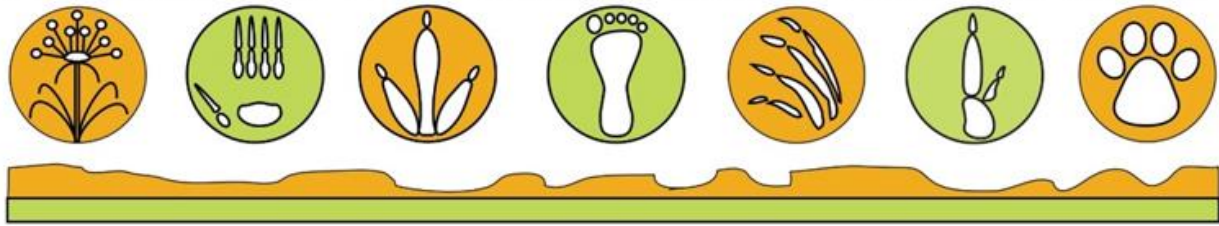


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Barkly Regional Council was held in Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek on Thursday 31 August 2023 at 8:30 am.

Russell Anderson

Acting Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

We strive to be responsive, progressive, sustainable council which respects, listens and empowers the people to be strong.

The Way We Will Work

We will make it happen!

We will be engaged and have regular opportunities to listen.

We will have strong policy and budgets to ensure our programs and services are progressive and sustainable.

Respect is shown in everything we do and we have acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly Region and their practices through a culturally competent Council.

We are a responsible Council.

We will be a responsive Council.

We want to empower local decision making.

We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

We want to be able to sustain our environment – our communities, our physical places, our people and our organisational culture.

We will aggressively pursue additional funding from both levels of government to improve the standard of living of people across the region.

We need to be realistic, transparent and accountable.

1 OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 Elected Members Present

Meeting commenced at 8.50am with Acting Mayor Russell O'Donnell as Chair

Elected Members Present

- Acting Mayor Russell O'Donnell
- Cr. Dianne Seri Stokes
- Cr. Lennie Barton
- Cr. Pam Corbett
- Cr. Elliot McAdam
- Cr. Sharen Lake
- Cr. Greg Marlow
- Cr. Jack Clubb
- Cr. Mark Peterson

1.2 Staff Members Present

Staff Members Present

- Russell Anderson - Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Romeo Mutsago - Chief Financial Officer
- Emmanuel Okumu - Governance Manager
- Tash Adams - Executive Manager
- Grant Hanson - ICT Coordinator

1.4 Apologies and Leave of Absence

Apologies

- Mayor Jeffrey McLaughlin
- Cr Lucy Jackson
- Cr Anita Bailey
- Cr Heather Wilson
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1.5 Disclosure of Interest

Acting Mayor Russell O'Donnell declared a conflict of interest with Item 8.3 - Swimming Pool Update.

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous Minutes

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes from OCM 27 July & SCM 31 July 2023

MOTION

That Council receive and note the Minutes of the 27 July Ordinary Meeting of Council and 31 July Special Council Meeting as a true and accurate record on that Meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/83

Cr McAdam noted he would like to discuss the Animal Management report submitted to Council at its last meeting.

3 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Actions from previous Minutes

3.1 Actions from Previous Minutes

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Actions from the previous minutes.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Jack Clubb

Seconded: Cr Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/84

Cr McAdam asked if an update would be provided on the procurement review.

The CFO delivered an update that three expressions of interest were received. Only one quote for the review had been received, with the quote deadline set for 1 September.

The CFO said the business which provided the quote had experience with regional local governments.

5 MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Report

5.1 August Mayor's Report

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the August Mayor's report.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/85

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORTS

Chief Executive Officers Reports

6.1 CEO's August Report to Council

MOTION

That Council receives and notes this report.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/86

CEO asked CFO to address the matters for discussion.

Council received three expressions of interest for the Review of the Council's procurement policy.

Only one quote for the review had been received, with the quote deadline set for 1 September.

Cr McAdam asked when the financial audit would be ready. CFO was not sure of an exact date.

