

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Glenorchy City Council held at the Council Chambers on Monday, 17 June 2019 at 7:00 pm



Present: Aldermen Kristie Johnston (Mayor), Matt Stevenson (Deputy Mayor), Melissa Carlton, Jan Dunsby, Simon Fraser, Steven King, Gaye Richardson, Kelly Sims and Bec Thomas.

In attendance: Tony McMullen (General Manager), Jenny Self (Director Corporate Services), David Ronaldson (Director Community and Customer Services), Ted Ross (Director Infrastructure and Works), Paul Garnsey (Acting Director Strategy and Development), Bryn Hannan (Executive Officer), Tina House (Manager Finance and ICT), Erin McGoldrick (Manager City Strategy & Economic Development), Mark Patmore (Accounting Accountant), Fatema Qader (Accountant), Megan Braslin (Senior Revenue Officer), Jodi Plunkett (Administrative Support Officer).

Four (4) members of the public attended the Council meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

The Chair acknowledged and paid respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of the land.

The Chair read the following two statements:

Statement 1:

In relation to the Audio Recording of the Council Meeting under regulation 33 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* and Council's 'Audio Recording of Council Meetings' policy.

Statement 2:

In relation to work health and safety at the Council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Alderman Bull

2. PECUNIARY INTEREST NOTIFICATION

The Chairperson asked if any Aldermen had or were likely to have a pecuniary interest in any items on the Agenda.

No interest were declared.

KING/THOMAS

That Council hold a public question time as it would in an ordinary Council meeting.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Thomas, Dunsby, King, Stevenson, Johnston, Richardson, Fraser, Carlton and Sims.

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Shane Alderton, Austins Ferry

- Q. In relation to Council's budget estimates report, paragraph 7 of the recommendation refers to a waste service charge of \$458.10 for rateable property. However in paragraphs 8(a) to (h) that charge is varied down by considerable amounts depending on the waste services delivered to each property. How does Council absorb or write off those costs from the original figure of \$458.10?**
- A. (Chief Financial Officer) The requirement under the *Local Government Act 1993* is that we only set 1 service charge, but then we vary the charge for each individual service provided down. We don't actually lose or forgo that money, but it is simply the way that the resolution is worded to ensure compliance with the Act. The varied service charges in paragraphs (a) to (h) reflect the charges that were set at the May Council meeting.
- Q. In relation to paragraph 8(n) of the recommendation (the charge for a FOGO service), the waste service charge is varied down by \$423.10 to \$35.00, which was the amount set at the last meeting for the FOGO service. How did Council achieve a figure of \$423.10 when you still don't have a clear picture of what FOGO is going to cost?**
- A. (Chief Financial Officer) The \$35 charge for the FOGO service was what was resolved by Council at the May Council meeting for the first part-year of the FOGO service. As with the previous answer, the wording of the resolution has been drafted in accordance with the requirement in the Act, meaning that the total waste services charge of \$458.10 is varied down by \$423.10 to arrive at the \$35 FOGO charge set by Council.
- Q. In relation to the draft Financial Hardship Policy, there is no provision in the policy for anyone to appeal or object to a decision that has been made about whether they are in financial hardship, or seek a review of the decision. Why isn't there such a provision in there?**
- A. (Director Corporate Services) There's no express provision, but we are intending to make the process as easy as possible and will listen to and assess every application on its merits. Based on the number of people we expect to be accessing the policy an appeal process isn't necessary. We will try to help as many people as possible under the policy and will be flexible in terms of making sure it is available to everyone who needs it.

Q. What if someone needs to submit additional documentation in support of their application. The policy doesn't seem to provide for this? Also, is there going to be fee for making an application under the policy?

A. (Director Corporate Services) No, there will absolutely not be an application fee. In relation to additional documentation, Council staff will be available to assist people to make application, including completing the forms and providing identification and the appropriate evidence. If a person's circumstances change after making an application, they will be able to make a new application advising of this.

Eddy Steenbergen, Rosetta

Q. Why is the financial hardship policy on the agenda tonight, given that it doesn't appear to relate to anything in the budget?

