



The Barossa Council

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

held on Thursday, 19 November 2020 commencing at 2.00pm and held digitally via Microsoft Teams, recorded and posted on the Council website for future reference.

1.1 WELCOME

Mayor Bim Lange declared the meeting open at 2.00pm.

1.2 MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Bim Lange, Deputy Mayor, Cr Leonie Boothby, Crs John Angas, Tony Hurn, David Haebich, Carla Wiese-Smith, Cathy Troup, Richard Miller, Kathryn Schilling and Russell Johnstone.

Officer Present:

Mr Martin McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer

1.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

1.4 APOLOGIES

Cr David de Vries, Cr Don Barrett

MOVED Cr Johnstone that Council receive and accept Crs de Vries and Barrett's apologies.

Seconded Cr Haebich

CARRIED 2018-22/316

2. DEBATE ITEMS

2.1.1 PRINCIPAL OFFICE CLOSURE

MOVED Cr Angas that Council:

- (1) Pursuant to Section 45(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, as substituted under the *Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020*, being satisfied that it is reasonably necessary as a result of the public health emergency declared by the Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing on 15 March 2020 (and the related major emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* on 22 March 2020 and extended on 2 April

2020), the Council, for the period the *Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020* has effect, closes the principal office of the Council effective from 2pm Thursday, 19 November 2020 up to and including Tuesday, 24 November 2020 and authorize the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Mayor to extend this period consistent with any directions from the State and the Chief Executive Officer seek Council endorsement of any extension as soon as reasonably practicable.

- (2) Makes the following alternative arrangements to enable the local community to access the services of the Council which are ordinarily available at the principal office of the Council:

Email: barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au

Telephone: 8563 8444

After Hours Service: Answering Adelaide 8563 8444

Online Form:

<https://barossa.sa.gov.au/sections/none/contact-the-barossa-council>

Online Services:

<https://epayments.barossa.sa.gov.au/ePathway/Production/Web/Default.aspx?js=-871364257>

- (3) In relation to any obligation under the *Local Government Act 1999* to make a document available for inspection at the principal office of the Council, the document will be made available for inspection at www.barossa.sa.gov.au.
- (4) Pursuant to Section 50(5a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, as inserted under the *Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020*, the Council alters its Public Consultation Policy by including in its Public Consultation Policy the provisions set out in attachment 1 to the report to the Council titled Principal Office Close and dated 19 November 2020.

Seconded Cr Haebich

CARRIED 2018-22/317

PURPOSE

To exercise revised powers of the Minister and close the Principal Office of Council during the current COVID-19 response and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to review and delegate powers.

REPORT

Introduction

During the first wave COVID-19 restrictions powers were available to close the Principal Office of Council so long as alternative arrangements were in place to ensure services are contactable.

These powers were not assessed as necessary during the first wave as Council was able to maintain face to face service delivery following a comprehensive assessment of the risk profile at that time and the implementation of appropriate treatments.

Discussion

The current COVID-19 response necessitates the closure of face to face services provided via Council's principal office. My administration has actioned the closure of all non-essential face to face services that fall within my current delegations and accord with sector specific legal advice, however I do not currently have the powers or delegations to close the Principal Office.

Under new emergency powers the Minister for Local Government made the Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020 which makes provision for Council's to close their principal office without any requirement for a notice under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (SAPH Act)* or otherwise vary operating hours without a requirement to undertake public consultation, provided the council considers it reasonably necessary as a result of the public health emergency and certain requirements detailed in Notice No. 2 are complied with.

Given the government's announcement of a period of advanced restrictions and public lockdown from midnight 18 November 2020, it is proposed that Council consider it reasonable necessary to close the principal office as a result of the public health emergency.

Summary

The recommendation allows for best practice compliance with the SA Government announcements and allows staff to be fully isolated whilst providing service remotely in as many circumstances as possible.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Notice of Closure of Principal Office of Council

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Natural Environment and Built Heritage



Community and Culture



Infrastructure



Health and Wellbeing



Business and Employment



How We Work – Good Governance

All

Legislative Requirements

As outlined in recommendation.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

No consultation required given current SA Government directions.

3. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

4. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 9.00am.

4. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Mayor Lange declared the meeting closed at 2.04pm.

Confirmed at Council Meeting on 15 December 2020

Date:.....

Mayor:.....