CEO addressed the Confidential register matter and said the new Governance Manager is reviewing the register and will provide a report to Council.

Cr Marlow asked if the report would be in time for the next Council Meeting. CEO said it would be ready by then.

CEO mentioned he was concerned with Councillors directly emailing staff and explained the emails were generating stress on staff who felt under pressure by councillors.

He said the process should be Councillors go through the Mayor and CEO who can then discuss the resources available.

Cr Lake asked about the Youth Centre.

CEO reported the keys were finally handed over yesterday and a photo shoot happened yesterday with the Acting Mayor and Remote Concrete NT. Cr Marlow asked if there is was an official opening date. CEO said not at this stage.

Cr Lake highlighted the community would be happy to know Council now has the keys.

Chief Executive Officers Reports

6.2 Complaint about the CEO Policy - for Council adoption

MOTION

That Council reviews and adopts the Complaints against the CEO Policy.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/87

Cr Marlow sought clarification that the Dept of Chief Minister and Cabinet reviewed the policy before it was presented to Council.

Chief Executive Officers Reports

6.3 Change to schedule of Council Meetings - December 2023 & January 2024

MOTION

That Council approves the changes of dates for the December 2023 and January 2024 Ordinary Meetings.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/88

7 CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Corporate Services Directorate Reports

7.1 ICT Report - August 2023

MOTION

That Council receive and note the report.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Jack Clubb

Seconded: Cr Lennie Barton

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/89

Cr McAdam asked for update on Councillor computers.

ICT Coordinator said the ETA for the computers is mid September.

Corporate Services Directorate Reports

7.2 Workforce Profile as at 31 July 2023

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Workforce Profile as at 31 July 2023.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Lennie Barton

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/90

8 TENNANT CREEK DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Tennant Creek Directorate Reports

8.1 Tennant Creek Directorate Report

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Director of Tennant Creek Report; and

a) That Councillors McAdam, Marlow and Stokes work with CEO and Director of Tennant Creek surrounding the dog issues.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr Elliot McAdam

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/91

The CEO confirmed the pound has been full but four dogs were on their way to Alice Springs for rehoming. Mr Anderson told Council one of the troubles was there was only one animal management officer at present with recruitment for a second commencing next week, with the hope the successful candidate has adequate experience to address the local animal issues in town.

Mark Blackburn - Management Consultant joined the meeting at 9.41am.

Cr McAdam asked for an update on CatholicCare's request for the use of the gym for a program for young Indigenous men.

Cr Marlow suggested animal management issues be discussed at a separate meeting as well as talking to Traditional Owners regarding animal euthanasia and finding alternative solutions to address overcrowding of the pound. He said concerns from at least two ratepayers were received by Councillors.

Cr McAdam said he commenced an exercise about six weeks ago and spoke to some of the Traditional Owners, but requires help to continue the work to improve animal management in Tennant Creek.

MOTION

That Council move into confidential session at 9.59am.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/92

The Barkly Regional Council CEO and Staff left the meeting for the confidential session at 9.59am.

MOTION

That Council move back into the Open Session at 10.43am.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/94

CEO Russell Anderson, Executive Manager Tash Adams and Chief Financial Officer Romeo Mutsago joined the meeting at 10.44am.

Cr Mark Peterson joined the meeting at 10.44am.

Tennant Creek Directorate Reports

8.2 Public Library Relaunch Proposal

MOTION

That Council receives and makes recommendations on the attached report.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/93

Cr Marlow passed on their thanks to Library Coordinator Linda Rice for thinking outside the box to improve library services.

Tennant Creek Directorate Reports

8.3 Swimming pool update

MOTION

That Council approves a delay in the reopening of the Tennant Creek Swimming Pool to allow for the necessary repairs and installations of the new VST box, ensuring the safety and functionality of the pool facilities upon reopening.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr Mark Peterson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/95

Acting Mayor Russell O'Donnell declared a conflict of interest with the Swimming Pool and would leave the room if discussion was needed.