A. (Mayor) Because it covers off on the issues that we have been discussing over the last few months in-terms of setting our fees and charges and our budget deliberations. The policy itself will be applied to the bills that people receive as result of this process (i.e. the rates and charges bill), so it's appropriate that we consider it as part of a 'package' in relation our responsibility to engage with our residents around the finances of this organization and the impact that it might have on them. Through our budget discussions and fees and charges deliberations, we have been mindful of the situation that our residents find themselves in financially. The motion to develop a policy was that we bring the policy back in June. It could have waited until the ordinary Council meeting next week, however it is more appropriate that it is considered as part of our budget, to ensure that we can be empathetic.

Q. The policy seems to include ratepayers commercial or industrial properties and I'm not sure that this was in the minds of people when they were thinking of the concept of a hardship policy. So why are businesses and industrial organisations even mentioned in this context?

A. (Director Corporate Services) Originally the discussion around a Financial Hardship Policy arose based on the introduction of the FOGO service and the impact this cost may have had. However, when we were drafting the policy it became apparent that it's not just going to be our residential ratepayers that find themselves in financial hardship, and that from time to time businesses also find themselves in difficulty and may require assistance. It is important that we recognize all ratepayers in the community and look at applications to see if we can assist.

Q. So does the term 'ratepayer' include companies as well as individuals?

A. (Director Corporate Services) Yes.

GOVERNANCE

Community goal: "Leading our Community"

3. 2019/20 BUDGET ESTIMATES

File Reference: Annual Budget 2019/2020

Reporting Brief:

To recommend the 2019/20 Budget estimates, and the Long Term Financial Management Plan 2019/20 to 2028/29, for Council's adoption.

Resolution:

FRASER/SIMS

That Council:

1. APPROVE the Glenorchy City Council 2019/20 Budget Estimates as set out in Attachment 1
2. APPROVE the Glenorchy City Council Long Term Financial Management Plan 2019/20 to 2028/2029 as set out in Attachment 2
3. RESOLVE that pursuant to Section 90 of the Act, for the period commencing on 1 July 2019 and ending on 30 June 2020 inclusive (financial year), Council makes a general rate of 8.328 cents in the dollar based on the assessed annual value (AAV) of all rateable land in the municipal area of Glenorchy;
4. RESOLVE that pursuant to Section 107(1)(a) for the financial year, Council varies the general rate down to 7.634 cents in the dollar based on the AAV, for all rateable land in the municipal area of Glenorchy used for residential purposes
5. RESOLVE that pursuant to Section 90(4) of the Act, for the financial year Council sets the minimum amount payable in respect of the general rate at \$191.50
6. RESOLVE that pursuant to Section 93A of the Act, Council makes for the financial year the following service rates in respect of fire protection based on the AAV of all rateable land on the valuation roll or assessment roll prepared under the Valuation of Land Act 2001 as follows:
 - a) 1.338 cents in the dollar for Council's contribution to the State Fire Commission for land that is situated within the Hobart Permanent Brigade Rating District with a minimum contribution for each parcel of land of \$41.00 applying, and

- b) 0.10 cents in the dollar for Council's contribution to the State Fire Commission for land that is situated outside the Hobart Permanent Brigade Rating District with a minimum contribution for each parcel of land of \$41.00 applying.
7. RESOLVE that pursuant to Section 94(1) of the Act, Council makes a waste management service charge for services provided by Council upon rateable land within the municipal area of Glenorchy for the financial year a service charge of \$458.10 to each property.
8. RESOLVE that pursuant to Section 94(3) for the financial year, Council varies the waste management service charge within the municipal area according to the use of land and / or according to the level of service provided to the land as follows:
- a) In respect of all land within the municipality where a 140-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile recycling bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$369.65 to \$88.45 for those properties that nominate to receive a fortnightly collection service
 - b) In respect of all land within the municipality where a 240-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile recycling bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$369.65 to \$88.45 for those properties that nominate to receive a fortnightly collection service
 - c) In respect of all land within the municipality where a 140-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile recycling bin services; the service charge is varied down by \$281.20 to \$176.90 for those properties that nominate to receive a weekly collection service
 - d) In respect of all land within the municipality where a 240-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile recycling bin services; the service charge is varied down by \$281.20 to \$176.90 for those properties that nominate to receive a weekly collection service
 - e) In respect of all land within the municipality, for mobile recycling bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$369.65 to \$88.45 for those properties that contain multiple dwellings within one property
 - f) In respect of land used for non-residential purposes, where a 240-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down \$193.90 to \$264.20 for those properties that nominate to receive a fortnightly collection service
 - g) In respect of land used for non-residential purposes, where a 140-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$190.70 to \$267.40 for those properties that nominate to receive a weekly collection service

