



Date: Tuesday, 8 May 2018
Time: 8.34am
Location: Wedderburn Council Office, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

8 May 2018

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE WEDDERBURN COUNCIL OFFICE, WEDDERBURN
ON TUESDAY, 8 MAY 2018 AT 8.34AM**

PRESENT: Cr Cheryl McKinnon (Mayor), Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Geoff Curnow, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Colleen Condliffe (arrived at 8.36am)

IN ATTENDANCE: Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), Lynne Habner (Manager Executive and Commercial Services), Sharon Morrison (Director Corporate Services), Phil Pinyon (Chief Executive Officer), Steven Phillips (Director Operations)

1 OPENING PRAYER

“Almighty God, we humbly ask you to bless this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations towards the true welfare of your people of the Shire of Loddon.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present.”

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5 DECISION REPORTS

5.1 ADVERTISEMENT OF THE 2018/19 DRAFT BUDGET

File Number: 07/01/001

Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. 2018/19 Draft Budget

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. advertise the Draft Budget in accordance with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
 - Rural Production to have a differential rate 11% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.004283 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.003813 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. Apply a Municipal Charge of \$212 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989
6. Apply a Garbage Charge of \$273 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$370 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. Apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$103 per service (240 Litre Bin)
8. Update the Strategic Resource Plan for the Council Plan 2017-21 with the current information contained in the Budget, in line with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requirements.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the 2018/19 Draft Budget at a Council Forum on 10 April 2018.

BACKGROUND

The 2018/19 Draft Budget has been prepared in draft following discussions with Councillors and senior officers.

Council has once again used the Best Practice Guide 'Model Budget' to assist with developing the budget. The Executive Summary is based on this model and has been prepared to provide an explanation of the major components of the budget.

A number of financial reports have also been developed outlining expected income and expenditure for all areas of Council in 2018/19, and comparing these to the forecast actual results for 2017/18.

The Draft Budget includes:

- the continuation of a strong cash position
- the continuation of the Community Planning program
- projects and initiatives included in Council's various strategic plans
- no new borrowings
- continuation of the use of discretionary reserves.

Council's rating increase for 2018/19 is in line with the Victorian State Government's Rate Capping Policy which has been set at 2.25% on the 2017/18 forecast budget rate income. Council has discretion over increases relating to garbage and recycling charges, and has included in the draft budget an increase of 5.0% to assist in ensuring a cost neutral position for waste collection services.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Under Section 223 of the Local Government Act, Council must allow a 28 day timeframe for submissions to be made regarding the 2018/19 Draft Budget.

Subject to Council approval, the Draft Budget will be advertised in the Bendigo Advertiser on Saturday 12 May 2018 and the Loddon Times on Tuesday 15 May 2018. Council will receive submissions until close of business on Friday 8 June 2018.

It is proposed that Council consider submissions received at the Council Forum to be held on Tuesday 12 June 2018 and formally adopt the Draft Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 26 June 2018 in the Council Chambers at Serpentine.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989, the budget provides a measure for accurate planning, and ensures that Council can deliver services and projects included in the document.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not considering and then advertising the annual budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the Draft Budget be available for public comment from a period of 28 days after Council advertisement. After the lapsing of 28 days all submissions received must be provided to Council when deliberating on the 2018/19 Budget.

RESOLUTION 2018/41

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

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CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 22 May 2018 at Serpentine commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.53am.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2018

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CHAIRPERSON