

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALLINA, ON  
05/03/2012 AT 4.24 PM**

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**Attendance**

Cr P W Silver (Mayor - in the chair), S L Cadwallader, B C Smith, K H Johnson, P J Moore, R A Hordern, D E Wright, J L Johnson, A J Brown and S M Meehan.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Civil Services Group Manager), Steve Barnier (Strategic & Community Services Group Manager), Peter Morgan (Manager Finance & Governance), Paul Tsikleas (Commercial Services Manager) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were two people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Apologies**

Nil

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Deputations**

- **Steve McCarthy, Ballina Basketball Association** – spoke in relation to Item 4.9 – Property Reserves and Capital Projects and in particular to the proposed sporting and events centre.

**4. Committee Reports**

**4.1 Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2012/13 - Overview**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Susan Meehan)

That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the preparation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2012/13.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**4.2 Policy (Review) - Investments**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council adopts the revised Investment Policy, as attached to this report, subject to the following minor changes:

Clause 3 - Definitions (page 1) – the last sentence – include the word “person” after the word “prudent”.

Clause 9.2 (page 4) – last sentence to be rephrased in a positive manner.

2. That Council place this adopted policy on exhibition for public comment with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council. If no submissions are received then no further action is required.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.3 Financial Performance Indicators and Benchmarks**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Johnson)

That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to Council's performance against our key financial indicators as at 30 June 2011.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.4 Constitutional Recognition of Local Government - Contribution**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That in respect to the proposal from the Local Government and Shires Association for funding to assist with a national advertising campaign for the proposed referendum on the constitutional recognition of Local Government, Council advises that its preference is to only provide a financial contribution if there is bi-partisan support for the referendum.
2. The reason for this qualification is that Council finds it difficult to justify the expenditure of public monies, knowing that the likelihood of a referendum being successful without the support of both parties is minimal.

FOR VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Moore, Cr Hordern, Cr Wright, Cr Brown, Cr Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr J Johnson

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**4.7 Northern Rivers Community Gallery - Update**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report which provides an overview of the current operation of the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.
2. That Council consider as part of the 2012/13 budget the allocation of an additional \$6,500 to support the installation of the floating walls.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.5 North Creek Dredging - Preliminary Investigations**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Sharon Cadwallader )

1. That Council approves funding of \$5,000, sourced from Council's Industrial Land Development Reserve, to allow a scoping study to be completed into the dredging of North Creek, Ballina.
2. The outcomes from that study are to be reported to Council to allow a determination to be made on whether or not Council will pursue a licence to dredge North Creek.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.6 Lennox Head Community Centre - Improvements and Update**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Susan Meehan )

1. That in respect to the provision of additional services at the Lennox Head Community Centre Council confirms its priority for funding is as follows:
- 2.

**Year One**

Chairs	\$20,000
Soundproofing consultancy	\$5,000

**Year Two**

Blackout Blinds	\$7,500
Portable Stage	\$5,500

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**Year Three Onwards**

Public Address and Audio Visual \$36,000

3. That the program of works listed in point one be considered as part of Council's 2012/13 budget deliberations for the allocation of the Community Infrastructure Program (i.e. approximately \$200,000 per annum) funding.
4. That Council approves a variation to the 2011/12 Lennox Head Community Centre budget as per the following table, along with the draft 2012/13 figures for inclusion in the 2012/13 Operational Plan.

Item	2011/12 Budget	Revised 2011/12 Budget	Draft 2012/13 Budget
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Casual Hire	52,000	52,000	57,000
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Employee Costs	128,000	128,000	128,000
Sundry Administration	6,000	6,400	6,000
Insurance	27,000	27,000	27,000
Rates (Internal)	4,500	4,000	4,300
Security	4,000	3,500	4,000
Cleaning Contracts	30,700	29,000	32,000
Building Mtce & Equip	9,000	9,000	20,000
Electricity	8,000	7,700	0
Contract Management	5,200	16,800	0
Vehicle Running Costs	9,600	9,600	9,600
Contract Waste	0	0	1,200
Centre Programs	0	0	2,000
Lease - State Govt	0	0	8,900
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>241,000</b>	<b>243,000</b>
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>

5. The increase in the deficit of \$9,000 for 2011/12 is to be offset by matching savings in other programs managed by the Strategic and Community Services Group.
6. That Council authorises the calling of tenders for the contract management of the Lennox Head Community and Cultural Centre and Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**4.8 Wardell Community Centre**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr David Wright/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That Council approves the discontinuation of Council's operations at the Wardell Community Centre due to the low levels of community patronage and the inability to attract agency and other service providers to the Centre.
2. That Council receive a further report on the offer made by the Trustees of the Wardell and District War Memorial Hall to acquire the property with that report examining matters such as the status/condition of the hall, opportunities for its future improvement, use and management.

