

Date: Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 3.00PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor – M McKay (the Chairperson), the District Mayor N C Volzke Councillors: S J Beck, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, E E Hall, V R Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau, M J Watt

In attendance

The Acting Chief Executive and Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Acting Director Community Services – Mr C Julie, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Services Asset Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Roading Engineer – Mrs D Taplin, the Projects Engineer/Manager – Mr S Taylor (*part meeting*), the Community Development Officer – Mrs A Kingston (*part meeting*), the Community Development Officer – Mrs V Fischer (*part meeting*) and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

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

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

2. Apologies

A leave of absence was approved for Councillor G W Boyde and an apology was noted for the Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

ERWOOD/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/1

3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted that planning was underway for a day trip to New Plymouth for elected members to visit some of council's regional partners as part of the induction programme. This is scheduled for 21 February and will be confirmed as soon as possible.

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 declarations of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee – 22 November 2022

D22/46085 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/2

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 17

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

JONES/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/3

The Acting Chief Executive noted the following points:

- An update on the street numbering status is provided in the Environmental Services Monthly Report – item 10.3.
- The future of the Page Street Swimming Pool complex will form part of the Annual Plan discussion for either inclusion in the 2023/24 Annual Plan or the next Long Term Plan.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Sandford noted that there was significant public interest in the future of the Page Street swimming pool complex.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/23/4

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is given that the Stratford District Council closes the following roads on Friday 24 February 2023, between the hours of 7.00am and 3.00pm for the purpose of the 2023 Americarna event.
 - SH3 Broadway between Seyton Street and Page Street.
 - Regan Street between Miranda Street and Juliet Street between the hours of 9am to 3:00pm
 - Miranda Street between the Seyton Street and Fenton Street.
 - Fenton Street between Juliet Street and SH3 Broadway.

3. THAT the Council approves the alternative routes detailed below:
 - Southbound traffic – Left into Pembroke Road, right into Juliet St, left onto Celia Street and right onto Orlando St to return to SH3 via Hills Road to the south of Stratford.
 - Northbound traffic – Right onto Hills Road, left onto Orlando Street, left onto Celia St, right onto Juliet Street, and left onto Seyton Street to re-join SH3 at Seyton St/SH3 intersection.

DUDLEY/HALL
Carried
P&S/23/5

Recommended Reason

In order for the Stratford Business Association to host Americarna, it is necessary to close the roads listed above for safety reasons and for the participants to exhibit their vehicles via a static display. The proposed road closures require formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

The Roading Asset Manager noted the following points:

- As a result of Covid-19 this is first time in a couple of years Americarna has been held. Previously there have been around 800 participants but due to the postponement of previous events registrations are now sitting at around 950 vehicles.
- As a result of the increased number of vehicles the road closure is being pushed further along Broadway South to Page Street. The vehicles will also arrive earlier than previously and leave later, this will allow for more time in the town centre.
- The War Memorial carpark will be closed and used for food stalls and the entertainment hub.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/TONGAAWHIKAU
Carried
P&S/23/6

2. THAT Council notify the Taranaki Regional Council that with regard to regional transport it chooses to be represented on the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee.

3. THAT Council authorises the District Mayor and/or Chief Executive to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Taranaki and Horizon Regional Transport Committees confirming representation of the Stratford District with the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/23/7

Recommended Reason

The Regional Council requires Council to formally advise every three years.

The Acting Chief Executive noted the following points:

- This report is brought to council every three years following the local authority elections when a new regional transport committee is established.
- Each council must join a regional transport committee and where a district covers more than one region, such as Stratford does, then council must decide which one to join.
- It was clarified that the Regional Transport Committee does not receive any funding from Stratford District Council, however the District Mayor attends meetings as council's delegate with the Roding Assets Manager.
- Waka Kotahi give quarterly updates on national and regional roading matters at the committee meetings and each council provides local updates. The committee also approves regional land management, speed management and public transport management plans.

The Service Asset Manager joined the meeting at 3.10pm

- The District Mayor noted that it was important to realise that the bulk of Stratford's roading network lie in the Taranaki region. This council has never opted to join the Horizons Regional Transport Committee. He noted that a large part of this committee's work is planning, monitoring and being an interface between Waka Kotahi and council.

