

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024
COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM
AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Present:

Councillors:

Cr. Tony Reneker (Mayor), Cr. Paul Smith, Cr. Krystal Maytom (via videoconference), Cr. Tony Ciccia, Cr. Matt Holt, Cr. Sandra Nardi, Cr. Tracey Morris and Cr. George Weston.

Staff:

Jackie Kruger (General Manager), Avtar Singh (Director Corporate / CFO) via videoconference, Silas Darby (Director Operations), Michelle Evans (Director Economic and Community Development) via videoconference, Sarah Graham (Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service), Terry Schmidt (Communications Coordinator), Gideon Vos (Roxy Project Manager), Francois Van Der Berg (Manager Building, Planning and Health), Sibongubuhle Tshuma (Manager Finance) and Mark Johnson (Finance Contractor) via videoconference.

Press: NIL

LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

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1. **CIVIC PRAYER** Cr. Weston
2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** Mayor Cr. Reneker
3. **APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

24/037

Resolved

Accepted Cr. Kidd's apology.

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Morris)

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

24/038

Resolved

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr. Morris, seconded Cr. Holt)

5. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Cr. Weston disclosed a significant pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 7.2 Roxy Community Theatre – Stage 1 – Build and Budget Report as Cr. Weston's company "Weston and Weston" has been engaged as a contractor for the Roxy Redevelopment Project. Cr. Weston elected to leave the Chambers when the Roxy Build Project report was being considered.

Cr. Ciccia disclosed a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 7.4 Endorsement of the Draft Operational Plan for 2024/25, as his family's farm is located on a portion of the road listed for re sheeting. Cr. Ciccia elected to stay in the meeting, participate in the debate and vote on the item.

6. **MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

7. **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

GENERAL MANAGER'S MATTERS

- Item 7.1 **DRAFT MOTIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 2024 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

24/039

Resolved

THAT Council endorses motions on the following topics for submission to the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government:

1. **Greater Assistance with managing energy expenditure and funding to deliver projects in local communities:** This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with State and Territory Governments to provide greater assistance with energy expenditure in rural, regional and remote Australia, including regulating the energy market and improving government funding support both in terms of investment levels and the breadth of projects that will be considered eligible.
2. **Increased Support for Housing Initiatives in rural Australia:** This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to dedicate a proportion of their financial assistance for housing initiatives to rural Australia where the need is great but the scale of development is unable to compete with metropolitan areas and major regional centres.
3. **Optimising the PALM Scheme:** This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:
 - provide local Councils with both the mandate and direct financial resourcing to provide additional oversight to the PALM Scheme Program and provide contextual partner-based representation to employers (and workers), and
 - provide temporary work rights for workers disengaged from the PALM Scheme who are residing and working in regional areas.
4. Determines any additional Motions for submission at this meeting.
5. Affords the Mayor and General Manager delegated authority to submit any further proposed Motions prior to the deadline for submitting Motions.

(Moved Cr. Morris, seconded Cr. Nardi)

Item 7.2 ROXY COMMUNITY THEATRE - STAGE 1 - BUILD AND BUDGET UPDATE

24/040

Resolved

THAT Council receives the update on the Roxy build project and notes that until Growing Regions funding is announced, or alternative funding sourced, Stage 2 cannot commence.

(Moved Cr. Nardi, seconded Cr. Smith)

Cr. Weston left the meeting, the time being 7:12 PM

Cr. Weston returned to the meeting, the time being 7:35 PM

Roxy Project Manager left the meeting, the time being 7:35 PM

Mark Johnson (Finance Contractor) entered the meeting, via videoconference, the time being 7:38 PM

Item 7.3 MINUTES OF RAMJO MEETING - 10 NOVEMBER 2023

24/041

Resolved

THAT Council receives for information the minutes of the RAMJO meeting held on Friday 10 November 2023.

(Moved Cr. Holt, seconded Cr. Smith)

CORPORATE MATTERS

Procedural Motion

24/042

Resolved

THAT the DRAFT Operational Plan for the 2024/25 Financial Year, DRAFT Annual Budget Statement for the 2024/25 and the DRAFT Revenue Policy for the 2024/25 Financial Year (including DRAFT Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 in Item 7.4 be tabled and discussed as separate agenda items.

