



ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS  
MINUTES

28 JANUARY 2020

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**CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2020 AT 5.00PM**  
**CHAMBERS, CATHEDRAL AVENUE**

**MINUTES**

**DISCLAIMER:**

The Chairman advises that the purpose of this Council Meeting is to discuss and, where possible, make resolutions about items appearing on the agenda. Whilst Council has the power to resolve such items and may in fact, appear to have done so at the meeting, no person should rely on or act on the basis of such decision or on any advice or information provided by a Member or Officer, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the meeting. Persons should be aware that the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 (Section 5.25(e)) and Council's Standing Orders Local Laws establish procedures for revocation or rescission of a Council decision. No person should rely on the decisions made by Council until formal advice of the Council decision is received by that person. The City of Greater Geraldton expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any resolution of Council, or any advice or information provided by a Member or Officer, or the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Council meeting.

**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5pm.

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamaji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet. 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 the Yamaji people.

**3 ATTENDANCE**

Present:

Mayor S Van Styn  
Cr J Clune  
Cr N Colliver  
Cr S Douglas  
Cr S Elphick  
Cr P Fiorenza  
Cr R D Hall  
Cr S Keemink  
Cr K Parker  
Cr V Tanti  
Cr T Thomas

Officers:

R McKim, Chief Executive Officer  
P Melling, Director of Development and Community Services  
P Radalj, Director of Corporate and Commercial Services

C Lee, Director of Infrastructure Services  
R Doughty, Chief Financial Officer  
S Moulds, PA to the Chief Executive Officer  
E Enright, PA to the Director of Infrastructure Services  
L Pegler, Executive Support Secretary  
K Smith, Manager Maintenance Operations  
T Palmonari, Manager Economic Development  
B Pearce, Manager Corporate Compliance and Safety  
M Dufour, Coordinator Coastal and Natural Environment  
W Ellis, Coordinator Emergency Management  
P Kindgon, Coordinator Communications  
P Vorster, Economic Development Coordinator

Others

Public Electors: 5  
Press: 3

Leave of Absence:

Cr D Caudwell

Apologies:

Cr J Critch

**4 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*

**Mr Sean Hickey, PO Box 2966, Geraldton WA**

Question

Would Council please consider the many benefits of providing up front at the Town Library front desk readily available Council meeting minutes and agendas and general public notices in Hard Copy format.

A few benefits include improved communication with the general public. Hard copy information is still a need and preference for many in our community.

Equity across the ages of our residents is only a fair thing. Equally the environment of a library would allow people to better access community information.

Such an improvement and inclusive routine of providing 'Hard Copy' information (minutes and such) could also aligned with an increased access to the library every Thursday evening- an established shopping time.

Response

The City does provide a hard copy of the Agenda to the Library and QEII, together with attachments (x1 each). We also provide a hard copy at the front counter at the Civic Centre, as well as the Public Notices being displayed.

The Library and QEII then receive the electronic link to the subsequent Minutes which can be printed upon request by visitors to these facilities.

The City agrees that we need to balance the need for good communications with all sectors of the community with the need to limit the environmental impact of unnecessarily printing paper copies.

Verbal supplementary question from Mr Hickey

Mr Hickey advised has been to a few libraries and minutes and agendas are readily available as you walk in. The Geraldton Regional Library's response is yes we have them, can I take you to a computer and didn't understand there was also a hard copy. Mr Hickey advised that he had to ask and they weren't clearly available and could they could be presented at the front desk.

Response

This suggestion will be discussed with the Manager of the Library.

Question

Over a number of weeks now I have sought to have reasonable responses about water sustainability in the City.

There is no argument that environmental protection laws have been invoked on prohibiting the extraction of ground water from either the north or south section of the old tip site-aka Olive Street wetlands. Where the new water from the current Water Corporation infrastructure project enters the site is immaterial - it will all be absorbed into the ground and ground water systems at that location.

Millions upon millions of litres of waste and storm water will be transported from the catchment of Wandina, Tarcoola Beach and part of Mt Tarcoola to this site.

Memorials and prohibition of taking water - due to the presence of known toxins - at this site mean that all of this sustainable water is lost to the community and environment.

Am I wrong to be asking an explanation of the City's water sustainability plans? What are they?

### Response

Thank you Mr Hickey for what again appears to be more of a statement than a question.

For future reference the Water Corporation description of wastewater is *“used water that has been used inside homes, businesses and industries”*. This water is collected and conveyed to waste water treatment plants to be cleaned and wastewater should not be confused with stormwater which, as the name implies, is rainfall runoff collected in storm drains and other catchments.

No ‘wastewater’ enters the Olive Street site from any Water Corporation infrastructure.

However, and as previously advised, the Olive Street reserve now receives an initial quantity of stormwater each winter which is filtered through a gross pollutant trap before entering the ground to help sustain an ephemeral wetland. This is a significant environmental improvement given 100% of stormwater from the catchment you refer to previously discharged, untreated, directly into the ocean via the South Pipe.

The City’s Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 places a high priority on sustainability. This includes the Environmental goals “2.1.2 Sustainably maintaining public open spaces and recreation areas” and “2.2.2 Researching, promoting and providing sustainable infrastructure, service and utilities”.

