



ORDINARY MEETING
15 OCTOBER 2024

MINUTES

Time: 10.30am

Venue: *Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 433 662 951 480 | Passcode: RZTTwY*

PRESENT:

Mayor

Division 2 – Dauan
Division 3 – Saibai
Division 6 – Arkai
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls Community), Mua Island
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)
Division 9 – Iama
Division 10 – Warraber
Division 11 – Poruma
Division 12 – Masig
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby
Cr Torenzo Elisala
Cr Chelsea Aniba
Cr Iona Manas – *left meeting at 12.00nn*
Cr John Levi
Cr Seriako Dorante
Cr Aggie Hankin – *left meeting at 2.00pm*
Cr Kabay Tamu
Cr Francis Pearson
Cr Ted Mosby – *left meeting at 12.00nn*
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 – Boigu
Division 4 – Mabuiag
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**
Division 13 – Ugar
Division 14 – Erub

Cr Dimas Toby – *prior commitments*
Cr Keith Fell – *prior commitments*
Cr Ranetta Wosomo – *prior commitments*
Cr Rocky Stephen – *prior commitments*
Cr Nixon Mye – *prior commitments*

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Director Building Services
Executive Director Community Services
Executive Director Corporate Services
Executive Director Engineering Services
Executive Director Financial Services
Interim Executive Advisor to the CEO
Executive Assistant to the Mayor
TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William
Mr Wayne Green
Mr Dawson Sailor
Ms Susanne Andres
Mr David Baldwin
Ms Hollie Faithfull
Ms Jessica Buxton – *Agenda Item 3.2 only*
Ms Trudy Lui
Mr Darryl Brooks

GUESTS:

Mr Scott Mason, CEO LG Services Group

Agenda Item 3.3 (TAP Update)

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

At 10.30am, the Mayor welcomed Councillors to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of October 2024, noting that a quorum of members were present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- Our Heavenly Father for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding, favour and blessings upon our lives, our families, our people – especially our Elders and our children, our region and our Council;
- to those members of the Torres Strait Islander community throughout the homelands and on the Australian mainland who may be observing Sorry Business at this time, the thoughts and prayers of all Councillors.
- The Traditional Custodians throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes (from Mer in the East to Boigu in the West) including where our TSIRC footprint is Kaiwalagal area for Kaurareg nations where our Thursday Island Office is located and Gimuy in Cairns where our Cairns Office is located.
- Other traditional lands where TSIRC staff are based remotely;
- All First Nations Peoples who have shared kinship and affiliation for thousands of years with their Ancestral Lands.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

The following apologies were accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconder
Division 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby – <i>prior commitments</i>	LEVI / HANKIN
Division 4 – Mabuiag	Cr Keith Fell – <i>prior commitments</i>	HANKIN / MANAS
Division 5 – Badu	Cr Ranetta Wosomo – <i>prior commitments</i>	ANIBA / PEARSON
Division 13 – Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen – <i>prior commitments</i>	HANKIN / PEARSON
Division 14 – Erub	Cr Nixon Mye – <i>prior commitments</i>	

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

The Mayor called for Councillors to declare any COI matters. No declarations were made. The Mayor also requested that if there are any legal matters involving Councillors, then Councillors should advise the Mayor as soon as possible.

D. LIVE STREAM

The Mayor advised Council that this meeting is being LIVE STREAMED on Council's YouTube Channel.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (18 September 2024)

#C24-28/2024-10/1

CR PEARSON / CR DORANTE

Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 September 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.1. ACTION ITEMS UPDATE

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item. Items noted as 'completed' during this update will be deleted from future reports. The update was noted by Council.

2. MAYORAL REPORT

The Mayor spoke to his report. The report was noted by Council.

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

3.1. CEO Monthly Report (September 2024)

#C24-28/2024-10/3.1

CR PEARSON / CR MANAS

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer Report for September 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Ms Jessica Buxton (Interim Executive Advisor to the CEO) joined the meeting at 11.30am to speak to Agenda Item 3.2.*
- *Mr Scott Mason (CEO LG Services Group) joined the meeting at 11.30am to speak to Agenda Item 3.3.*

3.2. Policy Review: External Grant Funding Policy & Advocacy Policy

#C24-28/2024-10/3.2

CR ANIBA / CR LEVI

Council resolves to:

- 1. amend and adopt the External Grant Funding Policy previously adopted by Council, in the terms presented to Council at today's Ordinary Meeting;**
- 2. adopt the new Advocacy Policy; and**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to exercise the functions and powers assigned to the Chief Executive Officer under the amended and endorsed policy, including the power to make any further minor administrative amendments to the policy as they arise.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Ms Jessica Buxton left the meeting at 11.40am.*

3.3. TAP Update – *verbal update*

Mr Scott Mason (CEO LG Services Group) spoke to this agenda item providing a high-level update on the 11 x KPIs in relation to progressing the TAP. Increasing the autonomy and responsibility of Divisional Managers is an opportunity to empower the TSIRC workforce on Island and this will be discussed further at the November 2024 Council Workshop.

