



ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
MINUTES

27 FEBRUARY 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING.....3

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY3

3 ATTENDANCE.....3

4 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE.....3

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME4

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
– AS CIRCULATED7**

7 CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023.....8

8 CLOSURE8

APPENDIX 1 – ATTACHMENTS9

CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON
ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 5.00PM
CHAMBERS, CATHEDRAL AVENUE

MINUTES

<p>As per Section 5.27 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, a general meeting of the electors of a district is to be held once every financial year.</p>

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1966

Regulation 15. Matters to be discussed at general meeting (Act s. 5.27(3))

For the purposes of section 5.27(3), the matters to be discussed at a general electors' meeting are, firstly, the contents of the annual report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

Regulation 17. Voting at meeting (Act s. 5.31)

- (1) Each elector who is present at a general or special meeting of electors is entitled to one vote on each matter to be decided at the meeting but does not have to vote.
- (2) All decisions at a general or special meeting of electors are to be made by a simple majority of votes.
- (3) Voting at a general or special meeting of electors is to be conducted so that no voter's vote is secret.

Regulation 18. Procedure at meeting (Act s. 5.31)

Subject to regulations 15 and 17, the procedure to be followed at a general or special meeting of electors is to be determined by the person presiding at the meeting.

Public Notice advertised from 2 February 2024

This meeting was advertised as per below:

Civic Centre, Cathedral Avenue – 2 February 2024

Mullewa District Office – 2 February 2024

Geraldton Regional Library – 2 February 2024

City of Greater Geraldton Website – 2 February 2024

City of Greater Geraldton Social Media – 2 February 2024

Geraldton Guardian – 6 February 2024

Midwest Times – 7 February 2024

Internal Reference of Public Notices - D-24-018528

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5.00pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

3 ATTENDANCEPresent:

Mayor J Clune
Cr N Colliver
Cr S Cooper
Cr J Critch
Cr J Denton
Cr P Fiorenza
Cr A Horsman
Cr M Librizzi
Cr S Keemink
Cr K Parker
Cr V Tanti

Officers:

R McKim, Chief Executive Officer
R Hall, Director of Development Services
F Norling, Director of Community and Culture
N Jane, Chief Financial Officer
K Smith, A/Director of Infrastructure Services
M Wilson, PA to the Director Development Services / Minute Secretary
L Pegler, Executive Support Secretary
T Machukera, Financial Accountant
M Kiviberg, Information Technology Team Leader

Other:

All Electors are asked to register their attendance at the registration table upon arrival.

Public Electors: 20

Press: 0

Apologies:

C Lee, Director of Infrastructure Services
P Radalj, Director of Corporate Services

Leave of Absence:

Nil.

4 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions provided in writing prior to the meeting or at the meeting will receive a formal response. Please note that you cannot make statements in Public Question Time and such statements will not be recorded in the Minutes.

Our Local Laws and the Local Government Act require questions to be put to the presiding member and answered by the Council. No questions can be put to individual Councillors.

Public Question time commenced at 5:01pm.

Anne Karczub, 22 Malcolm Street, Bluff Point WAQuestion

In 2018 the tree canopy was measured at 7.6% and the CGG documents set a target for 20%. WALGA has supported a target of 30%.

The Geraldton TCA are keen to work in partnership with the CGG to achieve improvement in tree canopy.

How does Geraldton City Council plan to increase tree canopy in Geraldton?

Response

Thank you for the question.

The City is supportive of endeavours to increase tree canopy in Geraldton and are happy to work with the Geraldton Tree Canopy Advocacy group to this end.

The City's current commitment includes the City's One Million Tree Program, the management of the City's Community Nursey which produces approximately 30,000 plants per annum, the employment of the Natural Areas Team that work to preserve and improve special areas such as the Chapman River reserve and the recent extensive planting of pines in the Olive Street Reserve to honour of local veterans.

In next year's draft budget, Officers are suggesting to Council that they increase the funding for the current street tree planting program and enhance the facilities at the Community Nursery by developing a dedicated tree farm section to increase available tree stocks. The City has a Parks Masterplan Upgrade Strategy that supports an increase of tree canopy and the City's Street Tree Management Specification strongly supports the retention of existing trees.

Question

Are there any plans to write a greening strategy for Geraldton, which includes timelines and canopy targets, realising there is an urgency to achieve canopy in the city with increasing warming of the climate?

Response

Thank you for the question.