(Moved Cr. Holt, seconded Cr. Smith)

Item 7.4 ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2024/25

24/043

Resolved

THAT Council endorses for public exhibition from Monday 29 April until 5:00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024 The DRAFT Operational Plan for the 2024/25 Financial Year, with the following changes:

- 1.11.1 Add Capex Item – Hydration Station along Yanco walkway \$10K (donation from CWA)
- 2.1.3 (New) Add Capex Item - Progress development of the Wiradjuri Story Exhibition \$100K (Grant)
- 3.2.3 Clarify spend – Sycamore Street adult places toilet block \$220K (\$140K General Fund and \$80K Grant pending)
- 3.5.2 Clarify spend – Installation of additional solar at Leeton Pool \$400K (\$200K General Fund and \$200K Grant pending)
- 4.2.2 Clarify that ARTC is installing a rail loop not a siding.
- 6.6.2 Remove Capex of \$320K – for main road 539 and replace with note that this funding is on hold until 2027, having been replaced by RERRF.
- 7.1.1 Clarify spend – Water meter management \$150K (\$60K Water Reserve and \$90K Grant).
- 7.1.1 Move Soda Ash System upgrade \$100K from 7.2.1 to 7.1.1.

(Moved Cr. Holt, seconded Cr. Weston)

Item 7.5 ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET STATEMENT FOR 2024/25

24/044

Resolved

THAT Council endorses for public exhibition from Monday 29 April until 5:00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024 the DRAFT Annual Budget Statement for the 2024/25 Financial Year, noting the summary of Council's detailed Capital Works Program table for clarification.

(Moved Cr. Ciccia, seconded Cr. Morris)

Item 7.6 DRAFT REVENUE POLICY FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR (INCLUDING DRAFT SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR)

24/045

Resolved

THAT Council endorses for public exhibition from Monday 29 April until 5:00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024 the DRAFT Revenue Policy for the 2024/25 Financial Year (including DRAFT Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 Financial Year), with the following changes:

- Interest charges for overdue rates, water and sewer charges are 10.5% not 9% (as advised by OLG on Friday 19 April 2024,
- Colours within the legend will align with the fees and charges pages,
- Cost Centre 141 - Section 603 Certificates statutory fee is now \$100 per certificate,
- Pricing Policy Code – Leeton Oval Complex, Mark Taylor Oval and Yanco Sportsground will all be E not C.
- Reduce the fee to \$10 per year flat rate for the Licence for Usage of Footpaths (Dining) and Licence for Usage of Footpaths (Goods on footpath).

(Moved Cr. Weston, seconded Cr. Nardi)

Item 7.7 INVESTMENTS REPORT FOR MARCH 2024

24/046

Resolved

THAT Council notes the information contained in the Investments Report for March 2024.

(Moved Cr. Weston, seconded Cr. Morris)

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Item 7.8 CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE REPORT - MAJOR PROJECTS - APRIL 2024

24/047

Resolved

THAT Council notes for information the Quarterly Capital Works Update Report – Major Projects as of the 11 April 2024.

(Moved Cr. Weston, seconded Cr. Smith)

Mark Johnson (Finance Contractor) left the meeting via videoconference, the time being 8:50 PM

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Item 7.9 DRAFT LEETON HOUSING STRATEGY 2024

24/048

Resolved

THAT Council endorses the DRAFT Housing Strategy 2024 for public exhibition for 28 days and, if no substantive feedback is received, the Strategy will be considered adopted after the exhibition period.

(Moved Cr. Holt, seconded Cr. Weston)

Manage Building, Planning and Health left the meeting, the time being 9:21 PM

Communications Coordinator left the meeting, the time being 9:25 PM

Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service left the meeting, the time being 9:27 PM

Communications Coordinator returned to the meeting, the time being 9:30 PM

Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service returned to the meeting, the time being 9:31 PM

Item 7.10 POST EVENT REPORT - 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY EVENT

24/049

Resolved

THAT Council receives for information the 2024 Australia Day post-event report and:

- add the Murrami breakfast event in the report,
- add any other minor corrections, and
- acknowledge Cr. Weston's 20 year service as Chair of Leeton's Australia Day Committee.

(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Ciccia)

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Item 10.1 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORT

24/050

Resolved

THAT Council notes the Councillor activity reports submitted for the period between 28 March to 24 April 2024.

(Moved Cr. Weston, seconded Cr. Nardi)

11. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:38 pm.

..... signed by
the Chairman of the meeting held on
22 May 2024 at which meeting the
signature hereon was subscribed.