

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 11/02/15 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

Cr Robyn Hordern (Deputy Mayor - in the chair), Jeff Johnson (arrived at 4.06 pm), Sharon Cadwallader, Keith Williams, Keith Johnson, Susan Meehan, Ken Johnston, Paul Worth and Ben Smith.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Civil Services Group Manager), Rod Willis (Development and Environmental Health Group Manager), Steve Barnier (Strategic and Community Facilities Group Manager), Peter Morgan (Manager Finance and Governance), Linda Coulter (Accountant), Tim Mackney (Manager Water and Wastewater) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were no people in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr David Wright, Mayor and Cr Ben Smith.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Keith Johnson)

That such apologies be accepted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Ben Smith

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

Nil

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Water and Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plans

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the formulation of the water and wastewater budgets for 2015/16 onwards.
2. That Council supports the preparation of a preferred draft water budget for 2015/16 onwards based on a CPI increase in water charges for 2015/16 (similar to water model two or three as per this report).
3. That Council continue to liaise with Rous Water in attempt to reduce their forecast bulk water charges for future years.
4. That Council supports the preparation of a preferred draft wastewater budget for 2015/16 onwards as close to wastewater model two as possible (i.e. 6% increase in wastewater charges).
5. That Council also accepts that alternative models may need to be presented in respect to points two and four to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the water and wastewater operations.

Cr Jeff Johnson arrived at the meeting at 04:06 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

4.2 Property Reserves - Cash Flow Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the latest forecast movements for the Property Reserves.
2. That Council in the preparation of its Long Term Financial Plan include an allowance for the construction of the Wollongbar Skatepark.
3. That Council investigate planning and funding for the Lennox Head Village upgrade as part of the review of its Long Term Financial Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

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Adjournment

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 4.40 pm

The meeting resumed at 4.43 pm

4.3 Special Rate Variation Application - Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the application for a special rate variation for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
2. That Council notes the preliminary forecast for the General Fund Long Term Financial Plan, as per the second attachment to this report.
3. That Council approves the recruitment of the vacant GIS position, as detailed within this report.
4. That Council approves the recruitment of the vacant Building Surveyor position, as detailed within this report.
5. That in the preparation of the Long Term Financial Plan, Council consider a \$10,000 annual allowance for urban fig tree maintenance.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

4.4 Fit for the Future - Overview

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Susan Meehan)

That Ballina Shire Council, noting the results of the Fit for the Future Program statistics in the report, but also recognising the real world values present in Ballina Shire Council's overall culture, declares it has no interest in amalgamation or any other form of dilution of its commitment to the well being of the Shire.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

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4.5 Ballina Pyrolysis Project - Update

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ken Johnston)

1. That based on the contents of this report, including the project's capital cost estimate review, Council accepts that the Ballina Pyrolysis project is no longer feasible under the current funding and ownership profiles and on this basis Council will no longer make financial investments towards the development of the project.
2. That a submission be made to the Federal Government making the case for the Government to allow the Regional Development Australia Fund grant to be allocated to the completion of the design and documentation of the Ballina Pyrolysis Project.
3. If point two above is unsuccessful, Council advise the Department of Regional Services of Council's decision in point one and request the termination of the Regional Development Australia Funding agreement.
4. If point two above is unsuccessful, Council receive a further report reviewing the strategic options for the processing of organic waste.
5. The General Manager be authorised to invite expressions of interest for the development of the Ballina Pyrolysis Project.

FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Ken Johnston, Cr Paul Worth and Cr Robyn Hordern

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

4.6 Wollongbar Sporting Fields - Tender

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That Council approves the interim deferral of the tennis court related works (courts, fencing and clubhouse) from the construction of the Wollongbar Sporting Fields, due to the total funding not being currently available for these works.
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to proceed with the tennis court related works, if the current contingency figure is not required and funds are available for the works.
3. That Council approves a revised budget (including deferral of the tennis court related works) and funding sources for this project as follows:

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Item	Amount (\$)
Project Management Consultant	150,000
Statutory and Approvals Fees	30,000
Council Inspections and Fees	55,000
Consultant Fees	313,000
Contract Administration	80,000
Architect Fees	58,000
Early Works	1,622,300
Engineering / Landscaping (Synergy)	4,157,800
Less Deferral of Tennis Courts and Fencing (Synergy)	(420,000)
Construction of New Buildings	880,000
Less Deferral of Tennis Courts Club House	(380,000)
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	50,000
Sub Total	6,596,100
Contingency	416,000
Tennis Courts Allowance (deferred)	209,800
Total	7,221,900

Funding Sources	Amount (\$)
BBRC Grant	4,496,000
Interest Accrued on Grant	209,900
Sport and Recreation Grant	25,000
Sports Fields Capital Budget	123,000
Ballina Heights Loan Reserve	284,000
Property Reserves	2,084,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	7,221,900

4. That Council also confirms the \$156,000 available in Council's 2015/16 Long Term Financial Plan for sporting fields is available for the Wollongbar Sports Fields tennis court related works, if adequate funds are available to complete the balance of these works as per point two above.
5. That Council consider the construction of the Ramses Street entrance adjacent to the properties with asphaltic concrete.

FOR VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Ken Johnston and Cr Robyn Hordern

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Paul Worth

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

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4.7 Festival and Event Support Program - Additional Funds

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Sharon Cadwallader and seconded by Cr Keith Williams

1. That Council approves additional funds as requested by the Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival and the Ballina Prawn Festival for an additional \$10,000 respectively (\$20,000 in total).
2. That Council conduct an expression of interest process for the allocation of Festival and Event Support Program annually, even if funds have been allocated to existing events, to assess whether there are other events that may benefit from funding support, with the allocation of the additional funds to be considered as part of the annual budget process.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Susan Meehan and seconded by Cr Robyn Hordern

1. That Council approves additional funds of \$5,000 for the Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival and \$10,000 for the Ballina Prawn Festival, (\$15,000 in total), with consideration to be given to Council being involved in a formal machinery demonstration on the day of the Prawn Festival.
2. That Council conduct an expression of interest process for the allocation of Festival and Event Support Program annually, even if funds have been allocated to existing events, to assess whether there are other events that may benefit from funding support, with the allocation of the additional funds to be considered as part of the annual budget process.

The **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Paul Worth and Cr Robyn Hordern

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ken Johnston

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

The **Amendment** then became the **Motion** and was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Ken Johnston and Cr Paul Worth

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

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RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council approves additional funds of \$5,000 for the Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival and \$10,000 for the Ballina Prawn Festival, (\$15,000 in total), with consideration to be given to Council being involved in a formal machinery demonstration on the day of the Prawn Festival.

2. That Council conduct an expression of interest process for the allocation of Festival and Event Support Program annually, even if funds have been allocated to existing events, to assess whether there are other events that may benefit from funding support, with the allocation of the additional funds to be considered as part of the annual budget process.

FOR VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Ken Johnston and Cr Paul Worth

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr David Wright and Cr Ben Smith

MEETING CLOSURE

6.36 pm