Yes, there are plans to develop a greening strategy for the City. The City is currently exploring opportunities to capture local data and local conditions through projects including the Maitland Park Transport Hub which will help to inform the future greening strategy. This study will investigate what species of plants will perform under the current climate changes and what will likely do well over the long term along with sustainable maintenance practices.

Question

Are there initiatives to increase the CGG capacity to plant and maintain trees. E.g. a dedicated Tree Team. This would be in addition to current Parks and Gardens capacity.

A Tree Team is an initiative that has potential to attract significant corporate, business and altruistic sponsorship, but will require costings to be able to move forward to lock in sponsorship.

Response

Thank you for the question.

There are proposals to increase planting and maintenance of trees within the City's Draft Capital Works Programme for 2024/2025 which will be presented to Council for consideration.

There are currently no plans to develop a dedicated tree planting team within the Parks and Gardens group. Two additional positions were added to this group in the current financial year to help manage the additional parklands established in recent times including GRAMS Park, AMC Park, the Beresford Foreshore and upgrades to various street gardens.

There remains currently a team within the Parks and Gardens structure who are dedicated to maintaining street and park trees.

Question

Has Minister John Carey informed LGCs of the Government's proposed statewide tree strategy? Have you had any specific information?

Response

Thank you for the question.

The City is aware that Minister John Carey has announced an Urban Greening Strategy for the Perth and Peel region. We are not aware of a statewide tree strategy from this minister.

Summary of verbal supplementary question from Anne Karczub

Is there any capacity to emphasise that such a strategy must extend upon the metropolitan area?

Response

This is a point going through the WALGA (Western Australian Local Government Association) system, who raised that very question. They are bringing it up through their processes that areas other than the Metropolitan and Peel require further reaching policy than what there is currently.

Sean Hickey, 21 Eastcott Way, Tarcoola Beach, WA

Question

Would the City please bring me up to date as to why a Park Home Residential Development has been fully developed to the rear of the Sunset Caravan Park when at a Council Meeting some years ago the owners/operators were seeking support for an area to expand their provision of camping bays and demountable cabins towards the east of the existing Park.

Response

Thank you for the question.

The Park Home Residential lots at the rear of the Caravan Park site are part of the caravan park site.

The caravan park leaseholder determined that this was the best way forward. They sought and obtained planning approval for the works. It is in keeping with their licence under the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act and is consistent with the State's management order.

From a City perspective, they meet the State Government's requirements and provide an affordable housing option for the local community whilst maintaining the short term tourist and holiday accommodation facility.

Summary of verbal supplementary question from Sean Hickey

So what you're saying is that the original proposal didn't actually happen and that residential type homes were built because they found a way in the Act to develop this residential village?

Response

The City has a long term lease with the parties that have the managed site and they made a decision that was the best for their business. The applications were in keeping with the use of the land and therefore the City approved it.

Question

Can the Community expect the Council to become much more involved in supporting groups such as Geraldton Tree Canopy. These people besides time, spend and fund raise more often at a rate of \$ 15 > 20 plus dollars for a maturing sapling of 2> 3 meters. So at this rate - \$ 1000 is't going to see too many trees planted.

Response

Thank you for the question.

City Officers regularly meet with the Geraldton Tree Canopy Advocacy group. We agree with your comments regarding the benefits of trees and natural shade on our streets and parks and we continue to undertake tree planting programmes, along with tree maintenance programmes, to increase the tree canopy across the City.

The City is intending to work closely with the Geraldton Tree Canopy Advocacy group in future.

Public Question time concluded at 5:15pm.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS – as circulated

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the City of Greater Geraldton held on 31 January 2023 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

<https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/annual-meeting-of-electors/annual-meeting-of-electors-31-january-2023/207>

ELECTOR'S DECISION

MOVED NATASHA COLLIVER, SECONDED ROBERT HALL

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the City of Greater Geraldton held on 31 January 2023 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

7 CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City of Greater Geraldton Annual Report 2022-2023 including Audited General Purpose Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report be received by Electors.

<https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/annual-reports.aspx>

ELECTOR'S DECISION

MOVED AARON HORSMAN, SECONDED SIMON KEEMINK

That the City of Greater Geraldton Annual Report 2022-2023 including Audited General Purpose Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report be received by Electors.

CARRIED

The Mayor invited additional questions from the Public Electors present.

No questions were raised.

8 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the Annual Meeting of Electors meeting at 5:16pm.

APPENDIX 1 – ATTACHMENTS

Attachments are available on the City of Greater Geraldton website at:
<https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/annual-meeting-of-electors/27-february-2024-annual-meeting-of-electors/222>