



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 7:00PM
AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present:

Councillors:

Cr. Tony Reneker (Mayor), Cr. Michael Kidd (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Paul Smith,
Cr. Tony Ciccia, Cr. Matt Holt, Cr. Tracey Morris and Cr. George Weston.

Staff:

Jackie Kruger (General Manager), Sarah Graham (Manager Governance,
Corporate and Customer Service) and Terry Schmidt (Communications
Coordinator).

Press: Nil

LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

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1. CIVIC PRAYER Cr. Smith

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Mayor Cr. Reneker

3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

23/161

Resolved

Cr. Maytom and Cr. Nardi

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Ciccio)

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

23/162

Resolved

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr. Kidd, seconded Cr. Maytom)

ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS

Nil

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

General Manager disclosed a significant pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 10.1 General Manager's Performance Review.

6. MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

GENERAL MANAGER'S MATTERS

Item 7.1 MINUTES OF COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING - 24 NOVEMBER 2023

23/163

Resolved

THAT Council receives for information the minutes of the Country Mayors Association Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2023.

(Moved Cr. Kidd, seconded Cr. Morris)

Item 7.2 MINUTES OF RAMJO MEETING - 11 AUGUST 2023

23/164

Resolved

THAT Council receives for information the minutes of the RAMJO meeting held on Friday 11 August 2023.

(Moved Cr. Kidd, seconded Cr. Ciccia)

CORPORATE MATTERS

Item 7.3 ADOPTION OF PROPOSAL TO REBALANCE THE RATES FOR IMPROVED RATING EQUITY

23/165

Resolved

THAT Council endorses a revised ordinary rate structure from the 2024/25 financial year onwards as a means equitably and fairly distributing the rate burden between rate categories. The changes are outlined as follows:

- a. Residential rate category – continue to implement rate peg increases as set by IPART with this being 4.5% for the 2024/25 financial year;
- b. Farmland rate category – will have no rate peg increases for 2 years (for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years) to allow a rebalancing of rates applied to the farmland category; and
- c. Business rate category – a new sub-category (Business – Industrial) be created and along with the Business - General category will be allocated the remaining balance of the annual rate peg increases in a split of 75% Business – Industrial and 25% to Business – General. These rate increases will apply for 2 years (the 2024/25 to 2025/26 financial years) to rebalance the business rates to be more in line with Group 11 comparative Councils.

(Moved Cr. Ciccia, seconded Cr. Weston)

Item 7.4 INVESTMENTS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023

23/166

Resolved

THAT Council notes the information contained in the Investments Report for November 2023.

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Kidd)

**Item 7.5 MINUTES OF THE YANCO COMMUNITY HALL AND MARKET
COMMITTEE MEETING - 13 NOVEMBER 2023**

23/167

Resolved

THAT Council:

1. Receives for information the minutes of the Yanco Community Hall and Market Committee held on Monday 13 November 2023.
2. Endorses the purchase of a new automated pop-up sprinkler system at Yanco Community Hall to the value of \$2,320 (incl GST) to be funded from the Yanco Community Hall and Market Committee term deposit.
3. Endorses the purchase of a metering panel with power to energise the new sprinkler controller to the value of \$ 710.60 (incl GST) to be funded from the Yanco Community Hall and Market Committee term deposit.
4. Endorses the purchase of new tables to the value of \$2,246 (incl GST) for use at the monthly Yanco Village markets and for hall event hirers to be funded from the Yanco Community Hall and Market Committee term deposit.
5. Endorses a contingency of fifteen percent of all the above projects if required, with authorization for any spend delegated to the General Manager.

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Kidd)

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

**Item 7.6 MINUTES OF THE LEETON LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
- NOVEMBER 2023**

23/168

Resolved

THAT Council notes the minutes and endorses the recommendations of the Local Area Traffic Committee meeting which was held electronic in November 2023.

(Moved Cr. Ciccia, seconded Cr. Morris)

**Item 7.7 MINUTES OF THE LEETON TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 30
NOVEMBER 2023**

23/169

Resolved

THAT Council endorses the minutes of the Leeton Tree Advisory Committee Meeting held on 30 November 2023.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Weston)

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Item 7.8 POST EVENT REPORT - 2023 ART DECO FESTIVAL EVENT

23/170

Resolved

THAT Council receives for information the 2023 Australian Art Deco Festival – Leeton post event report and notes that the 2024 event date has been set for 12 to 14 July 2024.

(Moved Cr. Morris, seconded Cr. Kidd)

Item 7.9 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MIA CRUISERS INC

23/171

Resolved

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the use of an approximately 400m section of the Leeton Town Ovals carpark by MIA Cruisers Inc to host the 2024 "Show and Shine" event from 8:00am to 12:30pm on Saturday 30 March 2024 (Easter Saturday).
2. Waives the Section 68 Approval Fee of \$67 to use the Leeton Town Ovals Complex for the 2023 "Show and Shine" event.
3. Waives the Section 138 Road Opening Permit fee of \$132 to use the Leeton Town Ovals car park for the 2024 "Show and Shine" event.
4. Waives the fee of 30c per square metre of parking space for an area of 369m x 19m totalling \$2,257.20 for hiring the car parking spaces for the MIA Cruisers Incorporation 2024 "Show and Shine" event.

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Kidd)

8. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Item 8.1 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORT

23/172

Resolved

THAT Council notes the Councillor activity reports submitted for the period between 23 November to 20 December 2023.

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Kidd)

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Note: Pursuant to Section 10A(4), the public were invited to make representations to the Council meeting before any part of the meeting is closed, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

The Mayor asked the gallery if there were any objections to Council going into Closed Session to consider the matters listed.

23/173

Resolved

1. THAT Council moves into Closed Council to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. THAT in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting to enable Council to determine items listed in Confidential Matters for the reasons indicated.
3. THAT the report relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by Section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

(Moved Cr. Morris, seconded Cr. Smith)

Council closed its meeting at 8:05 PM

Council Meeting was adjourned until 8:35 PM

Having declared a conflict of interest, the General Manager left the meeting, the time being 8:35 PM and did not return.

Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service left the meeting, the time being 8:35 PM

Communications Coordinator left the meeting, the time being 8:35 PM

CLOSED COUNCIL - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Item 10.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - GENERAL MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

23/174

Resolved

THAT Council:

1. Notes the General Manager's Performance Review meeting summary provided by the LGNSW independent facilitator and endorses that the General Manager is performing 'more than satisfactory',
2. Endorses the forward priorities for the General Manager of completing all major capital works projects; revising the Long Term Financial Plan; developing and implementing more robust project budgeting processes; continuing water security, health and housing advocacy efforts and preparing for the 2024 Council elections.
3. Approves a 3% pay increase for the General Manager, with effect from the pay period following her current anniversary date in August 2023.
4. Agrees to extend the General Manager's current contract for an additional one year (now expires on 2 August 2026) with a starting total remuneration package unchanged from the total remuneration package resolved at this December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

(Moved Cr. Smith, seconded Cr. Morris)

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

23/175

Resolved

THAT this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 9:28 pm.

(Moved Cr. Weston, seconded Cr. Smith)

Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service returned to the meeting, the time being 9:29 PM

Communications Coordinator returned to the meeting, the time being 9:29 PM

The Mayor advised that during the Closed Council one resolution was passed.

The Mayor read out the resolution made in Closed Council for Item 10.1

11. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:38 pm.

..... signed by
the Chairman of the meeting held on
21 Feb 2024 at which meeting the
signature hereon was subscribed.