A key example is the recently completed suite of Parks Master Plans developed to guide the sustainable future development of each park in accordance with the Council endorsed levels-of-service for each park type. Data across three key parameters was used to help guide and inform an implementation strategy for the future development of the parks which is based on prioritising:

1. Water savings (kl/a)
2. Maintenance savings (\$/a)
3. Turf reduction (m2/a)

Future park renewals will be carried out in accordance with the long-term financial plan and aligned to the sustainability objectives of the parks master plans.

The City has also undertaken a range of other initiatives including the development a new irrigation system that reduces the need for scheme water at the Wonthella Sporting Complex which was awarded with a 2019 Best Public Works Project by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) and development of a Groundwater Licence Operating Strategy to ensure that the City’s groundwater usage is utilised as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

Verbal supplementary question from Mr Hickey

Mr Hickey asked if he was wrong that any storm water would be transported from that location at Glenndinning Road to the Olive Street area.

Response

Yes, there is no waste water conveyed. It is only the first initial storm water from a storm water event that is conveyed through a weir structure into the ephemeral wetland.

Verbal supplementary question from Mr Hickey

There is an amount of water going down to wasteland going down our drains and sumps etc. So the same question could be directed at the sumps – actually rain water or storm water?

Response

Yes, that is correct. The rain water that falls on the roads and the footpaths generally goes into a City sump of which there are approximately 200. That water soaks back into the ground water, which is a good outcome – instead of pushing it out to the ocean. The sumps are then cleaned of litter if required.

Question

My brief reference to past rate notices show, that on a residential property my family own, that this rate year we are paying a total of \$ 2297.51 (inclusive of \$ 133.10 E/S and \$ 388 rubbish).

Comparatively our rates for 2011-12 were \$ 1426.59-inclusive of \$100.62 ES and \$ 205 rubbish.

What sort of direction and development are Council prepared to take its residents??

Home and property owners are paying way above their fair share to say the least.

Coastal location building blocks here are now available around the \$ 60,000 mark compared with plus a \$ 100,000 in the comparative year-2011 above. Generally speaking most sales in Greater Geraldton are only realising a third to 50%- 60% of those a decade ago.

In other words why are we paying almost double rates when our property is up to 50% less in value???

Big plans have taken us nowhere that is comfortable- I can assure you.

Council has an obligation to existing and long term land holders. There is an immediate need to stop pandering to the Developers, some of whom now offer land at ridiculous prices, now

No more new roads and such infrastructure we can't afford. If the community is so broke and it appears so. It's time to stop the development. Maybe it's also time to reconsider the rate brakes and 'no rates' cartel that get such an easy ride.

Providing basic services is a lost art being overtaken by projects demanding outrageous loans with the same small group of people paying. Wherever you go in Geraldton there have been building projects, development projects and grand new foreshore promenade. Demolition and vacancy is all too common with our houses. How can a community have faith in their Council with this current environment overshadowing the security of its long term residents??

Response

Thank you Mr Hickey for what I think is more of a statement than a question.

However, with respect to the direction Council is taking, that is available to you on the City website in the form of the Strategic Community plan. With respect to where are my rates going, that is available to you in detail within the City's Annual report which is also available on the city website.

The City has commenced its 'Voice of the Community' project which is seeking feedback from the community on what services and capital projects it would like the council to prioritise in the preparation of its next major review of the community strategic plan. You are able to get involved with this via an on-line survey that has already been completed by approaching 1,000 local community members.

Your views on development and environmental issues are well known and I would encourage you to formally provide them as part of the City's current community engagement project.

Verbal supplementary question from Mr Hickey

Mr Hickey asked if the City agrees that in the last 10 years there has been a 6% increase per year (from his rates example).

Response

Yes, that is approximately correct over the 10 years, which is far less than electricity, motor vehicle insurance etc. The 27% rate rise in 2012 has been arrested. Over the last four years the average rate rise has been below the rate of inflation.

Verbal supplementary question from Mr Hickey

Mr Hickey referenced the annual charge of \$388 for rubbish collection, which averaged \$7.50/week per household whether there is one occupant or many, which he felt was inequitable. If that is the only way we can consider rating the public the point of supply needs to be considered and suggested that the City work with the State and Federal Government about how to deal with all the packaging/rubbish produced for basic food



items. Mr Hickey would like Council to progress this as opposed to increasing rates.

Response

Mr Hickey's comments were noted.

Mr Hickey is invited to submit his comments formally through the Community Voice Survey, details of which are found on the City's website: <https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/your-council/having-your-say/having-your-say/community-voice-shaping-our-future.aspx>

The City is commencing its organic waste collection trial, FOGO, in March 2020, which will reduce the waste stream going to landfill in Geraldton by somewhere between 20% and 50% depending on the season. This is a significant step in the right direction. The City hopes that this, and other recycling measures, including the State's Container Deposit Scheme, will have a big impact on the amount of waste that is currently going to landfill.

