



Cardinia

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 3 APRIL 2017

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL

held in the Council Chambers, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer
on Monday, 3 April 2017
The meeting commenced at 7pm

PRESENT:

Mayor, Brett Owen, Chairman

Councillors Jodie Owen, Collin Ross, Graeme Moore, Leticia Wilmot, Ray Brown, Michael Schilling, Carol Ryan

Messrs Garry McQuillan (CEO), Andrew Barr (A/GMAS), Jo Harris (A/GMCS), Andrew Paxton (GMPD), Doug Evans (MG)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God we humbly request that you bestow your blessings upon this Council, direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of your glory and to the betterment of the peoples of Cardinia Shire. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LANDOWNERS

The Cardinia Shire Council respectfully acknowledged that we are on the traditional land of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people.

APOLOGIES:

Cr Jeff Springfield, Derek Madden, Jenny Scicluna, Michael Ellis

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Nil.

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1 COUNCIL PLAN 2017-18

FILE REFERENCE INT1720260

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Derek Madden

AUTHOR Peter Philp

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. Council release the draft Council Plan for public comment, and
2. Hear any persons who wish to speak in support of their submission made in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, at a Special Council meeting to be held in the Council Chamber on 16 May 2017.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Council Plan 2017-18 38 Pages

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To release the draft Council Plan for public comment.

BACKGROUND

Under the provisions of Section 125 of the Local Government Act Council is required to prepare and approve a Council Plan within 6 months of a general election or by the next 30 June whichever is later. The Council Plan must, amongst other matters, include the strategic objectives of the Council and strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years.

Since the election in October last year Council has been developing a new Council Plan for the four-year term of the Council, and has progressed this process to now having a draft Council Plan suitable for release for public comment.

In developing the draft Plan Council's aim is to make Cardinia Shire the best possible place to live, work, raise a family and do business.

The Vision contained within the draft Plan is;

'Cardinia Shire will be developed in a planned manner to enable present and future generations to live. healthy and productive lives and to enjoy the richness of the diverse and distinctive characteristics of the shire.'

Council's Commitment also contained within the draft Plan is;

'Council will provide leadership, including community engagement with stakeholders, to ensure the long-term sustainability of our communities and townships. We will be mindful of the social, environmental and economic impacts of our decisions and ensure future generations benefit from our decisions. We will practise good governance and meet recognised standards of excellence. Council will work diligently to achieve excellence in every aspect of our activities.'

The key challenges identified for the coming years are;

- managing population growth
- managing the natural and built environment, including climate change
- developing a prosperous local economy and creating employment
- long-term financial sustainability
- supporting and increasing agricultural productivity
- timely delivery of infrastructure, transport options and services
- encouraging residents to improve their health and wellbeing
- encouraging community engagement in Council's decision making.

To deliver on the Council Plan a four-year action plan will be prepared covering five key performance areas, namely

- Our people
- Our community
- Our environment
- Our economy
- Our governance

Once the plan has been finalised following community feedback the four-year action plan will be confirmed and formally adopted by the Council in order that the community are aware of the specific actions and tasks that will be undertaken to deliver the plan in the coming years.

It is considered that the Council Plan adequately addresses the major challenges facing the Council.

The Council Plan also includes the Strategic Resource Plan which details the resources required to achieve the Council's strategic objectives detailed in the Council Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on existing policy by these changes.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

This report recommends that Council release its proposed four-year Council Plan for community feedback.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Council considers a variety of information when reviewing the Council Plan and associated actions. These include the views of residents, council management and officers and existing strategy plans. Feedback is sought during the public exhibition period.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial impacts of these amendments.

CONCLUSION

That Council adopt the recommended changes to the Council Plan for release for public comment, with the budget and Strategic Resource Plan, and consider any public submissions.

1 COUNCIL PLAN 2017-18

Moved Cr L Wilmot Seconded Cr M Shilling

That

1. Council release the draft Council Plan for public comment, and
2. Hear any persons who wish to speak in support of their submission made in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, at a Special Council meeting to be held in the Council Chamber on 16 May 2017.

Cd.

2 PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-18

FILE REFERENCE INT1720257

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Garry McQuillan

AUTHOR Derek Madden

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Proposed Budget annexed to this resolution be the budget prepared by Council for the purposes of section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989;
2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of the preparation of such budget in accordance with section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989;
3. Budget Community Information Sessions be held on 26, 27 and 28 April at venues to be determined to explain the budget and Council's priorities for any interested persons
4. Council hear any submission on any proposal (or proposals) contained in such budget, made in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer, 3809, and
5. Council consider the adoption of the budget and the declaration and levy of rates and charges for the 2016-17 financial year at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Monday 29 May 2017

Attachments

- 1 Proposed Budget 2017-18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This budget was developed with a proposed 2.0% rate increase for 2017-18 (2.5% in 2016-17). This rate increase, the lowest in Cardinia's history, has been able to be achieved due to the following:

- Council have negotiated a significant asset sale which provides a 3 year income stream.
- Due to strong financial planning Council over the last 5 years, Council has been able to absorb the lower rate increases proposed as part of this budget.

Council has prepared a proposed budget for the 2017-18 financial year that focuses on delivering the right balance between managing Cardinia Shire's ongoing development, while ensuring continued support and services for residents in the community. It is important that Councils response to the impact of lower rating is a "planned" response and not a reactive year on year response. The financial viability of the Council will depend on these decisions.

