

16 January 2019

Motions at Special Council Meeting

The Esperance Shire Council met last night to make decisions on the six motions raised by electors at the Annual Electors Meeting held on 17 December 2018.

The Special Council Meeting was held in Council Chambers with 54 residents and ratepayers attending. Each motion is outlined below with the subsequent resolution resolved by Council.

Motion 1

Motion of no confidence in the CEO and to direct Council to terminate his contract immediately.

That Council

- 1. Rejects Motion 1 from the Annual Electors Meeting of Electors 2018, based on the outcome of the March 2018 CEO Performance Review, and since that time there being no evidence of misconduct or breaches of the CEO's statutory or contractual obligations, there is no valid reason to terminate his contract; and***
- 2. Advises the mover and seconder that Council has a robust annual statutory performance review process for the CEO, and all relevant matters relating to the performance of the CEO will be considered at that annual review to be conducted before April 2019.***

Motion 2

That the rates increase for 2019/2020 be kept at the CPI.

That Council

- 1. Review the long term financial plan prior to budget setting and consider the impact that keeping the 2019/2020 rates at CPI would have on this and future year's budgets, assets and service delivery.***
- 2. Seek information from City of Bayswater regarding their Participatory Budget program to determine if it would be a viable method of involving the community in future budget process, and***
- 3. Run an information session for the community on the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan prior to its adoption at Council.***

Motion 3

That the salary increases for the senior staff, that is the CEO and its Directors, also be kept at CPI.

That Council reject Motion 3 from the Annual Meeting of Electors (December 2018) and instruct the CEO to advise the Mover and Seconder of the Motion of Council's resolution.

Motion 4

That Council abandon Lot 12 Kirwan Road before more ratepayer's funds are wasted and focus on finding a site with suitable hydrology and geology that ideally embraces all elements of the triple bottom line.

That Council:

- 1. Re-confirms resolution S0218-026, specifically re-committing to defer any further decision regarding the proposed landfill facility on Lot 12 Kirwan Road until Council has had an opportunity to consider all the elements listed in resolution S0218-026; and***
- 2. Request the CEO, if practicable, to provide initial cost estimates to implement the currently approved Scoping Document for Council's consideration by or before the 28 February 2019.***

Motion 5

That elected members of Council, that their allowances be reviewed only after they have completed their training and be frozen for the duration of their time on Council.

That Council reject Motion 5 from the Annual Meeting of Electors (December 2018) and instruct the CEO to advise the Mover and Seconder of the Motion of Council's resolution.

Motion 6

That Council do something different to fix the fracture in the community, and work on a community development process to try and get this community working together in tough times.

That Council, after receiving data from the Community Perception Survey investigate engaging an independent facilitator to work with Council with the aim of improving its relationship with the community.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "As with last year, the Special Council Meeting contained a few controversial issues that our community are dealing with. These issues are complex and there is no simple fix. Councillors are elected by the community to make sound, informed decisions for the benefit of the community and whilst we may not all share the same opinions, we are listening.

"Some of the motions raised at the Annual Electors Meeting were not achievable because they would have contravened the Local Government Act. Councillors spent quite some time individually and as a group determining how we would find solutions to the motions raised. Whilst we can't provide instant outcomes we are committed to providing good governance that benefits the whole Esperance Community."

Full minutes of the meeting will be available on the Shire website as soon as possible.

Ends

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