



ORDINARY MEETING
16 APRIL 2024

MINUTES

Time: 4.51pm

Venue: TSIRC Cairns Office, Level 3, 111 Grafton Street, Cairns

- PRESENT:**
- | | |
|--|---|
| Mayor / Chairperson | Cr Phillemon Mosby |
| Division 1 – Boigu | Cr Dimas Toby |
| Division 2 – Dauan | Cr Torenzo Elisala – <i>TEAMS dial-in</i> |
| Division 3 – Saibai | Cr Chelsea Aniba |
| Division 4 – Mabuigag | Cr Keith Fell |
| Division 5 – Badu | Cr Ranetta Wosomo |
| Division 6 – Arkai | Cr Iona Manas – <i>TEAMS dial-in</i> |
| Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island | Cr John Levi |
| Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond) | Cr Seriako Dorante |
| Division 9 – Iama | Cr Aggie Hankin |
| Division 10 – Warraber | Cr Kabay Tamu |
| Division 11 – Poruma | Cr Francis Pearson |
| Division 12 – Masig | Cr Ted Mosby |
| Division 13 – Ugar | Cr Rocky Stephen |
| Division 14 – Erub | Cr Nixon Mye |
| Division 15 – Mer | Cr Bob Kaigey |
- APOLOGIES:** Nil
- OFFICERS:**
- | | |
|--|---|
| Chief Executive Officer | Mr James William |
| Executive Director Building Services | Mr Wayne Green |
| A/g Executive Director Community Services | Ms Ella Kris |
| Executive Director Corporate Services | Ms Susanne Andres – <i>TEAMS dial-in</i> |
| Executive Director Engineering Services | Mr David Baldwin |
| Executive Director Financial Services | Ms Hollie Faithfull |
| Advisor - DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title | Ms Joanne Bryant |
| Manager People & Wellbeing | Mr Anthony King |
| Legal Advisor – Preston Law | Ms Martine Care |
| Legal Advisor – MacDonnells Law | Ms Melinda Foley – <i>TEAMS dial-in only for AI 5</i> |
| Executive Support Coordinator | Ms Sharon Russell |
| Executive Assistant to the Mayor | Ms Trudy Lui |
| TSIRC Secretariat | Mr Darryl Brooks |

**A. WELCOME & QUORUM CONFIRMATION | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER
| OBSERVANCES**

The Mayor welcomed Councillors to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of April 2024, noting that this was the inaugural meeting of the new Council for the 2024-2028 term. The Mayor made a special acknowledgement to the newly-elected members of Council.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

N/A

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Cr Francis Pearson declared a prescribed conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Item 2.1 (pertaining to Kulka Bala's Rugby League) as this matter involves a close family member.

Cr Iona Manas declared a prescribed conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Item 2.1 (pertaining to Arkai Sisters Footy Team) as this matter involves a close family member.

Action:

1. New Councillors must complete **Conflict of Interest Declarations** ASAP and send to Chief Executive Officer to be registered.
2. New Councillors must complete **Register of Interests** forms and send to Chief Executive Officer to be registered. New Councillors must do so for the current financial year (then update again within 30 days after 1 July 2024).

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#C24-28/2024-04/1

CR STEPHEN / CR DORANTE

Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5 March 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

- *Cr Pearson excused himself from the meeting prior to the commencement of discussions pertaining to Kulka Bala's Rugby League in Agenda Item 2.1 and was requested to rejoin the meeting at the conclusion of those discussions.*
- *Cr Manas dialled-out of the meeting prior to the commencement of discussions pertaining to Arkai Sisters Footy Team in Agenda Item 2.1 and was requested to rejoin the meeting at the conclusion of those discussions.*

2.1 Community Grants Program Allocation (April 2024)

#C24-28/2024-04/2.1

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**Council:****(a) resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicants in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:**

- i. JOHN ARMITAGE on behalf of the Erub Community for the eligible amount of \$1,500.00, exclusive of GST;**
- ii. ARKAI SISTERS FOOTY TEAM from Kubin (Moa Island) for the eligible amount of \$7,500.00, exclusive of GST, with funds to be sourced as follows:**
 - \$5,000.00 from the Kubin Divisional Community Fund;
 - \$2,500.00 from [.....];
- iii. KULKA BALA'S RUGBY LEAGUE from Poruma Island for the amount of \$[.....], exclusive of GST, with funds to be sourced as follows:**
 - \$2,500.00 from the Poruma Divisional Community Fund;
 - \$[.....] from [.....];
- iv. WASADA WAPAU from Dauan Island, for the requested amount of \$3,000.00, exclusive of GST; with funds to be sourced as follows:**
 - \$3,000.00 from [.....]; and