**Mr Max Correy, 52 Bayview Street, Geraldton WA 6530**

Question

After spending in excess of \$4.6M on the Leonard T Green Memorial Park over many years the park by any reasonable standard can only be described as a disgrace. Has Council given consideration to handing over the development of the Park to the Group known as FROGGS to allow them with support from Council to develop the area into a seaside Botanical Garden?

Response

The City currently has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the FROGG's group regarding a potential Botanical Gardens development in Maitland Park. Recent advice from the group is that they have received some limited state government funding to allow the development of working drawings for a future Stage 1 of the project. City officers have previously suggested alternative sites and opportunities to FROGG'S. However FROGG'S are keen to develop Maitland Park due to its proximity to the city centre and its location on the main road leading into the CBD. Given the significant funding required to develop and maintain a botanical garden, it is unlikely that this group would be in a financial position to also undertake the development of the Olive Street site as suggested.

The area was always planned to be a reserve and not a parkland. The intention wasn't to turn it into a highly irrigated system. The cost to irrigate the area, which is 8ha, including installation of pumps, tanks and irrigation lines etc., is approximately \$200,000/per ha and it would cost over \$1million to set up irrigation system. As the budget is tight and there have been calls for rate reductions, this option has not been progressed.

However, the City commenced growing over 150 'Lone Pine' trees at the City's nursery, from seeds from Lone Pine tree which originally came from the Anzac Cove, and are about 2 feet tall. They will eventually be planted in the reserve once they mature. Officers are aware how poorly the area looks and are looking at options. The City was hoping for generous rainfall to kick off the seed, which unfortunately hasn't happened. The ephemeral wetland is going OK. The City will try and improve the appearance of the area within budget constraints.

#### Question

After 10 plus years of Council Corella management the only measureable result is an increasing number of Corellas year on year. Has the Council given thought to handing the Corella management over to a community group to manage with some Council financial assistance – say \$50,000 which is less than its currently costing Council?

#### Response

The Corella issue is a State/ whole of community problem as they are very widespread and the impacts are felt across numerous local communities.

The City, via its Corella Management Program, is utilising a multi-pronged approach to deal with the Corella issue. This approach includes aspects such as further research to ascertain where the Corellas migrate from, scaring and culling.

Long term experience (15-20 years+) in other areas indicate that there is no magic quick fix (including mass culling) that eradicates the issue and management is a long term process that is at its most successful when all stakeholders work together.

Subject to the group managing the corellas within an agreed framework, the suggestion of a community group taking on this task is something that the City would consider. This could be a topic on the agenda of the next Community Corella group meeting.

The Mayor added that if a community group take on this task they should be aware of the public reaction to the culling of these birds and the amount of correspondence and calls that it can generate.

#### Verbal supplementary question from Mr Correy

Mr Correy referenced a local radio segment regarding the allocation of drought funding, noting that \$1 Million has been allocated to 31 Councils across WA to Shires of Irwin, Mingenew, Three Springs and Carnamah, but not the City of Greater Geraldton. The eastern section of this Council would be far more drought affected than Three Springs, Carnamah etc. Did the Council actually apply for that grant, if not why not, and if so can you get any of the funding from the Federal Government.

### Response

The City was horrified that it missed out on the allocation. It wasn't a grant, therefore not something you applied for. It was a decision made by the Federal Government and was announced today. The City has spoken to a neighbouring Shire that did receive the funds and they were quite surprised and pleased they received the funding, and had no idea they were to receive the funding. As said before, there was no grant application process. The Chair of the WALGA Northern Country Zone will be strongly lobbying the Federal Government on the allocation of the funding. All of the Midwest should have received funding, not just a select few. Therefore this will be taken up with the Federal Member. The Mayor is travelling to Canberra next week and will be taking this matter up with the Federal Member for Durack and relevant Ministers.

The Mayor added that the data established by the Federal Government which determines who would be eligible is 'Rainfall Deficiency'. This takes an average view of the weather events over the last 3-5 years. So if you have been in drought over that time, you are not actually suffering a rainfall deficiency, compared to your short term average. The southern rangelands, probably the most heavily impacted drought affected community up here, further to our north, Meekatharra etc. all missed out. The fact that they have been without rain for such a long time, it is determined that they weren't deficient in rainfall under the methodology that was used.

*Public question time concluded at 5.27pm*

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS MEETING – as circulated**

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the City of Greater Geraldton held on 18 December 2018 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/18-december-2018/140>

### **ELECTORS' DECISION**

**MOVED TARLEAH THOMAS, SECONDED ROBERT HALL**

**RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the City of Greater Geraldton held on 18 December 2018 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

**6 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018-2019 – CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON****RECOMMENDATION**

That the City of Greater Geraldton Annual Report including Audited Annual General Purpose Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for 2018-2019 be received by Electors.

<https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/documents/811/city-of-greater-geraldton-annual-report-20182019>

**ELECTORS' DECISION****MOVED TARLEAH THOMAS, SECONDED VICTOR TANTI**

**That the City of Greater Geraldton Annual Report including Audited Annual General Purpose Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for 2018-2019 be received by Electors.**

**CARRIED****7 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 5.28pm.

**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/annual-meeting-of-electors-28-january-2020/166>