9 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Community Development Directorate Reports

9.1 Fitness & Wellness Centre July 2023

MOTION

That Council takes note of the Fitness & Wellness Centre July 2023 Report and;

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Jack Clubb

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/96

Cr Lake asked if able to bring concerns from community regarding the Fitness and Wellness Centre. She said the biggest concern is the damaged and unsafe equipment and suggested an audit was needed.

She asked about the \$10,000 was donated from one of the mines.

CEO reported some of the equipment was being repaired with a couple of items outstanding. He said the facility itself would be addressed by the same person who will be recruited to set up the Youth Centre.

He said the facility needed some TLC and the staff at the moment do not have the skills to address the issues. The price of new equipment would come out of operational funding.

Cr McAdam suggested the Acting CEO should talk the mining company about the Fitness and Wellness Centre.

MOTION

That Council requests the Tennant Creek Director to undertake an audit of the gym equipment, operational capacity, and opening hours.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/97

MOTION

That the CEO and Acting Mayor contact the relevant mining companies which are operating in our area for a discussion around the use of a gym and a general update on operations and potential presentation to Council.

RESOLVED

Moved: Deputy Mayor Russell O'Donnell

Seconded: Cr Sharen Lake

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/98

Community Development Directorate Reports

9.2 June July Youthlinx School Holiday Report 2023

MOTION

That Council receive and note the excellent work done by the Youthlinx team in delivering Youthlinx in June and the School holiday program to the Tennant Creek community.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Lennie Barton

Seconded: Cr Sharen Lake

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/99

Cr Lake said it was great to see so many activities and said the program was really well done.

Community Development Directorate Reports

9.3 Tennant Creek Desexing Program report

MOTION

That Council receive and note this report

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/100

Cr Marlow said he saw one of the treated dogs outside of the TC Hotel yesterday and it looked rather healthy.

Cr McAdam said it was a good outcome for the community.

Cr Marlow noted the CEO, Executive Manager, and himself attended the Chamber of Commerce NT Business Excellence Awards and the Barkly Vet Practice won an award.

MOTION

That Council commends Barkly Regional Council and Tennant Creek Local Authority, Barkly Vet Practice, stakeholders and the community for the collaboration and support of the Desexing Program.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Jack Clubb

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/101

Community Development Directorate Reports

9.4 TCYC operational funds - employment

MOTION

That Council approves 3 Full Time Employee positions for the new Tennant Creek Youth Centre.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/102

CEO reported that NIAA and NT Government have said they would have additional support staff, depending on who Council recruited. A site supervisor would need to have previous experience in setting up youth centres.

Cr Lake asked if there was still an Environmental Health position in the new structure. She said it was funded by the NT Government and sat under Animal Management and was set up to deliver these sorts of health and wellbeing projects.

CEO took the question on notice.

10 OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Operations Directorate Reports

10.1 Director Operations - Remote Communities - operations update AUG23

MOTION

That Council receives and notes for August 2023.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Elliot McAdam

Seconded: Cr Jack Clubb

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/103

CEO reported to Council there are serious fires in Alpururulam at the moment and two of the fires are inside Council's fire break. He reported the Area Manager is concerned about the fires and there is no grader available in the area.

Cr Lake said a lot of corporate knowledge has disappeared from the organisation and suggested there be an audit of fire equipment in communities.

Cr McAdam asked if identified issues with existing plans and Council should give power to CEO to write to NTG to seek funds to implement fire plan to upgrade or hire graders.

MOTION

That Council:

a) Requests the CEO to instruct the Director of Tennant Creek to contact Tennant Creek Fire Department to notify the Director when it intends to conduct burn-offs so Council can communicate to the public when they occur.

b) Locate where the Alpururulam grader is at the moment and if it is operational.

RESOLVED

Moved: Deputy Mayor Russell O'Donnell

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/104

Cr Corbett asked where the Alpururulam grader is at the moment and if it is operational.

