that variance is also more than \$20,000;

4. FEES AND CHARGES:

- 4.1 PURSUANT to Section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, ADOPTS the Schedule of Fees and Charges in Attachment 3
- 4.2 NOTES community submissions were strongly opposed to the proposal to reduce the first hour free parking to 30 minutes free parking in City Car Parks, and this proposal has

been withdrawn.

- 4.3 APPROVES a fee of \$1 for first hour parking, as detailed in the Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/2023 at Attachment 3, in lieu of 4.2.
- REQUESTS Administration monitor the impact to number of transactions and revenue following the change to \$1 for first hour to ascertain any detrimental impact on occupancy or use in City car parks and provide a report back to Council by April 2023 in time for setting fees and charges for the 2023/24 Annual Budget; and
- 4.5 REQUESTS Administration monitor and review the usage of time limited 15 minute and 30 minute only on street bays in Town Centres following the introduction of \$1 for the first hour in City car parks to ensure short term visitor parking availability.

5. **RATES WAIVER:**

Pursuant to Section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995, WAIVES the 2022/2023 local government rates for the following groups:

Floreat Athena Soccer Club Inc.	Litis Stadium	10,680.85
Leederville Cricket Club Inc.	Britannia Reserve	2,439.79
Earlybirds Playgroup Inc.	87 The Boulevarde	1,288.73
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Floreat Athena Junior Soccer Club	Britannia Reserve	2,439.79
Total		119,907.35
		-,

- APPROVES a reserve to be created for Public Open Space Reserve General to be utilised for 6. the future development of public open space in the City.
- 7. NOTES a provision of \$50,000 within the budget that will be used to assist ratepayers in financial hardship, as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (7-2)

For: Mayor Cole, Cr Gontaszewski, Cr Castle, Cr Loden, Cr Worner, Cr Hallett and Cr Wallace

Against: Cr Alexander and Cr Ioppolo

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member, Mayor Emma Cole, declared the meeting closed at 9.14pm with the following persons present:

PRESENT: Mayor Emma Cole Presiding Member

Cr Susan Gontaszewski South Ward
Cr Ron Alexander North Ward
Cr Alex Castle North Ward

Cr Dan Loden North Ward (electronically from 6.53pm)

Cr Suzanne Worner
Cr Jonathan Hallett
Cr Ross Ioppolo
Cr Ashley Wallace
South Ward
South Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: David MacLennan Chief Executive Officer

John Corbellini Executive Director Strategy &

Development

Andrew Murphy Executive Director Infrastructure &

Environment

Virginia Miltrup Executive Director Community &

Business Services

Rhys Taylor Executive Manager Financial Services
Peter Varris Executive Manager Corporate Strategy &

Governance

Wendy Barnard Council Liaison Officer

Public: Approximately six members of the public.

These Minutes were confirmed at the 26 July 2022 meeting of Council as a true and accurate record of the Special Council Meeting held on 5 July 2022.

Signed: Mayor Emma Cole

Dated