Mr Mason concluded by advising Council that, overall, the KPIs are on track. However, he reminded Council that the timelines set will turn over very quickly and it is

important for Council to focus its budgeting accordingly so that success with these initiatives can be achieved.

Council noted the verbal update.

➤ *Mr Scott Mason left the meeting at 11.55am.*

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

5.1. Torres Strait Treaty – Suspension of Traditional Visits Over Christmas/New Year Period 2024–25

#C24-28/2024-10/5.1

CR T. MOSBY / CR ANIBA

Council:

- (a) Resolves that traditional inhabitant visits between Papua New Guinea and Australia under the *Torres Strait Treaty* will be suspended from close of business on Friday 20 December 2024 and will resume on Monday 3 February 2025; and
- (b) Agrees that Councillors (as authorising officers) will strictly adhere to the suspension dates and to ensure that this suspension period is clearly communicated throughout the community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Meeting suspended for lunch break from 12.00nn to 1.00pm.*
- *The meeting resumed at 1.15pm.*

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

- *In relation to Agenda Item 6.1, Cr Pearson sought clarification around the Community Grants applications which were considered ineligible for Community Grants funding in relation to the CG2025–013 application.*
- *The Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director Corporate Services advised that Council's current Community Grants Program policy limits the funding amount that Council can allocate for each project to a total figure of \$10,000. This amount was already allocated by Council from the Ugar Community Grants budget.*

6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (September 2024)

#C24-28/2024-10/6.1(a) – Council-generated resolution

CR LEVI / CR TAMU

Council resolves to amend the resolution submitted in the report to allow a Mover and Seconder for each Community Grants Program application.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#C24-28/2024-10/6.1(b)

1. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:

- CG2025-028 – TRUDY LUI, WARRABER ISLAND for \$2,500.00, exclusive of GST;

***MOVED: CR DORANTE / SECONDED: CR ELISALA
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

2. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:

- CG2025-041 – LAURIE NONA & LOUIS AHMAT, BADU ISLAND for \$2,000.00, exclusive of GST;

***MOVED: CR TAMU / SECONDED: CR PEARSON
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

3. Council notes the following:

- (a) zero (0) Community Grants applications were declined due to unavailable funds
- (b) thirteen (13) Community Grants applications were deemed ineligible for funding
- (c) two (2) conflict of interests (COI) were declared
- (d) the grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in September 2024.

***MOVED: CR ANIBA / SECONDED: CR ELISALA
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (September 2024)

#C24-28/2024-10/6.2

CR ANIBA / CR ELISALA

Council notes the report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Mayor thanked staff for successfully securing the \$6m+ funding, as this shows the commitment and dedication of staff to enable Council to fulfill its obligations across the footprint.*

Action:

Executive Director Corporate Services to provide reasons for unsuccessful grant applications.

6.3. TSIRC Meeting Schedule for 2025

#C24-28/2024-10/6.3

CR ANIBA / CR KAIGEY

Council endorses the following meeting schedule for 2025:

- 29 January 2025 (virtual meeting)

- 19 February 2025 (virtual meeting)
- 18-19 March 2025 (f2f – venue TBA)
- 23 April 2025 (virtual meeting)
- 23 May 2025 (f2f Cairns) - *one day only* (Council Workshop to be held 12–22 May 2025)
- 17-18 June 2025 (f2f – venue TBA)
- 22-23 July 2025 (f2f – venue TBA)
- 20 August 2025 (virtual meeting)
- 17 September 2025 (virtual meeting)
- 21-22 October 2025 (f2f – venue TBA)
- 21 November 2025 (f2f Cairns) – *one day only* (Council Workshop to be held 10-20 November 2025)
- 17 December 2025 (virtual meeting)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Council will decide venues for the f2f meetings in 2025 at its November 2024 Council Workshop.*

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (September 2024)

#C24-28/2024-10/8.1

CR PEARSON / CR ANIBA

Council receives and endorses the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2024-25 year to date, for the period ended 30 September 2024, as required under Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action:

- (a) Executive Director Financial Services to do an analysis of BSU variances comparative to previous two years and update Council at the November 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.
- (b) Chief Executive Officer to prepare advice to Council on a strategy to place the onus back onto Governments to take on their service responsibilities to allow Council to redirect its profits back into community.

8.2. Contractual Matter – Large Procurement Contracts Awarded Under Delegation

Council requested that this report be laid on the table until a more detailed report is provided to Council in relation to the circumstances in relation to purchase order number PEN0007840 to QMAC Machinery.

