



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

RESOLUTIONS IN BRIEF ORDINARY MEETING

To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 8 November 2023

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cr Ian Bye
Cr John Tatterson
Cr Carolyn Crossley
Cr Jill Wood
Cr Gayle Maher
Cr Carmel Ripper
Cr Scott Rossetti
Cr Marcus McKenzie
Cr Garry Stephens

OFFICERS PRESENT

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer
Clem Gillings, General Manager Community and Culture
Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services
Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment
Andrew Pomeroy, General Manager Development
Keisha Langshaw, Governance and Council Business Officer
Kim Salleh, Coordinator Communications and Media

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COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

Members of the Public Gallery should note that the Council records and publishes Council meetings via YouTube to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Wellington community. These recordings are also archived and may be published on Council's Website for viewing by the public or used for publicity or information purposes. At the appropriate times during the meeting, members of the gallery may address the Council at which time their image, comments or submissions will be recorded.

Members of the public who are not in attendance at the Council meeting but who wish to communicate with the Council via the online webform should lodge their questions or comments early in the meeting to ensure that their submissions can be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

Please could gallery visitors, Councillors and invited online attendees ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together to make a difference. We listen and lead to provide quality services that improve life for all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“Wellington Shire Council acknowledges our offices are located on the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai nation. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past, present and future and acknowledge their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to their land and waters.”

1. APOLOGIES

NIL

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

2.1. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To appoint a temporary chair for the Council meeting prior to the election of a Mayor.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive Officer, David Morcom, be appointed as Temporary Chair for this Council Meeting prior to the election of a Mayor.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR WOOD

That the Chief Executive Officer, David Morcom, be appointed as Temporary Chair for this Council Meeting prior to the election of a Mayor.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR BYE made some closing remarks at the end of his Mayoral term. He thanked CEO David Morcom for his assistance over the last year and the Councillors for their support. He also acknowledged the General Managers and their amazing teams, thanking them for their efforts in delivering an environment for the residents of Wellington Shire to live and prosper.

Councillor Bye acknowledged the announcement of the early closure of the timber industry and how the community has met this challenge with resilience. He also noted the exciting announcement of Wellington Shire being the location of the home of Australia's first offshore wind farm.

Councillor Bye also acknowledged the challenges the community has undergone with recent weather events. He thanked the Council team for being well prepared.

Councillor Bye acknowledged the biggest project that Wellington Shire Council has undertaken in its history; the \$23 million redevelopment of Aqua Energy. He also acknowledged the *Middle of Everywhere*; a term that references Wellington Shire as a destination place for all to come and enjoy. He notes the many events that were held over the last year, to showcase the beautiful part of Australia the local community lives in.

Councillor Bye thanked his fellow Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tatterson, for his dedication and help in attending many events, which was very appreciated.

Councillor Bye finally thanked the Councillors for having him as the Council's representative over the last 12 months. He noted the great experience he has had and that he has thoroughly enjoyed his role in representing the community.

2.2. SETTING THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE MAYOR AND TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To establish an office of Deputy Mayor and to determine whether the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are to be elected for a one year or a two year term in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Resolve to establish an office of Deputy Mayor.***
- 2. Determine that the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be from 8 November 2023 to 26 October 2024.***

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR RIPPER

That Council:

- 1. Resolve to establish an office of Deputy Mayor.***
- 2. Determine that the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be from 8 November 2023 to 26 October 2024.***

CARRIED

2.3. ELECTION OF MAYOR

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

For Council to elect a Councillor to be Mayor at a meeting that is open to the public in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

The Chair called for nominations for Mayor.

COUNCILLOR WOOD nominated COUNCILLOR BYE.

COUNCILLOR BYE accepted the nomination.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON nominated himself.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS nominated COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE.

COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for a show of hands:

COUNCILLOR BYE – COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY, COUNCILLOR MAHER, COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI, COUNCILLOR BYE and COUNCILLOR WOOD – 5 votes.

The Chair announced that an absolute majority vote was achieved. The Chair continued with a show of hands for the other nominated councillors:

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON – COUNCILLOR TATTERSON – 1 vote.

COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE – COUNCILLOR RIPPER, COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE, COUNCILLOR STEPHENS – 3 votes.

The Chair announced that absolute majority was received by COUNCILLOR BYE with 5 votes out of 9 councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

That COUNCILLOR BYE be elected as Mayor for the 2023/2024 period to 6am Saturday 26 October 2024, the commencement of the Victorian Electoral Commission's declared 2024 Council general election day.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

That COUNCILLOR BYE be elected as Mayor for the 2023/2024 period to 6am Saturday 26 October 2024, the commencement of the Victorian Electoral Commission's declared 2024 Council general election day.

CARRIED

The Chair formally congratulated COUNCILLOR BYE for his election as Mayor for another term.

COUNCILLOR BYE thanked the Councillors and acknowledged that he enjoys his role as Mayor, representing the Councillors and the community.

He noted the good work done by the councillors for the local residents, and the high status that the Wellington Shire Council holds. He noted events coming up including the ESSO decommissioning, the timber industry announcement and upcoming renewable energy announcements. He noted the hard work that will need to be completed to get the best outcome for the community.