The ongoing challenge for this Council is that 78.3% of Council revenue is received via rates and charges with the remainder consisting of government grants and contributions from developers. While Council has worked to reduce costs to a level where it is one of the lowest cost providers of services the ability to continue to find efficiencies and savings into the future will be challenging without potential reductions in services or service levels.

The financial plan adopted as part of its 2017-18 budget plan has been developed to ensure that Cardinia residents continue to be serviced with resources and facilities in line with expectations and on par with other Councils. We did not want to create a second tier of Council and the plan set out

to ensure Cardinia could deliver services and facilities on a par with other Councils so our residents are not disadvantaged.

In a lower rating environment it is important that a balanced budget continues to be achieved in future years to ensure Council can continue to meet current and future needs of its residents. The proposed budget attempts to balance the need to deliver infrastructure and services, while also providing the best possible value for residents and recognising the need for careful financial management.

For 2016-17 we commenced conversations with our residents through our on-line forum “Big Budget Brainstorm” and a number of planned local community meetings. The information gathered from these and future meetings has provided guidance to Council on how to adjust the forward Plan.

In response to the lower rating environment future budgets will be created and managed based on the six principles below:

1. Effectively manage the Asset Renewal Gap
 - Performance Indicator: Gap existing at July 2016 does not grow
2. Continue to manage debt
 - Performance Indicator: Debt is managed as per the adopted Debt Management Strategy
3. Underlying financial result to remain in surplus
 - Performance Indicator: Council adopted underlying result to be positive at 30 June each year
4. Improved community understanding of the budgeting process
 - Performance Indicator: Council workshops and feedback received annually
5. Key services maintained at existing levels
 - Performance Indicator: Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey results, Community Feedback
6. Any further cost shifting by either state or federal government is to be rejected.
 - Performance indicator: All cost shifting to be reported quarterly via council meetings.

As one of Victoria’s fastest growing municipalities, Cardinia Shire’s population is expected to grow from the 2015 official population of 90,884 to an estimated 180,308 in 2036, an increase of 98.4%. The number of dwellings in Cardinia Shire is forecast to grow from 35,674 in 2016 to 67,154 in 2036. This growth reflects the unique qualities of the municipality and confidence in its future. It does, however, continue to place services, infrastructure and resources under significant pressure.

The 2017-18 Proposed Budget will enable Council to continue to meet the challenges associated with this rapidly expanding population. A Capital Works program of \$44.864m has been prepared to ensure residents across the shire have access to an expanding range of new recreational and leisure opportunities, and renewed and upgraded infrastructure.

The \$50 rebate scheme for residential ratepayers who are in receipt of a NewStart Allowance will continue in 2017-18.

In line with the SRP, the 2017-18 Proposed Budget has been designed to reflect Council’s commitment to make Cardinia Shire the best possible place to live, work and raise a family.

Highlights of the Capital Works program are:

New projects totalling \$21.491m, including:

- Deep Creek Reserve (\$6.825m)
- Lang Lang Recreation Facility (\$3.351m),
- James Bathe Recreation Reserve (\$2.720m),
- Comely Banks Children's Facility (\$2.0m),
- Land Acquisitions (\$2.0m), and
- Emerald-Gembrook Trail (\$0.770m)

Asset Renewal and Upgrade:

Expenditure of \$11.457m on asset renewal, including roads, bridges, footpaths, drains, buildings and plant, and \$11.916m on asset upgrades including Cardinia Cultural Centre extension and Community Capital Works grants.

BACKGROUND

Preparation of the Proposed Budget is an integral part of the overall annual budget process. It forms the basis for the Budget to be adopted later in the process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council is required to prepare a Proposed Budget for public consultation.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

The 2017-18 Proposed Budget outlines the financial resources for the successful delivery of the Council Plan.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Proposed Budget was prepared in consultation with the Senior Management Team and all departmental managers. Managers were required to prepare their operating budgets based on the needs of their programs, whilst keeping in line with the prior year's Strategic Resource Plan. Financial implications of known changes (for example, the continuing impact of the State Government cap on rates) were also taken into account.

It is suggested that Community Information Sessions be held on 26, 27 and 28 April at venues across the Shire so that interested residents can have the opportunity of gaining greater understanding of the budget document and Council's priorities and seek any additional information that they may desire.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Proposed Budget outlines the financial resources available to Council for continuous operation and delivery of the Council Plan.

CONCLUSION

This budget addresses the key needs of our current community and with the Strategic Resource Plan caters for our current and future communities. It is a budget based on sound financial principles, prudent debt management, and responsible asset management.

2 PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-18

Moved Cr C Ross Seconded Cr M Shilling

That:

1. The Proposed Budget annexed to this resolution be the budget prepared by Council for the purposes of section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989;
2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of the preparation of such budget in accordance with section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989;
3. Budget Community Information Sessions be held on 24 April, at the conclusion of the Council Meeting being held in the Council Chamber, 26 April at the Gembrook Community Centre and 27 April at the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre to explain the budget and Council's priorities for any interested persons
4. Council hear any submission on any proposal (or proposals) contained in such budget, made in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer, 3809, and
5. Council consider the adoption of the budget and the declaration and levy of rates and charges for the 2016-17 financial year at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Monday 29 May 2017

Cd.

Meeting closed at 7.23pm

Minutes Confirmed
Chairman