

MINUTES
BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2019

1. OPEN MEETING

Vice President Rex Edmunds as chair opened the meeting at 6.01pm

Present:

Rex Edmunds, Vice President (V/Pres)

Rex Sing, Councilor (Clr)

John (Mango) Moreen, Councilor (CLR)

Observers:

Cathy Winsley, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Charlie Fuller, Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

2. APOLOGIES

Members were advised by the CEO that President Zoe Singh today had advised she was absent from Monday's meeting and tonight's meeting under Dr's orders to remain at home and rest. Members further noted Cecilia Lewis was absent without known reason or apology.

Members also noted the advice from the Department Local Government, Housing and Community Development on the use of provisions under Section 39(1)(d) regarding two consecutive absences of members from ordinary council meetings.

Members discussed the need for some rules or guidelines on what council considered fair and reasonable regarding member absences from meetings and listed a number of policy provisions for the CEO to draft an Elected Member Meeting Attendance policy.

RESOLUTION 2.1

THAT council gives permission for the absence of President Zoe Singh from the meeting held Monday 24 June 2019 and from Meeting held Thursday 27 June 2019.

Moved: Clr John (Mango) Moreen

Seconded: V/Pres Rex Edmunds

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2.2

THAT council seeks from Clr Cecilia Lewis a reason for absence from tonight's meeting before the next council meeting.

Moved: Clr Rex Sing

Seconded: Clr John (Mango) Moreen

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2.3

THAT council instruct CEO to present a policy on elected member meeting attendance at the next council meeting.

Moved: V/Pres Rex Edmunds

Seconded: Clr John (Mango) Moreen

CARRIED

3.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF <i>Per s73 and s4 of the Local Government Act Elected Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council at a meeting of the Council or a meeting of a Council committee as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the issue which gives rise to the conflict.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 3.1 Council note that no conflict of interest was provided by any Members.</p> <p>Moved: V/Pres Rex Edmunds Seconded: Clr John (Mango) Moreen CARRIED</p>
4.	<p>CONFIRM MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 29 APRIL 2019 <i>Documents Tabled: Minutes from ordinary council meeting held 29 April 2019</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 4.1 THAT council accept the minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting held 29 April 2019 and minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24 June 2019 as true and correct records</p> <p>Moved: Clr John (Mango) Moreen Seconded: Clr Rex Sing CARRIED</p>
5.	<p>MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS Members were in favor of the CEO seeking further support from the Department to review the shop as a council asset, particularly policy, operations, mark ups, and staff costs. Closing the shop is a grave concern due to the amount of community members who don't have transport or health to go into town and rely on the shop for necessities, however the CEO also noted that if the shop's situation could not be reversed before December 2019 then council may not have the ability to continue running the shop.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 5.1 THAT council note the report from CEO with concerns about the shops performance and the need for help to get the shop back on track; and accept the tabled monthly financial report for April 2019 and May 2019.</p> <p>Moved: Clr Rex Sing Seconded: V/Pres Rex Edmunds CARRIED</p>
6.	<p>GRANT FUNDING UPDATES AND ACQUITTALS <i>Documents Tabled: Acquittal for SIF for amount of \$104726 and SPG \$49909 ; acquittal for elected member allowances \$109650 with surplus \$27535</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION THAT council approve the acquittal of the SIF grant funding for the upgrades and refurbishments to the aged care center for the amount of \$104726</p> <p>And that; council approve the acquittal of the SPG grant funding for the out front mower and the zero turn mower for the amount of \$49909</p> <p>And that; council approve the acquittal for the one off SPG grant for council member allowance assistance for the amount of \$109650 and the request for the surplus of \$7535 to be carried over to assist with allowances for the 2019-20 financial year.</p> <p>Moved: Clr John (Mango) Moreen Seconded: V/Pres Rex Edmunds CARRIED</p>
7.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL Nil received</p>

8. UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR SECTION 19 LEASES

Members noted highlights from previous discussions as noted by the CEO; further consideration was given to the email council received from the Northern Land Council dated 15 November 2017. Members asked if the NLC had provided any more recent figures on proposed lease amounts.

Members discussed the six Lots listed by NLC for proposed section 19 leases and questioned why council had received a license agreement for the Cemetery but would be charged a full lease on the Community Hall, Aged Care Center, and Women's Center for providing the same type of administrative service to community activity as provided to the cemetery. Members asked the CEO to negotiate with NLC for a license agreement that was the same as that of the one for the Cemetery for each of the three Lots in question.

Members confirmed the three Lots listed for the council office, the shop, and the council workshop were council properties and council operated out of them, Members agreed Section 19 leases should be negotiated on these three Lots.

Members noted that the NLC operational staff located out at Wagait repeatedly referred to Kenbi Traditional Owners as benefiting from the Section 19 leases in Belyuen; Members are concerned about the conflicting claims of representation and seek more information from NLC on who are the Traditional Owners for the Community land trust area as the community sits in a separate area excised from the Kenbi land claim.

Members reviewed the information provided by NLC on the Cemetery license and agreed the license should be signed.

RESOLUTION 8.1

Council approves the signing of the tabled NLC License for the Belyuen Cemetery for the amount of \$1 per annum.

Moved: V/Pres Rex Edmunds

Seconded: Cllr John (Mango) Moreen

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 8.2

THAT members approve the following financial plan be implemented to prepare council for the future payment of Section 19 leases:

- a) Council approves the Chief Executive Officer to proceed Section 19 lease negotiations with Northern Land Council on behalf of the Council
- b) Council approves the use of the figures in the initial email quote dated 15 November 2017 to estimate potential future cost of Section 19 leases to Council
- c) Council approves CEO seeking a new quote from NLC to be presented to the August full council meeting
- d) Council approves the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate with the Northern Land Council the Section 19 leases for Lot 291 Council Office, Lot 297 Belyuen Shop, and Lot 220 Council Workshop before the start of the 2020-21 financial year
- e) Council will raise rates and charges by the set amount of \$1047.00 for the 2019-20 financial year to raise an initial revenue base to assist in preparation for payment of Section 19 lease costs

AND

f) Council will at a future meeting, consider appropriate revenue raising strategies for ongoing payment of Section 19 leases

Moved: V/Pres Rex Edmunds

Seconded: Clr Rex Sing

CARRIED

9. BUDGET FORWARD ESTIMATES, PROPOSED RATES 2019-20

Members continued the review of the draft Shire Plan, budget forward estimates, and rates declarations carried over from the meeting held Monday 24 June 2019 with particular attention to the budget forward estimates and proposed rates.

RESOLUTION

Council approves the Draft Shire Plan, 2019-20 Budget Forward Estimates, and Proposed Rates be made available on the council website for public consultation for 21 days from Monday 1 July 2019

AND

Approves the tabled draft notice for publication in the NT News advising the public of the consultation period

Moved: Clr John (Mango) Moreen

Seconded: V/Pres Rex Edmunds

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING – Members and CEO discussed concerns regarding repairs and maintenance carried out by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, such as replacing solar hot water systems with electric ones and stenciled concrete replacing tiled floors, which are not as long lasting or energy efficient. Households who have received these repairs now have increased power water bills and there are concerns over the finish of the concrete not lasting. CEO noted these issues had been raised repeatedly over time with the appointed Housing Reference Group with no beneficial outcome. Members requested this issue be raised at the next full council meeting as an agenda item.

Full council meeting scheduled to be held 29 July 2019, and another full council meeting to be held 26 August 2019

MEETING CLOSED at 8.23pm