MOTION

That Council instructs the CEO to check BRC's community fire management plans and report back to Council at its next meeting

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/105

MOTION

That Council

- a) Identifies deficiencies in the fire management plans for Barkly communities
- b) That Council instructs the CEO to write to the NT Government urgently to request funding for the immediate implementation to mitigate risk factors around the risk to life and wellbeing to people, animals and property.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Elliot McAdam

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/106

11 FINANCE REPORTS

Finance Reports

11.1 Financial Report for the period ended 31st July 2023

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Finance Report for the year-to-date 31st July 2023.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Elliot McAdam

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/107

Cr Barton left the meeting at 11.44am.

Cr Lake asked if residents could pay rates on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The CFO explained they can arrange with their employee or bank for direct debits.

Cr Marlow asked the CFO if the prior year's balance sheet could be included in future reports for comparison purposes. He also pointed out the term deposit with Westpac, if they can't do better than 1.25%, BRC can probably withdraw and invest elsewhere with a better rate.

MOTION

That Council requests the CEO to instruct Finance to include the prior year's comparable balance sheets in all future reports.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/108

Cr Marlow asked the CFO if the prior year's balance sheet could be included in future reports for comparison purposes.

Mark Blackburn Management Consultant joined the meeting at 1.44pm.

The meeting paused for a break at 12.08pm.

MOTION

That Council moves into Confidential Session at 12.08pm.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/109

MOTION

That Council move back into Ordinary Session at 1.54pm.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Pam Corbett

Seconded: Cr Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/110

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business

12.1 Development Consent Authority nomination

MOTION

That Council advertise locally for two expressions of interest to the DCA to sit with councillors on DCA.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/111

MOTION

That Council considers nominations to the Tennant Creek DCA.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Elliot McAdam

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/112

General Business

12.2 Tourism report for the Barkly region

MOTION

That Council notes Tourism NT's Barkly Regional Report 2020-2022.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/113

Cr McAdam noted there were no statistics on visitation numbers to the Battery Hill Visitor Centre or Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre.

ACTION: Request the Mayor to raise it with Tourism Central Australia regarding the statistics.

MOTION

That Council instructs the CEO to extend an invitation to DIPL Regional Manager Sally O'Callaghan to attend the September Council Meeting to address the concerns over the Main Street.

RESOLVED

Moved: Deputy Mayor Russell O'Donnell

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/117

Councillors brought up the matter of fireworks being set off in town after 1 July Territory Day. Cr Lake said community members have also spoken to her about the sad state of our main street. "It looks absolutely dreadful, us as a Council, what can we do to try and improve the main street?" Acting Mayor suggested to advocate to DIPL. He said he and the Barkly MLA walked down the streets and counted 20 streetlights that were not working. Cr Lake held concerns for the town's ageing infrastructure. CEO suggested one or two Councillors visit Katherine to investigate how they overcame the problem.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

13.1 Remuneration Tribunal submissions invited

MOTION

That Council notes the invitation for written submissions to the Remuneration Tribunal and
a) That councillors provide a draft copy to the CEO to be tabled at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Elliot McAdam

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/114

Correspondence

13.2 Governance Table Communication - Update on Youth infrastructure projects

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the correspondence from the Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Elliot McAdam

Seconded: Cr Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/115

Correspondence

13.3 LGANT Long Service Awards

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the call for nominations for the Local Government Association NT Service Awards and;

- a) That Nomination forms be sent to all Chairs of the Local Authorities and elected members.
- b) Considers the nominations at its September meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Elliot McAdam

Seconded: Cr Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved OM-23/116

Cr McAdam requested a function to be held to recognise the four former Councillors.

14 DECISION TO MOVE INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with *Section 99(2)* of the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Regulation 51* of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* as the items listed to be discussed come within the following provisions: -

information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual;

information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer;

information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:
cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person; or

prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law; or

prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff; or

subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person;

information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity;

subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest;

subject to subregulation (2) – information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

MOTION

That Council move into Confidential Session

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Sharen Lake

Seconded: Cr Jack Clubb

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting moved into confidential session at 2.32pm.

14.1 Audit & Risk Committee

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

That pursuant to *section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be re-opened to the public at 4.15pm.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Greg Marlow

Seconded: Cr Pam Corbett

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15 NEXT MEETING AND MEETING CLOSE

The meeting terminated at 4.15pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 August 2023 and are unconfirmed.