

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Date: Tuesday 9 August 2022 at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson, Councillors G W Boyde, P S Dalziel, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, V R Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

Via audio visual link: Councillor R W Coplestone

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Mrs G Gibson, the Roading Assets Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Project Engineer/Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Parks and Reserves Officer – Mrs M McBain and two members of the media (Stratford Press and Taranaki Daily News)

Via audio visual link: the Director Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu,

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media.

1.1 Opening Karakia D21/40748 Page 6

The opening karakia was read.

1.2 Health and Safety Message D21/26210 Page 7

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted he will be adding one further recommendation to call an additional extraordinary meeting.

4. Declarations of Members' Interest

The District Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

The declaration of members' interest was circulated for updating.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance Schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 12 July 2022 D22/24835 Page 9

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12 July 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

SANDFORD/HARRIS
Carried
CL/22/77

6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 19 July 2022 D22/26022 Page 14

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022 be received.

DALZIEL/JONES
Carried
CL/22/78

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022 be adopted.

VOLZKE/DALZIEL
Carried
CL/22/79

6.3 Policy & Services Committee – 26 July 2022 D22/28320 (PE) D22/28691 (Open) Page 23

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy & Services Committee meeting, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 26 July 2022 be received.

BOYDE/JAMIESON
Carried
CL/22/80

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy & Services Committee meeting, including those in the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 26 July 2022 be adopted.

ERWOOD/WEBBY
Carried
CL/22/81

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/22/82

2. THAT in accordance with Standing Order 8.3, an Extraordinary Meeting of Council be scheduled for Tuesday 4 October 2022.

3. THAT in accordance with Standing Order 8.3, an Extraordinary Meeting of Council be scheduled for Tuesday 23 August 2022 to approve the application for the Transport Choices Package.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/22/83

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- It was noted that the Forestry Training Course run by Ngāti Maru had been sponsored by council to around \$30,000 through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs funding initiative. There were eight students who graduated from the last course – all of whom had offers of employment. There were a further four who would be graduating with the next course round.
- He apologised for the typo in item 10, noting he had attended the funeral for Colin Jones.
- It was noted a resolution for an extraordinary meeting had been included to hold a meeting on Tuesday 4 October for the current council to formally receive and approve the minutes from meetings held in September.
- A request for an additional extraordinary meeting was made to allow council formally approve the funding application to the Transport Choices Packages. This would be held on Tuesday 23 August 2022 following the Policy and Services Committee. This was to ensure the application could be submitted before the closing date.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Chief Executive noted that mention of the Stratford District Mayor had been made by the Prime Minister in her address at the recent LGNZ Conference, she had noted he has been very good at promoting the MTFJ Project and he noted this was a direct credit for the District Mayor who had put himself in front of the project in the Stratford District.
- Councillor Sandford noted the Citizen Awards had been a fantastic night and that the District Mayor had done a fantastic job of interviewing the recipients. He acknowledged the attendance of elected members to the event and congratulated the staff who had been responsible for the evening.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report and attached schedule be received.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
CL/22/84

2. THAT the schedule of uncompleted projects, budgeted for in 2021/22, and the amounts proposed, be approved for addition to the capital expenditure budget for 2022/23 in the reforecasted capital budget.

BOYDE/DALZIEL
Carried
CL/22/85

Recommended Reason

To provide the platform for capital projects to be completed that were budgeted for in a previous financial year.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- This report seeks approval from council to carry-forward the unspent capital works budget into the current financial year.
- It was noted 86% of the capital budget for the previous financial year had been spent, which was \$24.5 million and was the highest capital spend this council has seen. This was despite all the disruptions throughout the 2021/22 year such as Covid-19, resourcing and material shortages. There is just under \$3 million of capital budget to be carried over.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted the Economic Development – Council Subdivision budget to be carried over. He noted he was struggling with the statement that there had not been a desire to discontinue from Elected Members as he felt it had not been discussed with them. He felt with the number of sections available and private developments occurring that council should not be continuing with this project. The Director – Corporate Services noted that the list of capital projects is presented to the Policy and Services Committee each month and includes the current status and comments. It has been noted in this report since January that the land acquisition is still under negotiation. This provided the committee the opportunity to discuss this project each month.
- Councillor Coplestone noted he agreed with the Deputy Mayor's comments and felt this subdivision was better to be left to private developers. He noted there are houses being built, houses waiting to be built and that the housing market was starting to slow down.
- The District Mayor noted that this was a Long Term Plan project that went out for public consultation and was agreed to by council, he felt by removing this project council would be doing so against what is in the Long Term Plan. The funding has been allocated for the purpose of land acquisition and the negotiation for this was ongoing. He did not feel there was a risk proceeding with the purchase of the land but could be with the development of sections if the market was not appropriate.
- Councillor Boyde congratulated staff on achieving 86% of capital budget spend, especially being the biggest capital works budget in council's history, this is an outstanding achievement. He supported carrying over the budgets but noted his concern with the current climate, legislative changes and workload for staff and questioned if all these projects could be achieved? The Chief Executive noted that all departments were currently under an unprecedented volume of work due to a number of reasons. Management were utilising a number of approaches and tools to address this as best they can. Staff are not undertaking work that is not crucial, the second trunk main is being largely managed by external consultants, and prioritisation is being done for projects particularly with funding deadlines.
- Councillor Dalziel noted his support to carry over the capital budget but felt a discussion would be required at a later stage to discuss the current market and climate before proceeding with a subdivision. He noted his concern there were a lot of small subdivisions occurring that were not enhancing Stratford and those that were not connecting to the waste water service.

- The District Mayor noted that the economic development budget was purely for land acquisition which would need to be approved by the Executive Committee or Council before being finalised. This would provide an opportunity to discontinue this project at that stage.
- Councillor Coplestone noted no change to the resolution but requested the Economic Development budget be recorded as for the purpose of land acquisition only.

9. **Decision Report – Better Off Funding Projects**
D22/27902 Page 51

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/22/86

2. THAT the Council approve for submission to the Central Government Better Off Fund, an application for \$2.57M covering three projects including the *Brecon Road Extension; the Town Centre Development - Prospero Place and Broadway Beautification - Skate Park Redevelopment, the Victoria Park Drainage Project and Enabling Infrastructure – Wastewater Project*

ERWOOD/JONES
Carried
CL/22/87

Recommended Reason

The opportunity to have projects externally funded will reduce the rating impact for ratepayers.

The Director – Assets noted that this report sought council approval to submit the projects listed for the Better Off Fund application. This has been amended to include those projects requested by the Policy and Services Committee and also to include the Victoria Park Drainage project.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Erwood noted his support for the resolution. He was pleased to see the Victoria Park drainage included in the application as this park provided a location for several codes and therefore was well used.
- Councillor Jones noted he supported the resolution, however noted his initial resistance had been regarding the infrastructure project but felt it was now clear that the infrastructure built was council's. He noted he was still concerned that with no clear plans from the Stratford Park the infrastructure could be over engineered.
- Mrs Araba clarified that the application for enabling infrastructure – wastewater, should read \$150,000 in Appendix 2.

10. **Questions**

There were no questions.

11. **Closing Karakia**

D21/40748 Page 58

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 13th day of September 2022.

N C Volzke
District Mayor