(b) note the reports on grant applications processed Out-of-Cycle, Funeral donations and Funeral Travel Assistance provided in April 2024 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

CR TAMU / CR KAIGEY

Council:**(a) resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicants in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:**

- i. JOHN ARMITAGE on behalf of the Erub Community for the eligible amount of \$1,500.00, exclusive of GST;**
- ii. ARKAI SISTERS FOOTY TEAM from Kubin (Moa Island) for the amount of \$5,000.00, exclusive of GST, from the Kubin Divisional Community Fund; and**
- iii. KULKA BALA'S RUGBY LEAGUE from Poruma Island for the amount of \$1,000.00, exclusive of GST, from the Poruma Divisional Community Fund;**
- iv. declines the funding request from WASADA WAPAU from Dauan Island, for the requested amount of \$3,000.00, exclusive of GST, noting that the 2023-24 funding allocation for that Division has been exhausted; and**

(b) note the reports on grant applications processed Out-of-Cycle, Funeral donations and Funeral Travel Assistance provided in April 2024 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Several Councillors expressed the following concerns in relation to procedural matters in the preparation of applications put before the Council for determination:

- no clear indication whether a Councillor has declared any real, actual, or perceived conflict of interest or any prescribed or declarable conflict of interest relating to an application before these are put before the Council for determination;
- no explanation as to why applications exceeding the maximum application amount are being put before the Council for determination, or whether the applicants were advised not to review their application to meet the policy guidelines;
- no feedback to Council on outcome reporting; and
- urgent need to review the Community Grants Policy and application forms prior to the 2024-25 financial year.

Action:

1. Consideration be given to the attendance of all Regional and Divisional Managers to the May 2024 Council Workshop.
2. Future briefs to Council to provide clear indication whether a Councillor has declared any real, actual, or perceived conflict of interest or any prescribed or declarable conflict of interest relating to an application before these are put before the Council for determination.
3. Council's Community Grants Policy to be reviewed as part of the May 2024 Council Workshop agenda.

2.2 Funding Acquisition Report (April 2024)

#C24-28/2024-04/2.2

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

Council resolves to note this report and its content.

CR HANKIN / CR FELL

Council resolves to note this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. FINANCIAL SERVICES

3.1 Financial Dashboard Report – March 2024

#24-28/2024-04/3.1

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 31 March 2024, as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

CR FELL / CR LEVI

That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 31 March 2024, as required under Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#24-28/2024-04/4

CR FELL / CR WOSOMO

The Council resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to allow the Council to discuss items listed on the agenda for closed discussion and for the reasons outlined under those items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**6. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION**

#24-28/2024-04/6

CR MYE / CR ANIBA

The Council resolves to move out of closed discussions pursuant to Section 254I of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**7. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

- *Following the move into Closed Session, all non-Executive staff were requested to leave the meeting at 6.25pm, prior to commencement of discussion on Agenda Item 5. Non-Executive staff were requested to rejoin the meeting at 6.55pm.*

5. Proposed Wage Increases Under the Certified Agreement

#24-28/2024-04/7:5

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves:

- 1. That each of the minimum wages currently applying under the terms of the 2021 Certified Agreement for the period after 1 September 2022, be increased by 5.75%, consistent with the State Wage Decision of 2023;*
- 2. The increased minimum wages have effect from the first full pay period commencing on or after 1 September 2023, for all current employees. Employees who are no longer employed by TSIRC have no entitlement to the increased wage rates.*
- 3. Pursuant to Section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer power to implement such wage increase including payment of any necessary backpay.*

CR FELL / CR WOSOMO

That Council resolves:

- 1. That each of the minimum wages currently applying under the terms of the 2021 Certified Agreement for the period after 1 September 2022, be increased by 5.75%, consistent with the State Wage Decision of 2023;**
- 2. The increased minimum wages have effect from the first full pay period commencing on or after 1 September 2023, for all current employees. Employees who are no longer employed by TSIRC have no entitlement to the increased wage rates.**

3. Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer power to implement such wage increase including payment of any necessary backpay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

9. NEXT MEETING – 20-31 MAY 2024 (Cairns) [Council Workshop (20-28 May 2024)]

Council noted that the 30-31 May 2024 Council meeting will be preceded by the Council Workshop in Cairns from 20-28 May 2024.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7.05pm and Cr Keith Fell delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 30 May 2024



Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 30 May 2024



James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 30 May 2024