FOR VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Moore, Cr Hordern, Cr Wright, Cr Brown, Cr Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr J Johnson

**4.9 Property Reserves and Capital Projects**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Susan Meehan and seconded by Cr Robyn Hordern.

1. Council endorses the property reserve cash flows and associated works programs, for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15, as per tables one, two and three of this report, with that information to be included in Council's draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2012/13.
2. Council approves any amendments identified in tables one, two, and three of this report in respect to the 2011/12 budget.

Cr Silver declared a pecuniary interest in the Ballina CBD upgrade from the Cherry Street roundabout to Fawcett Park and departed the meeting at 5.51 pm

Cr David Wright, Deputy Mayor, assumed the Chair.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council receive a further report on funding the Ballina CBD upgrade to the 20 March 2012 Finance Committee.

FOR VOTE - Cr Cadwallader, Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Moore, Cr Hordern, Cr Wright, Cr Brown, Cr Meehan

AGAINST VOTE - Cr J Johnson

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Silver

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Cr Silver returned at 06:13 PM and resumed the Chair.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**, therefore it was

**RECOMMENDED**

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. Council endorses the property reserve cash flows and associated works programs, for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15, as per tables one, two and three of this report, with that information to be included in Council's draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2012/13.
2. Council approves any amendments identified in tables one, two, and three of this report in respect to the 2011/12 budget.

FOR VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Moore, Cr Hordern, Cr Wright, Cr Brown, Cr Meehan  
AGAINST VOTE - Cr J Johnson

**4.10 Ballina - Byron Gateway Airport - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Alan Brown/Cr Sharon Cadwallader )

1. Council endorses for inclusion in the draft 2012/13 Operational Plan the airport long term financial plan as attached to this report.
2. Council authorises an increase in the Ballina - Byron Gateway management staff through the addition of one administrative support position as outlined within this report.
3. Council approves the following amendment to the 2011/12 airport budget to reflect the anticipated cash flows for the apron extension project, which result in a net increase in cash flows to the airport of \$325,000, along with the estimated reduction in drainage expenditure.

**Capital Expenditure**

Airport Drainage - Decrease budget from \$50,000 to \$25,000  
Apron Extension - Increase budget from \$300,000 to \$525,000

**Capital Funding**

Federal Grant - Include capital grant of \$525,000  
Reserve Fund - Reduce funding from reserve by \$325,000

FOR VOTE - Cr Silver, Cr Cadwallader, Cr K Johnson, Cr Smith, Cr Moore, Cr Hordern, Cr Wright, Cr Brown, Cr Meehan  
AGAINST VOTE - Cr J Johnson

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**4.11 Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council approves an application for the following projects as part of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme:
  - Airport - Runway Renewal - \$7 million
  - Roads - Resealing and Renewal - \$1 million
  - Marine Rescue Tower
2. The loan repayments for the airport are to be financed from airport operating revenues, whereas the repayments for the roads are to be financed from quarry reserves.

Cr J Johnson left the meeting at 07:02 PM.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr J Johnson

**5. Confidential Session**

**RESOLVED**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Robyn Hordern)

That Council moves into committee of the whole with the meeting closed to the public, to consider the following items in accordance with Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

**5.1 Ballina - Byron Gateway Airport - Airline Pricing**

**Reason for Confidentiality**

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following: -

- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

and in accordance with 10D(2)(c), on balance, the discussion of the matter in an open meeting is not considered to be in the public interest as the release of any confidential information could prejudice those negotiations.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr J Johnson

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(The Committee moved into Confidential session at 7.07 pm)

**5.1 Ballina - Byron Gateway Airport - Airline Pricing**

**RECOMMENDED**

(Cr Alan Brown/Cr David Wright)

1. That Council authorises the General Manager to finalise the negotiations and the pricing arrangements for Jetstar as per the terms and conditions outlined in this report.
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to finalise the negotiations and the pricing arrangements for Virgin Airlines as per the terms and conditions outlined in this report.
3. Council authorises the Council seal to be placed on the final agreements.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr J Johnson

**Open Council**

**RESOLVED**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Ben Smith)

That Council move into Open Council and out of Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr J Johnson

(The Council moved into Open Council at 7.21 pm)

The General Manager reported to the Open Meeting the recommendation made while in Confidential Session:

**Adoption of Recommendation from Confidential Session**

**RESOLVED**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader /Cr Ben Smith)

That the recommendation made whilst in Confidential Session be adopted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr J Johnson

**MEETING CLOSURE**

7.22 pm