10. Monthly Reports

10.1 Assets Report D22/50734 Page 39

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/8

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted he had received concerns from passing motorists regarding the new drainage on Toko Road in regards to the depth of the drain and the proximity to the road surface and questioned if this work was now complete? The Roading Asset Manager clarified that this work was the extent of the work that had been discussed with residents. An application will be submitted for a safety footpath along Toko Road and further planning was needed at the bottom of Toko Road due to the way the road sheds water towards private property.
- It was noted that the tender for Dunns Bridge closes next week.
- Councillor Jones noted there had been issues with the Toko Water demand with high usage being incorrectly identified as a leak and the tap then being turned off. He noted these issues were slowly being worked through between the farmer and council officers.
- It was clarified that the safe roading network target of -1 means a reduction on the total of death and serious injury crashes from the previous year.
- It was clarified that online wananga and community garden as noted on page 55 were still in the planning stages.
- The Deputy Mayor requested clarification on the journey after sorting at the recycling facility. It was noted that contaminated items would be redirected to landfill but further clarification on the end result of our recycling would be sought. It would be added to matters outstanding.
- Councillor Dudley noted the tour of the recycling facility was very worthwhile and requested this be considered for a councillor visit.
- Councillor Harris questioned if the work was scheduled to complete the Whangamomona Walkways and when an opening was scheduled as there was quite a number of people coming through Whangamomona at the moment who would be interested in utilising the walkways. It was clarified that the carpark for the Whangamomona Walkway has not yet been resealed, however spraying and general tidying up has been completed.
- It was clarified that officers were in the planning stage for the development of the land beside Wai o Rua –Stratford Aquatic Centre and a concept plan will be presented to council to confirm what the scope should be. Mrs Araba confirmed funding for this work was part of the shovel ready grant.

10.2 Community Services Report D22/49514 Page 66

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BECK/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/23/9

The Acting Director – Community Services noted two corrections to figures on page 73:

- Information Services (brochures/maps/event tickets etc) – the red downward arrow should be *98 and not 72*
- Programme and Events – the green upward arrow should be *84 and not 184*

The Community Development Officers left the meeting at 3.28pm

10.3 Environmental Report
D22/43790 Page 78

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/23/10

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the Pembroke Road renumbering was the last and most significant of several road naming and numbering projects. This work needs to balance officer workload and timing for residents. A report will be brought to council for approval to change the name to Pembroke East and Pembroke West which will eliminate the requirement to change numbers and will reduce disruption to residents.

10.4 Corporate Services Report
D22/1042 Page 86

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

TONGAAWHIKAU/WATT
Carried
P&S/23/11

The Acting Chief Executive noted the report covers expenditure being over budget and as council begins its preparation for the 2023/24 Annual Plan this is significant when considering the year to date actuals for this year which would increase the rates increase from 4.23% to 12-13%. This will mean councillors need to consider council's levels of service and what is affordable for our ratepayers while acknowledging that costs are rising across the board. A draft Annual Plan will be brought to council soon.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted that the income revenue and expenditure were both over budget with some inherent costs in operation expenditure showing a significant deficit particularly with the pool operation. He noted that just six months into the financial year, and with the new pool only having been contributing for three months, was council looking at pool operating expenditure being over budget by \$1.2 million for the year? Mrs Radich noted that there are some significant costs that were not budgeted to the extent they are now. The discrepancy will continue to increase but many of these costs were payments up front such as insurance and also include depreciation, loan interest costs, day to day operational expenses, increased staffing numbers, increased power costs and increased cleaning costs. The pool is forming part of the Section 17a reviews which will complete a full review of the activity and all costs associated with it. Consideration will need to be given to what level of service council is wanting to give the community. It was noted that fee increases would not cover the expenses and could become unaffordable for our community. Other revenue options were being investigated as part of the review.
- It was clarified that increased farm expenditure was mainly due to food costs and the resource consent expenditure was as a result of consultant use.
- It was clarified that the cashflow forecast of a further \$3 million of debt over the next 12 months was for working through the capital programme as there is quite a lot of projects coming through that council needs to fund itself until funding is received such as the transport choices fund, and purchasing

the cemetery land drew from reserves so to maintain the level of cash backed reserves further borrowing is required.

- It was clarified that the rental property in outstanding debtors would relate to a land lease.
- It was clarified that the outstanding debtors for resource consent would relate to a consent that had been issued and not yet paid for. The building consent would relate to a consent that had incurred additional costs for staff time, however a building consent is held until payment is received.
- It was clarified that the vendor loan to EBS Trust related to the sale of the spite strip at the council subdivision.
- It was clarified that the pensioner housing outstanding debtors was a negative figure due to bonds and rent paid in advance.

11. Questions

There were no questions.

12. Closing Karakia

D21/40748

Page 103

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.46pm.

M McKay
Chairperson

Confirmed this 28th day of February 2023.

N C Volzke
District Mayor