



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Tuesday, 24 June 2014

at

2.04pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** Clr JM Archdale (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, CM Lyon, SJ Schmutter and RS Thomson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr JG O'Hara (General Manager), Mr SC McCoy (Director – Engineering Services) and Mr GA Moran (Director – Environmental Services).

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

232 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that the apology received from Councillor Woods, due to a family commitment, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



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**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY, 26 MAY 2014:**

233 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Thomson that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 26 May 2014, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record with the following **amendment** to the Mayoral Minute.

“The second meeting was with Mr Nick Roberts CEO of Forestry Corporation NSW regarding the loss of jobs from the Walcha branch. Mr Roberts was sympathetic of the change in status of Walcha from a Regional Office of up to 50 employees to a skeleton staff of 8 employees which was now being reduced to four or five. Some of the Walcha positions have been relocated to Wauchope and we asked for consideration of these positions to be flexible and based 50/50 in each town. We also requested consideration be given to forming two FTE positions from the 10 casual positions engaged over the summer period as there is a commitment to land management of the forests in our council area.”

**CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY, 10 JUNE 2014:**

234 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 10 June 2014, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Item 6.4 Request for financial assistance from the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc** **WO/2014/01114**

Clrs Levingston and Thomson declared non-serious non-pecuniary interest in this matter being members of the Committee.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil.



**6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

235 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Levingston that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

**6.1 Adoption of Operational Plan 2014-2015 AND Rates & Charges for 2014-2015 WINT/2014/00956**

236 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Levingston that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 406 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council **ADOPT** the Draft Operational Plan for 2014-2015 **FURTHER THAT** the Rates and Charges for 2014-2015 for the General, Water and Sewerage Funds, as detailed in the Report be made by Council **STILL FURTHER THAT** the General Manager be authorised to arrange for the preparation and the service of the 2014-2015 rate notices.

**6.2 Quarterly Review of Operational Plan & Budget as at March 2014 WO/2014/00912**

237 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Thomson that Council adopt the March 2014 Quarterly Budget Review Statements **FURTHER THAT** Council approve the variations in Income and Expenses and Capital Expenditure Statements.

**6.3 2014 Community Building Partnership Program WO/2014/01103**

238 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council approach the Rotary Club of Walcha proposing a joint application for exercise equipment on the levee bank to be submitted with Council committing \$10,000 and requesting that the Rotary Club match Council's commitment.

**6.4 Request for financial assistance from the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc WO/2014/01114**

Councillors Levingston and Thomson declared a non-serious non-pecuniary interest as they are both members of the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc Committee.

**Motion:**

It was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett **SECONDED** Councillor Lyons that Council not agree to a donation but offer to loan the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc up to \$9,500 to be repaid over 12 months interest free.

**Amendment:**

An **AMENDMENT** was **MOVED** Councillor Schmutter Seconded Councillor



Lyon that Council loan the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc up to \$5,000 to be repaid over 12 months interest free.

The **Amendment** on being put to the Vote was **CARRIED**.

239 It then became the **Substantive Motion** and was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

**6.5 Request to rename Yarrowitch Post Office Road WO/2014/01044**

**Motion:**

It was **MOVED** Councillor Lyon that Council take no action upon the request. The Motion failed to get a Seconder and therefore **LAPSED**.

240 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Levingston that Council carry out public consultation on the possibility of changing Yarrowitch Post Office Road and/or Range View Road with a report to come to Council with the results of this public consultation.

**6.6 Local Government NSW Annual Conference WO/2014/01067**

**Motion:**

It was **MOVED** Councillor Schmutter Secoded Councillor Ferrier that the Mayor as Voting Delegate, and the General Manager as Observer attend the 2014 Annual Conference of Local Government NSW **FURTHER THAT** the payment of all expenses associated with the attendance at the Conference be approved by Council.

**Amendment:**

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** by Councillor Heazlett **Secoded** Councillor Thomson that the Mayor as Voting Delegate, and the General Manager and Councillor Woods as Observers attend the 2014 Annual Conference of Local Government NSW **FURTHER THAT** the payment of all expenses associated with the attendance at the Conference be approved by Council.

The **Amendment** on being put to the **VOTE** was **LOST**.

241 The **Original Motion** became the **Substantive Motion** and on being put to the **VOTE** was **CARRIED**.

That Council submit the following issues to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference:

1. Redistribute of Financial Assistance Grants with the removal of the minimum grant.
2. Preschool Funding – Changes to the eligibility criteria for a funded Preschool place under the new Preschool Funding Model will mean that the only funded children will either be:



- a. At least 4 years old on or before 31 July in that preschool year and not yet in compulsory schooling, or
- b. At least 3 year old on or before 31 July and from a disadvantaged background (ie: from a low income Health Care Card holding family and/or Aboriginal).

**6.7 Population Projections and Draft Regions for Growth**

**WO/2014/01102**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

**6.8 Proposed Framework for a NSW Biosecurity Act WO/2014/01105**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

**6.9 Referral to Committee of the Whole – Bad Debts**

**WO/2014/01109**

242 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matter of “Bad Debts” be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole and close the meeting to the public for the reason that it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

**7. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

243 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that Council resolve into Committee of the Whole and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the reason it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

244 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Lyon.

The Mayor reported whilst in Committee of the Whole the following matters were discussed.

**PRESENT:** Present and IN Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.

**7.1 Write off Bad Debts**

**WINT/2014/01076**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Lyon that Council write-off the balance of the accounts listed within this report.



**ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

245 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Tuesday, 24 June 2014 be **ADOPTED** by Council.

The Chairman publicly declared the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Committee of the Whole.

**LATE REPORTS:**

**1. County Mayors Association of New South Wales Inc**

**WO/2014/01140**

246 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council apply for membership of the Country Mayors Association of New South Wales Inc.

**NOTICE OF MOTION:**

247 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council establish an Audit Committee as per the Local Government NSW criteria consisting of three independent people and two councillors.

**AFTERNOON TEA**

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.22pm and resumed at 3:50pm.

**7. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

248 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that the Notice of Motion – Council expenditure exceeding or under budget – be considered as a matter of urgency. The Mayor also concurred that this was a matter of urgency.

**NOTICE OF MOTION – Council Expenditure exceeding or under Budget**

**WO/2014/00898**

**Motion:**

It was **MOVED** Councillor Lyon **SECONDED** Councillor Heazlett that the General Manager give a detailed report to Council when jobs under \$50,000 go over or under Budget by 10% and jobs over \$50,000 go over or under Budget by 5%.

**Amendment:**

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** by Councillor Schmutter **SECONDED** Councillor Levingston that in the event of a project of \$100,000 or more goes over or under budget by 10% then a detailed report be submitted to Council.



The **Amendment** was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

249 It then became the **Substantive Motion** and was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

**8. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS**

**WO/2014/01098**

**1. Librarian's Report – May 2014**

250 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the Librarian and the staff of Community Connect be congratulated on the achievements of the library and the establishment and achievements of Community Connect.

251 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Thomson that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 9 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday, 2 June 2014 at Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha.**

**WO/2014/01106**

**4.3 Nivison Lookout – needs updating**

252 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Heazlett that Council remove the signage for Nivison Lookout until the site is improved.

**10. DELEGATE REPORTS**

**10.1 Minutes of the New England Community Transport Forum held on 14-15 May 2014 at Petersons Winery Armidale.**

**WI/2014/03175**

**10.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Meeting held on Thursday, 12 June 2014 at Narrabri Shire Council Chambers.**

**WI/2014/03149**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:18PM.**