



MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

To be held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
Tuesday, 9 August 2022
Commencing 6.30pm

Common Acronyms Used in this Document	
CBP	Corporate Business Plan
CEACA	Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
DCEO	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
ES	Executive Support Officer
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
GO	Governance Officer
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MCO	Media and Communications Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Manager of Projects
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan



Shire of Merredin Special Council Meeting

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Shire of Merredin
Special Council Meeting
6:30pm Tuesday, 9 August 2022



1. Official Opening

The President acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Njaki Njaki people of the Nyoongar Nation and paid his respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The President then welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6:36pm.

2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr M McKenzie	President
Cr R Billing	
Cr J Flockart	
Cr R Manning	
Cr P Patroni	
Cr M Simmonds	
Cr P Van Der Merwe	

Staff:

L Clack	CEO
C Townsend	A/DCEO
L Mellor	A/EMCS
L Boehme	EMCS
D Hay-Hendry	A/EMES
M Wyatt	EA/ES
O Mellor	GO

Members of the Public: Nil

Apologies: P Zenni, EMDS
Cr D Crook

Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

3. Public Question Time

Nil

4. Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Resolution

82976 That Councillor Flockart be granted Leave of Absence for the 23rd August 2022 and 30th August 2022 to 8th September 2022.

CARRIED 7/0

82977 That Councillor Manning be granted Leave of Absence for the 23rd August 2022.

CARRIED 7/0

Nil

Nil

Shire President Mark McKenzie received an email signed by Ms Leah Boehme as shown in Confidential Attachment 8.1A on Tuesday 9th August 2022 resigning as Shire Councillor effective immediately.

Nil

Nil

Nil


Nil

13. Officer's Reports - Engineering Services

Nil

14. Officers' Reports – Corporate and Community Services

14.1 2022-23 Budget Adoption

<div>Corporate Services</div> <div>SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT</div>	
Responsible Officer:	Lindon Mellor, A/EMCS
Author:	As above
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i>
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 14.1A – 2022-23 Draft Budget Attachment 14.1B – 2022-23 Draft Budget - Capital Supporting Schedule (Confidential) Attachment 14.1C – 2022-23 Draft Fees and Charges Attachment 14.1D - 2022-23 Objects and Reasoning

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

The Draft 2022-23 Budget (Attachment 14.1A) has been compiled based on the objectives contained in the Strategic Community Plan and Council's priorities. Capital budget supporting documentation has been included as Attachment 14.1B.

The proposed fees and charges (Attachment 14.1C) were approved by Council in the Ordinary meeting on 24 May 2022 and advertised for public comment, closing on 1 July 2022. There were verbal comments received from one member of the public regarding the increase in waste charges at the landfill, which have been considered.

The proposed differential general and minimum rates (Attachment 14.1D) were approved by Council in the Ordinary meeting on 24 May 2022 and advertised for public comment, closing on 1 August 2022. There were no public comments received.

Council attendance fees were endorsed by Council in the Ordinary meeting on 24 May 2022 (CM Ref: 82912 & 82913) and included in the Draft 2022-23 budget provisions.

Comment

A briefing session was conducted with Council on 2 August 2022, to go through the budget in detail and address any concerns. Council was also briefed on changes within 2022-23 Budget from previous years.

The main features of the draft 2022-23 Budget include:

1. The budget has been prepared with a 4% increase in the rates revenue. This increase applies across all differential rate categories utilising the Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) and the Unimproved Valuation (UV) provided by Landgate. It should be noted that in some cases rates in the dollar charges are lower than previous years due to increases in property values.
2. Fees and Charges have been reviewed and generally increased, with the exception of the Swimming Pool charges at the request of Council. Several other charges set under Local Laws and where statutory regulations apply, were only changed where this met the requirements.

Fees and Charges were advertised for public comment on 16 June 2022, closing on 1 July 2022. Only one verbal comment was received regarding the Construction & Demolition Waste (unsorted).

Construction & Demolition Waste (unsorted) charges and associated minimum charges were increased to promote the sorting of waste, increasing recycling and reduce the amount of waste going into landfill. Following verbal feedback from a member of the community the charge was reduced back to \$64.00 per cubic metre with a minimum charge of \$40.00. This change was made to account for local skip bin companies and other businesses which are not always able to sort the waste they are collecting. Local skip bin companies only have a limited number of skip bins and are often unable to provide multiple skip bins for different waste streams to their customers, so the additional charges would have had a significant impact on their businesses.

