MINUTES
Ordinary

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/05 – D26/4442

Date: 10 February 2026 at 3.37 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor A K Harris, Councillors: S J Beck, J Bertie, J R Best, G W Boyde, D K Chadwick, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Mr G Hancock, the HR & Governance Administrator – Mrs C Reynolds, the Customer Service Officer & Committee Secretary - Ms S West, and one member of the media (Stratford and South).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

2. Apologies

A leave of absence was noted for Councillor Sextus.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor advised that Council's submission on the Government's proposed changes to rate capping was recently sent out. Council is reviewing the Resource Management Act submission today. He advised members to please keep an eye on timings and upcoming announcements.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Ordinary Council Meetings was attached. The District Mayor noted the attendance record for the 2025 period was attached and commended members for their high level of attendance.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 9 December
D25/46311 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes with the proposed change of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on Tuesday 9 December 2025, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/26/1

The District Mayor noted a typo on page 11 of the minutes, which will be corrected by the Governance Advisor prior to signing.

6.1.2 Public Forum Notes
D25/42438 Page 15

The notes from the public forum were attached for Council's information.

6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 16 December 2025
D25/47158 (Open) Page 16

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 be received.

BOYDE/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/2

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 be adopted.

HALL/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/26/3

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 27 January 2026
D26/2728 Page 22

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 be received.

DUDLEY/BEST
Carried
CL/26/4

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 be adopted.

HARRIS/BECK
Carried
CL/26/5

7. District Mayor's Report
D26/2845 Page 27

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/6

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- Item three of his report, regarding the Summer Nights event, the District Mayor clarified his comments around attendance. The movie night did not have strong attendance, whilst the concert drew high attendance. This has traditionally been the trend. He requested that this be raised when Council undertakes its review, and that a report be brought back to Council.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification on item 8, page 28, regarding the Regional House Fund and what it may look like in the future. The District Mayor advised that the fund is supported by the Toi Foundation. Their intention is to establish an ongoing housing fund rather than a one-off initiative. He noted that several models are used to guide how funding is allocated. The fund is expected to grow each year, with the purpose of bridging the gap between what banks will not support in terms of lending. The delivery model was discussed, with the intention being to provide assistance to the community.

8. Decision Report – Submission on proposed Resource Management Legislation

D26/1727 Page 31

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BECK
Carried
CL/26/7

2. THAT the submission on the Natural Environment Bill and the Planning Bill included in the appendix be approved.

3. THAT the Director – Environmental Services be authorised to lodge the submission on behalf of the Council.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
CL/26/8

Recommended Reason
Submitting on the proposed Bills is the only way for Council's to contribute to developing new resource management legislation.

The Director – Environmental Services noted the following point:

- This is the latest round of submissions being called for on the proposed government changes. This work is based on the workshops held in December at Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), which elected members were involved in. The attached table provides an overview of Council's proposed response. The full submission is twelve pages in length, with the major points summarised in the cover letter for members to read.
- The Resource Management Act (RMA) is being replaced with two pieces of legislation, and the goals within the RMA are now replaced and outlined within those new Acts. One particular point of interest relates to the proposed boundary alignment changes, noting that the district spans two regions. This would likely have cost implications for Council, as well as affect regulatory requirements under any new regional boundaries. It was noted that the proposed changes signal a shift towards regional plans.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification on how much this submission differs from other councils and their submissions. The Director clarified that there is strong commonality across councils, and boundary alignment is not an issue for councils like South Taranaki District Council and New Plymouth District Council, noting that our submission has been written with similar themes and reflects a collective approach.
- Councillor Beck sought clarification over the waterfall risk noted on page 38 of the report. The Director explained that this is likely a TRC issue, but that through existing consents, which all need to be renewed at the same time, relate to this matter. The Director also clarified the spread of those consents.
- Councillor Beck questioned if there is support for a single bill. The Director explained that, as practitioners, one bill would be preferable. However, the current government is committed to the existing approach.
- Councillor Boyde queried how much resource the proposed changes would require from Council, and work involved, particularly in relation to any zoning issues.
- The District Mayor referenced compensation and the role of the regulatory authority, noting that if it makes certain decisions there are questions around what this could mean, which may be challenging. The Director clarified that this is addressed on page 46. The District Mayor further noted that if compensation is required, it would fall to the ratepayer, and the accompanying letter should reference that we are a small council and any compensation would impact our limited ratepayer base. The Director clarified that compensation would likely arise from the zoning of land.
- It was noted by the Director that the standard wording in the submission regarding the right to be heard and to appear before the committee is simply an observation of that right.
- The Director noted that the timeline for the submission closes this Friday.

9. Public Forum Response

Speaker Michael Carr
Topic Sport Taranaki

Response:
- That a letter acknowledging the work they do be sent to Sport Taranaki.

Speaker Terry Hancock
Topic On The House

Response:
- That a letter acknowledging the work they do be sent to Mr Hancock.

10. Questions

There were no questions.

11. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 51

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.09 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 10th day of March 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor