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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, 13 February 2017

Released to the public on Thursday 16 February 2017

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 5.36 PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr Kim Le Cerf (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr Steph Amir

Cr Gaetano Greco

Cr Tim Laurence (5.38 pm)

Cr Trent McCarthy (5.37 pm)

Cr Lina Messina

Cr Susanne Newton

Cr Susan Rennie

Council Officers

Philip Shanahan – Acting Chief Executive Officer (5.40 pm)

Jacinta Stevens – Director Civic Governance and Compliance

Katia Croce – Coordinator Council Business

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was lodged on behalf of Cr. Williams.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared by any Councillor.

Cr. McCarthy entered the meeting at 5.37 pm.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

4.1 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

MINUTE NO. 59

Author: Coordinator Council Business

Reviewed By: Director Civic Governance and Compliance

Report Background

Changes to the *Local Government Act 1989* arising from the *Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015* were passed by the Parliament in October 2015. Immediate reforms were implemented to improve the accountability of Councillor's and improvements to support the integrity and efficient conduct of Council elections.

The Councillor Code of Conduct must be reviewed and adopted within 4 months after a general election, by 22 February 2017 in accordance with Section 76C(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Previous Council Resolution

28 June 2016

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor briefing, 19 December 2016 and 6 February 2017.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal 6: Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

This report outlines the amendments made to the Councillor Code of Conduct for Council's consideration and adoption in accordance with Section 76C(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Note each individual Councillor must sign the Councillor Code of Conduct (Code) as their declaration that they will abide by the Code in accordance with section 76C(6A) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (3) Note that each of the Councillor signatures must be witnessed by the Acting CEO in accordance with section 76C (6B) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (4) Note that Council may determine to review this code every 12 months or as required.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. S. Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct attached as **Appendix A** to this report with the following amendment:
 - a. Include, as clause 2 within the Councillor Code of Conduct, the ***Interacting with children and young people*** document (Appendix B) circulated to all councillors at the start of this meeting by the Director of Civic Governance and Compliance.
- (2) Adopt the following Darebin City Council Child Safe - Statement of Commitment:

Darebin City Council prides itself on being a child safe organisation with zero tolerance for child abuse. We recognise our legal and moral responsibilities to keep children and young people safe from harm; we promote their health and well-being, and support their best interests. We have policies, procedures, and training in place that support our leadership team, employees and volunteers to achieve these commitments. We create environments where all children, including children with a disability, Aboriginal children, and children from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, have a voice - they are listened to, their views are respected and they contribute to how we plan for, design and implement our services and activities.
- (3) Note each individual Councillor must sign the Councillor Code of Conduct (Code) as their declaration that they will abide by the Code in accordance with section 76C(6A) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (4) Note that each of the Councillor signatures must be witnessed by the Acting CEO in accordance with section 76C (6B) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (5) Note that Council may determine to review this code every 12 months or as required.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr. S. Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

That Council:

- (1) Adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct attached as **Appendix A** to this report with the following amendment:
 - a. Include, as clause 2 within the Councillor Code of Conduct, the ***Interacting with children and young people*** document (Appendix B) circulated to all councillors at the start of this meeting by the Director of Civic Governance and Compliance.
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leadership team, employees and volunteers to achieve these commitments. We create environments where all children, including children with a disability, Aboriginal children, and children from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, have a voice - they are listened to, their views are respected and they contribute to how we plan for, design and implement our services and activities.

- (3) Note each individual Councillor must sign the Councillor Code of Conduct (Code) as their declaration that they will abide by the Code in accordance with section 76C(6A) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (4) Note that each of the Councillor signatures must be witnessed by the Acting CEO in accordance with section 76C (6B) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (5) Note that Council may determine to review this code every 12 months or as required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Laurence entered the meeting during discussion of the above item at 5.38 pm.

Philip Shanahan, Acting Chief Executive entered the meeting during discussion of the above item at 5.40 pm.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.42 pm.