- *Meeting suspended for a short break from 2.55pm to 3.00pm.*

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#C24-28/2024-10/9

CR ELISALA / CR PEARSON

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

10. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

11. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

13.1. Rescind Resolution for Contract TSIRC 2023–602 Saibai School Road DRFA Works

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government".]

#C24-28/2024-10/13.1

CR KAIGEY / CR PEARSON

Council resolves to:

- Rescind the resolution made on 19-20 September 2023, listed as item 21, relating to award Tender No. TSIRC 2023-602 – Saibai Island School Road DRFA Works to Torres Strait Island Homes Pty Ltd for an amount of and up to \$400,000.00 excl. GST; and
- Delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to negotiate, finalise, and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project, funding and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations as per Council's procurement and ethical sourcing policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.2. Information Report – Capital Works

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government".]

#C24-28/2024-10/13.2

CR ANIBA / CR ELISALA

Council resolves to note this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.3. Funding Matter – TSIRC.0034.2324P.REC Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government".]

#C24-28/2024-10/13.3

CR PEARSON / CR LEVI

Council resolves:

1. **Subject to funding approval and finalisation, enter into the proposed funding agreement variation for TSIRC.0034.2324P.REC for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) & Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA), administered by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in relation to Council's submission of TSIRC.0034.2324P.REC for a grant sum of up to \$3,299,613.87 (excl. GST); and**
2. **Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:**
 - **power to make, amend or discharge the Funding Agreement; and**
 - **power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and funding agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.4. Variation to Contract TSIRC 2021-357 Various Islands DRFA Works

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government".]

#C24-28/2024-10/13.4

CR DORANTE / CR ELISALA

Council resolves:

1. **Subject to funding approval and finalisation, to approve the variation to Contract TSIRC 2021-357 –Various Islands DRFA Works, to Torres Strait Island Homes Pty Ltd for an amount of up to \$2,674,277.23 excl. GST; and**
2. **Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:**
 - **power to make, amend or discharge the Funding Agreement; and**
 - **power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and funding agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nil.

15. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#C24-28/2024-10/15

CR ELISALA / CR PEARSON

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Council formally resolved on the decisions taken in relation to Agenda Items 10-14 above.

17. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Waste Disposal Issues

Cr Kaigey sought intervention from the Engineering Services Directorate to resolve on-ground issues in relation to waste disposal on Mer. The Mayor advised that this is an operational matter and should be discussed out of session with the relevant Executive Director.

(b) November 2024 Council Workshop - Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Organisation of Councils (TS&NPAROC) & Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Discussions

The Mayor advised that there will be a joint session held during the November 2024 Council Workshop with TS&NPAROC members to discuss a number of matters including:

- the recruitment of the LTC Coordinator;
- development of a 12-month operational plan;
- strategic projects.

Following that particular discussion, the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and TS&NPAROC will then meet (in the capacity as the Torres Strait Coalition) to discuss Regional Governance matters.

(c) Masig Statement Taskforce for Each Division

The Mayor requested that the Mer, Wug and Arkai Divisions to organise the signing of the Masig Statement.

Only 5 communities have established their Masig Statement Taskforce representatives.

The Mayor requested that these matters be finalised prior to the November 2024 Council Workshop so that strategic planning in relation to moving forward in relation to the Masig Statement.

Cr Kaigey requested that the Mayor and CEO attend and convene a community meeting on Mer (including PBC representatives) to discuss the Masig Statement and other strategic initiatives of TSIRC.

Action:

1. Mayor's Office to provide Cr Dorante with information in relation to the establishment of the individual Masig Statement Taskforce for each Division.

2. Mayor's Office and the Executive Director Community Services to liaise and discuss Cr Kaigey's request for a community meeting on Mer to be held prior to the November 2024 Council Workshop.

18. INFORMATION REPORTS

- 18.1. BUILDING SERVICES – Building Services Report (September 2024)
- 18.2. COMMUNITY SERVICES - Community Services (September 2024)
- 18.3. CORPORATE SERVICES - Corporate Services Information Report (September 2024)
- 18.4. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Engineering Operations
- 18.5. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Water and Wastewater

Council noted the reports. The Mayor encouraged Councillors to follow-up directly with Executive Directors if they required clarification on any matters contained in the Information Reports.

19. NEXT MEETING – 15 NOVEMBER 2024 (Cairns) – Council Workshop (4-14 November 2024)

Noted by Council.

20. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor thanked Councillors and staff for their contributions to this monthly meeting of Council and made a special acknowledgement to the TSIRC Travel Officer (Ms Emma William) for her assistance over the past couple of months with the organisation of Council travel and for her support to the Mayor during the recent absence of his Executive Assistant.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 4.10pm and Cr Levi delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 15 October 2024

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Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 15 October 2024

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James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 15 October 2024