Councillor Bye thanked the Councillors for trusting him to do the role, and he endeavours to do his best efforts to make everyone proud.

COUNCILLOR BYE resumed the Chair.

2.4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

For Council to elect a Councillor to be Deputy Mayor at a meeting that is open to the public in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS nominated COUNCILLOR MAHER.

COUNCILLOR MAHER accepted the nomination.

COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE nominated COUNCILLOR RIPPER.

COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE accepted the nomination.

The Mayor called for a show of hands:

COUNCILLOR MAHER – COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY, COUNCILLOR MAHER, COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI, COUNCILLOR BYE, COUNCILLOR STEPHENS and COUNCILLOR WOOD – 6 votes.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER – COUNCILLOR RIPPER, COUNCILLOR TATTERSON, COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE – 3 votes.

COUNCILLOR BYE congratulated COUNCILLOR MAHER for receiving the absolute majority of votes.

RECOMMENDATION

That COUNCILLOR MAHER be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/2024 period to 6am Saturday 26 October 2024, the commencement of the Victorian Electoral Commission's declared 2024 Council general election day.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

That COUNCILLOR MAHER be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/2024 period to 6am Saturday 26 October 2024, the commencement of the Victorian Electoral Commission's declared 2024 Council general election day.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR MAHER thanked the councillors for their faith in her as Deputy Mayor, and looks forward to supporting the Mayor. She noted the forthcoming offshore renewables and the cost of living challenges.

Councillor Maher looks forward to supporting the Mayor in promoting the Wellington Shire Council as a proactive and contemporary shire, that is willing to engage with stakeholders and members of the community, as well as the federal and state representatives.

The Mayor then invited the outgoing Deputy Mayor to say some words.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON thanked and congratulated Councillor Bye and Councillor Maher their appointments. He noted that it has been a privilege to serve as Deputy Mayor over the last 12 months. He congratulated Councillor Bye for his efforts during his term and thanked the councillors for their support.

Councillor Tatterson also acknowledged that it is an interesting and challenging time in regard to renewable energy, and issues regarding affordability and housing. He noted the challenges regarding cultural heritage, and the management of this. He looks forward to the next 12 months and again congratulated those on their appointments.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

NIL

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

4.1 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 October 2023.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 October 2023.

COUNCILLOR WOOD / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 October 2023.

CARRIED

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

6. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS

NIL

7. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

NIL

8. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

8.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

9. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUNCILLOR BYE attended the East Sale RAAF Base on Thursday 2 November 2023 to celebrate the laying of the Queen's Colours and acknowledged the two training schools at East Sale RAAF Base; the Air Mission Training School and No.1 Flying Training School. He explained that all squadrons have a unique known as their 'colours'. Councillor Bye noted that the colours are replaced ever 25 years, by written request to Her Majesty The Queen, as it was at the time. The Queen would then commission new colours to be made. After a ceremony in England, the colours are then sent out to where they are replacing the old colours. Councillor Bye noted that the new colours arrived at East Sale RAAF Base the day Her Majesty passed away. The new colours were celebrated by ceremony, a parade and a full band. Notable dignitaries from partners of the Australian Defence Force attended from all around Australia to commemorate the laying of the colours. The old colours will be displayed at a chapel at the RAAF Point Cook.

COUNCILLOR BYE congratulated COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI for his long term service as a Councillor for 15 years and presented him with a Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) Councillor Services Award. Councillor Bye noted the significance of the award and the strong dedication Councillor Rossetti has shown to making a difference for his community. He congratulated Councillor Rossetti on an award well deserved.

10. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

10.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

11. DELEGATES REPORT

NIL

12. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 9 October 2023 to 29 October 2023.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 9 October 2023 to 29 October 2023.

COUNCILLOR MAHER / COUNCILLOR WOOD

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 9 October 2023 to 29 October 2023.

CARRIED

13. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Gallery comments are an opportunity for members of the public to raise any particular matter they wish. This allows those in the gallery to speak directly to Councillors but is not a forum designed for open discussion or debate. We will listen respectfully to what you have to say and make the commitment that if your query requires a written response, we will advise you that a response will be forthcoming, and a copy of that response will be circulated to all Councillors.

This is not a forum for members of the public to lodge complaints against individuals, including Councillors and staff, particularly as that individual gets no public right of reply to any matter raised. We take complaints seriously, and in line with the guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and the local Government Inspectorate, we request that any specific complaint against an individual be put in writing. This way, your concern can be properly dealt with while ensuring fairness to all parties concerned.

If you wish to speak, we remind you that this part of the meeting is being recorded and broadcast on our website. Council's official Minutes will record that you have spoken to Council and the subject you spoke to Council about but will not record specific comments. We ask you to state your name in full, where you are from, and you have three minutes.

ONLINE COMMENTS –

NIL

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS –

NIL

Meeting declared closed at: 5.24PM

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close.

14. IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider matters under Section 66(5)(b) as defined by Section 3(1) being:

- a) Council business information*
- b) Security information*
- c) Land use planning information*
- d) Law enforcement information*
- e) Legal privileged information*
- f) Personal information*
- g) Private commercial information*
- h) Confidential meeting information*
- i) Internal arbitration information*
- j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information*
- k) Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information*
- l) Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989*

IN CLOSED SESSION

NIL