

Date: Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, V R Jones, C M Tongaawhikau, M J Watt

Via audio visual link: Councillor: A K Harris

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, and 1 member of the media (Stratford Press)

Via audio visual link: the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Mr C Julie, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson and the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden.

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, staff, members of the public and the media to the meeting.

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 8

The opening karakia was read.

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 9

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

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor W J Sandford.

Recommendation

THAT the apology be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
CL/23/1

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted two additional items had been circulated for councillor consideration. These were the Stratford District Council's submissions on the Water Services Legislation Bill and Water Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill.

In order to meet the submission deadline council approval is required to table these for consideration as item 10.

Recommendation

THAT Council approves the addition of the Draft Submissions on the Water Services Legislation Bill and the Water Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill as item 10.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
CL/23/2

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no declarations of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 13 December 2022 D22/48966 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 13 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HALL
Carried
CL/23/3

The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant undertook to make the following amendments:

- Page 9 – *21 March 2022 to 14 March 2022* amended to *21 March 2023 to 14 March 2023*
- Page 10 – The milk solid price has dropped to \$9 *p/kg*, however the farm has fixed half of its season milk solids at \$9.75 *p/kg*. Amend *p/kg* to *per kg/ms*.

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 be received.

McKAY/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/23/4

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 be adopted.

McKAY/TONGAAWHIKAU
Carried
CL/23/5

7. District Mayor's Report D23/4126 Page 22

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
CL/23/6

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the two submissions within this report from the Stratford District Council and the Mayoral Forum were very well thought-out. The District Mayor noted that with extremely short timeframes these were unable to be brought before council for endorsement. The timeframes have been noted by all councils across the country who have submitted. The Mayoral Forum submission was provided for council information and was put together by the three Mayors and Chairperson of the Taranaki Regional Council. The joint submission facilitated differing views and showed that the Mayoral Forum was speaking with a common voice with concerns being shared across the region. It is the intention of the Mayoral Forum to continue submitting in this way.
- It was clarified that the 2014 date of the District Plan, page 31, was correct.

8. Decision Report – Proposed Road Closure of Toko Road for a Car Club Event
D23/951 Page 39

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
CL/23/7

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, Stratford District Council approves the closure of Toko Road from its intersection with Raupuha Road (RP4.6) to the end of the road (RP10.3) on Saturday 4 March 2023 between the hours of 7.30am to 5.30pm for the Taranaki Car Club to host a sprint motorsport event.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
CL/23/8

Recommended Reason

In order for the Taranaki Car Club to host a Bent Sprint motorsport event, it is necessary to close Toko Road for safety reasons, for the participants and for any spectators. The proposed road closure requires formal approval by a council resolution. A similar event (Hill-Climb) was held on 27 March 2022 and by all accounts it was very successful, with entrants coming from as far as Wellington to participate. The organisers anticipate a similar number of entrants for this year's event.

The Roading Assets Manager noted that this was the same very successful event that had been held last year but with a name change from hill climb to bend sprint.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was confirmed no written complaints have been received since the report was written. The organisers visited all residents affected by the closure and all were supportive.

9. Decision Report – Appointment of Registrar – Pecuniary Interests Register
D23/5102 Page 61

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/TONGAAWHIKAU
Carried
CL/23/9

2. THAT Council appoint the Chief Executive as the Registrar under the Local Government (Pecuniary Interest Register) Amendment Act 2022 with the expressed authority for the Chief Executive to sub-delegate this role.

McKAY/BECK
Carried
CL/23/10

Recommended Reason

Council has the power to appoint the Registrar but can delegate that power. The Act explicitly states that the Chief Executive may be the Registrar (in which case the appointment should be by Council resolution). By providing the Chief Executive the ability to sub-delegate it minimises the administrative burden and delays associated with direct appointments.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- This report is a result of the Amendment Act amending the Local Government Act 2002 to require all councils have a pecuniary interests register.
- This increases the obligations of the elected members to declare all forms of potential influence they may come under in their personal or professional lives.
- The Act requires council to appoint a registrar but makes it very clear it is not the responsibility of the registrar to confirm the accuracy of the information on the forms and is purely an advisory role. It is the responsibility of the elected member to complete the register.