Throughout the budget process, the administration also identified other fees and charges that required updating or adding in. All changes that occurred after public advertisement have been highlighted in yellow in Attachment 14.1C.

3. Household and Commercial Waste charges have a seen an increase, to offset an increase in contractor charges for these services.
4. A capital works budget totalling \$11.39m for investment in infrastructure, land and buildings, plant and equipment. This includes expenditure on road infrastructure is totalling \$5.18m; and a total of \$5.58m towards the CBD and Apex Park Upgrade projects (\$3.64m is to be funded from grants).

The estimated brought forward balance is \$2,254,300. However, this is unaudited and may change once the annual 2021-22 accounts are finalised. The major influences on the brought-forward balance are the receipt of an advance payment of \$1.27m of the 2022-23 Financial Assistance Grants allocation received in June 2022; and carry forward grant funds towards capital projects.

Policy Implications

The draft 2022-23 Budget is based on the objectives contained in the Strategic Community Plan and Policy 3.18 Financial Reserves.

Statutory Implications

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires that no later than 31 August in each financial year the local government is to prepare and adopt a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Division 5 and 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995 refers to the setting of budgets and raising of rates and charges. The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2022-23 Budget as presented is considered to meet the statutory requirements.

Strategic Implications

➤ Strategic Community Plan

Theme:	4. Communication & Leadership
Service Area Objective:	4.2 Decision Making 4.2.2. The Shire is progressive while exercising responsible stewardship of its built, natural and financial resources.
Priorities and Strategies for Change:	N/A

➤ Corporate Business Plan

Key Action:	N/A
Directorate:	N/A
Timeline:	N/A

Sustainability Implications

➤ Strategic Resource Plan

The draft 2021-22 Budget has been complied on the principles contained in the Strategic Resource Plan.

➤ Workforce Plan

Directorate:	Nil
Activity:	Nil
Current Staff:	Nil
Focus Area:	Nil
Strategy Code:	Nil
Strategy:	Nil
Implications:	Nil

Risk Implications

If Council do not accept this budget, it risks not meeting it's requirements under *Section 6.2* of the *Local Government Act 1995* to have an adopted budget for its municipal fund by 31 August. Additionally this will impact the administration's ability to deliver projects and other works in a timely manner.

Financial Implications

Specific financial implications are as outlined in the 'Comment' section of this report and as itemised in the draft 2022-23 Budget, compiled as Attachment 14.2A.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing

Seconded: Cr Patroni

That Council;

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS the 2022-23 Budget as contained in Attachments 14.1A and 14.1B, for the Shire of Merredin;
2. Pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995 IMPOSES the following differential general and minimum rates on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values adopted for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget in the Rate Setting Statement:

82978

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$1,130.00	0.01752
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,130.00	0.03328
UV3 – Mining	\$200.00	0.03220
UV4 - Special Zone Wind Farm & Power Generation	\$1,130.00	0.03220
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,130.00	0.03220

3. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council ADOPTS the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:

Full payment or 1st Instalment due date	23 September 2022
2nd Instalment due date	25 November 2022
3rd Instalment due date	27 January 2023
4th Instalment due date	31 March 2023

4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$13 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid;
5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option;
6. Pursuant to Section 6.51(1) and subject to Section 6.51(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS an interest rate of 6.0% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable;
7. Pursuant to Section 67 of the Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007, ADOPTS the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the Shire of Merredin removal and/or deposit of domestic and commercial waste included in Attachment 14.1C;
8. Pursuant to Section 5.99 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS the following annual fees for payment of elected members in lieu of individual meeting attendance fees:

Shire President	\$8,879
Deputy Shire President	\$8,879
Councillors	\$8,879

9. Pursuant to Section 5.98A of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 33 and 33A of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, ADOPTS the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the annual meeting allowance:

Shire President	\$14,794
Deputy Shire President	\$3,698

10. In accordance with Regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and AASB 1031

Materiality, ENDORSES the level to be used in the Statement of Financial Activity in 2022-23 for the reporting material variance shall be 10% and \$10,000.

CARRIED 7/0

15. Officers' Reports - Administration

Nil

16. Motions of which Previous Notice has been given

Nil

17. Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given

Nil

18. Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision

Nil

19. Matters Behind Closed Doors

Nil

20. Closure

There being no further business, the President thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6:50pm.

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