- h) In respect of land used for non-residential purposes, where a 140-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$304.75 to \$153.35 for those properties that nominate to receive a fortnightly collection service
 - i) In respect of land used for residential purposes, where a 240-litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$155.80 to \$302.30 for those properties that nominate to receive a weekly collection service
 - j) In respect of land used for residential purposes, where a 140 litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$281.70 to \$176.40 for those properties that nominate to receive a weekly collection service
 - k) In respect of land used for residential purposes, where a 240 litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$306.80 to \$151.30 for those properties that nominate to receive a fortnightly collection service
 - l) In respect of land used for residential purposes, where a 140 litre bin has been provided by Council for mobile garbage bin services, the service charge is varied down by \$369.75 to \$88.35 for those properties that nominate to receive a fortnightly collection service
 - m) In respect of land used for residential purposes, for mobile garbage bin services the service charge is varied down by \$369.75 to \$88.35 for properties that contain multiple dwellings within one property, and
 - n) In respect of all land within the municipality where a food organics green organics (FOGO) service is provided by Council; the service charge is varied down by \$423.10 to \$35.00.
9. RESOLVE that a penalty of 10% is to apply to the amount of any instalment not paid by the due date
10. RESOLVE that interest at a rate of 8.10% per annum is to apply to the amount of any instalment not paid by the due date in accordance with Section 128 of the Act
11. RESOLVE that as permitted by section 129(4) of the Act, no penalty or interest is to apply during the period 1 August 2019 and 30 April 2020 inclusive, where payment is made by Direct Debit and there are no arrears owing, and
12. RESOLVE that rates levied in accordance with this resolution are payable to the Council by four (4) equal instalments:
- a) the first instalment on or before the 31st day after the issue of the rates notice

- b) the second instalment on or before 15 October 2019
- c) the third instalment on or before 15 January 2020, and
- d) the fourth instalment on or before 15 March 2020.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Thomas, Dunsby, King, Stevenson, Johnston, Richardson, Fraser, Carlton and Sims.

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

4. GLENORCHY CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23

File Reference: Annual Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23

Reporting Brief:

The requirement for Council to adopt an Annual Plan is set out in section 71 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)*, which provides:

- (1) *A council is to prepare an annual plan for the municipal area for each financial year.*
- (2) *An annual plan is to –*
 - (a) *be consistent with the strategic plan; and*
 - (b) *include a statement of the manner in which the council is to meet the goals and objectives of the strategic plan; and*
 - (c) *include a summary of the estimates adopted under section 82; and*
 - (d) *include a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to the council's public health goals and objectives.*

The draft *Glenorchy City Council Annual Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23* is Attachment 1 to this report.

Resolution:

THOMAS/KING

That Council:

ADOPT the Glenorchy City Council Annual Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 in the form of Attachment 1.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Thomas, Dunsby, King, Stevenson, Johnston, Richardson, Fraser, Carlton and Sims.

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

5. RATES AND CHARGES POLICY

File Reference: Rates and Charges

Reporting Brief:

To recommend a Rates and Charges Policy for Council adoption as required under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Resolution:

FRASER/CARLTON

That Council:

ADOPT the Rates and Charges Policy in the form set out in Attachment 1.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Thomas, Dunsby, King, Stevenson, Johnston, Richardson, Fraser, Carlton and Sims.

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

6. FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

File Reference: Financial Hardship Policy

Reporting Brief:

The present a proposed Financial Hardship Policy to Council for adoption.

Resolution:

STEVENSON/KING

That Council:

1. Adopt the Financial Hardship Policy in the form set out in Attachment 1, with the exception of fixing the typographical errors
2. That the guidelines that Council will use to assess financial hardship will be returned to Council for adoption
3. That Council continue to consult with, particularly, service providers that support those in financial hardship on the operation of our hardship policy, and
4. That a report be presented to Council prior to 12 months of operation that presents a synopsis of the operation of the policy and ways in which we may continue to improve in our support of people in genuine hardship.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Thomas, Dunsby, King, Stevenson, Johnston, Richardson, Fraser, Carlton and Sims.

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

The meeting closed at 7.57 p.m.

Confirmed,

CHAIR