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted his support in delegating this role to the Chief Executive with the authority to delegate to another staff member. This will ensure a registrar is in place at any given time.

10. Tabled Item – Draft Submissions – Water Services Legislation Bill and Water Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill
Circulated

Recommendations

1. THAT the draft submissions on the Water Services Legislation Bill and Water Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill be received.

ERWOOD/JONES

Carried

CL/23/11

2. THAT Council endorses the Stratford District Council's submission on the Water Services Legislation Bill including any minor and/or formatting changes.

3. THAT Council endorses the Stratford District Council's submission on the Water Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill including any minor and/or formatting changes.

TONGAAWHIKAU/BOYDE

Carried

CL/23/12

Recommended Reason

These submissions were circulated to Council on Friday 10 February 2023. Endorsement is required to ensure the submission deadline is met.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- These bills are related but the Water Services Bill is of more interest from a council perspective due to the Water Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill being so technical in its nature which provides little opportunity to discuss the matters.
- The submission on the Water Services Legislation Bill was started by summing up the overall feel of council regarding this bill, however this is not directly related to the content of the bill so the submission contained individual headlines for key discussion.
 - Rates – under the bill the Water Entities will not be required to pay rates on their pipes and assets on land they do not own. This is different from gas or oil companies and would be substantial as these pipes crisscross all over the township. This would result in being subsidised by council once again.
 - Dates – It is not clear on how these organisations will collect their charges from their customers from 1 July 2024. Councils across the country have been very clear they do not want to be part of this role as it is very difficult to collect when it is not a rate. Council does not have any powers beyond an ordinary business to collect this charge therefore would have minimum enforcement abilities. The District Mayor noted that council collecting these charges is still an option as the proposal was council would collect the water bills until 2029, however for other documents this is until 2027 which is inconsistent.

- Debt repayment – what can and can't be included in the financial transition and the current proposal suggests there is not a clear understanding of the sources of expenditure council has as there are some notable expenses missing.
- Engagement with the public – this is loosely defined in the legislation and obliges the entities to have some form of engagement with their customers, however there is nothing stopping setting up a single consumer forum outside of Taranaki but within their area.
- The District Mayor noted the submissions support the submissions of a number of other organisations such as LGNZ and reiterated that council does not support this bill.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor noted her support for the submission and felt these were basic points that she could not believe were included in the bill as it currently is.
- Councillor Beck noted that officers had done a great job in collating the information and the feelings of councillors to put these together. He questioned whether making an oral submission would be beneficial as he felt the Chief Executive had a good handle on this legislation, however Mr Hanne noted it was unlikely council would be allocated a speaking spot and if it was it would incur costs for travel, accommodation and officer time and therefore was cynical of the benefit it could have.
- Councillor Boyde noted that the community would be very satisfied with the submissions, he noted the timeframes were crazy. He noted Mr Hanne had done a great job of taking all concerns from councillors and collating into a submission.
- The District Mayor noted that it was unknown in which direction this legislation would continue as the Prime Minister has indicated he is reconsidering it but to what extent is unknown.

11. Questions

- An update on the current state of play regarding the storm was requested from the Chief Executive.
 - Taranaki wide there has been power outages, a truck which toppled over and some lost roofs.
 - Stratford has seen a number of trees down which are being handled by the roading contractors with the exception of one that has taken powerlines down too. Powerco have cleared a number of outages during the day.
 - Makuri Road – tree across road but road is open.
 - Arnold Road – tree down.
 - Puniwhakau Road – tree in powerlines.
 - Bird Road – tree down but has been moved off road.
 - Junction Road – tree down.
 - Awaiting confirmation of trees down on Mangaehu Road.
 - There were zero wellness calls.
 - The District Mayor noted that following the events he had every confidence that the Taranaki Civil Defence team was a well-oiled machine if anything of real significance occurred in Taranaki.

12. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 65

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.13pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 14th day of March 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor