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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Friday 27 March 2020

Released to the public on Thursday 2 April 2020



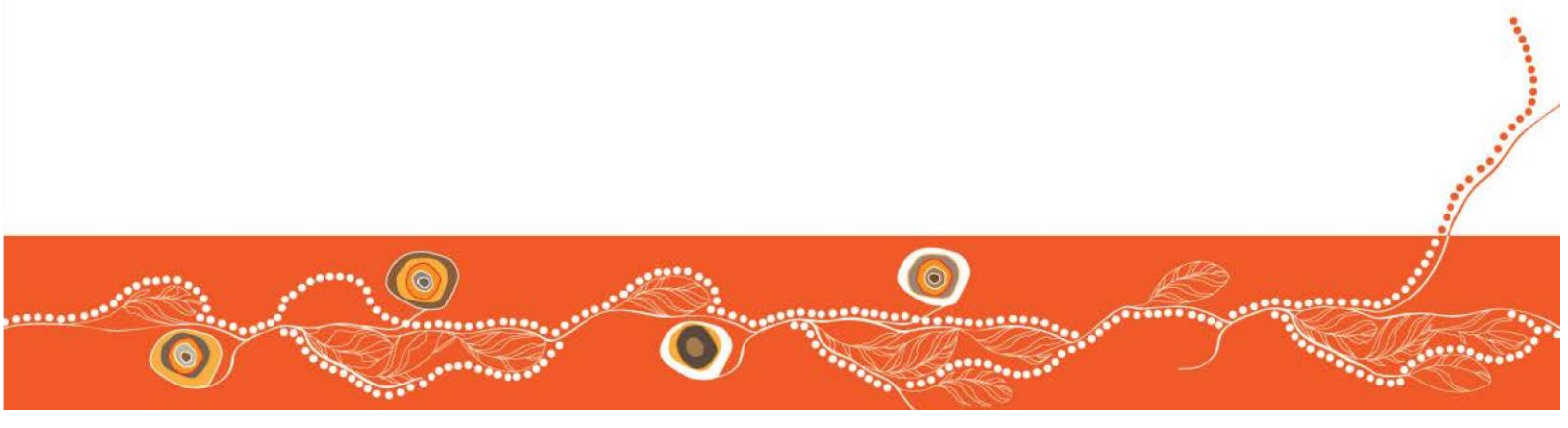
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਵੈੱਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی روداد کے نقاط ہیں۔ روداد کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

Table of Contents

Item Number		Page Number
1.	PRESENT	5
2.	APOLOGIES.....	5
3.	DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	5
4.	NOTICE OF MEETING	6
5.	CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.....	7
5.1	INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - AMENDMENT TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES AND / OR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	7
5.2	COVID-19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY.....	9
5.3	DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL'S COVID-19 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PACKAGE	10
6.	CLOSE OF MEETING	16

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2020**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 4.04 PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Kim Le Cerf

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina (arrived 4.11 pm)

Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Sue Wilkinson - Chief Executive Officer

Kerry McGrath - General Manager Communities

Rachel Ollivier - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Damian Hogan – Manager Finance

Enna Giampiccolo – Manager Communications and Engagement

Stephen Mahon - Coordinator Governance, Council Business and Civic Services

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Cr. Laurence.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. NOTICE OF MEETING

The Mayor advised the Council that due to the urgent and extraordinary circumstances associated with the need for Council to consider the matters listed on this agenda the Council has not fully complied with Section 89(4) of the Local Government Act 1989 regarding the giving of at least 7 days public notice of this meeting. These urgent and extraordinary circumstances relate to the importance of Council endorsing as soon as practical a report from Officers on the City of Darebin COVID 19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package, a report on a COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy and a report on changes to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to ensure the continued good governance and operations of Council. The Mayor advised that pursuant to Section 89(4A)(a) Council had given as much notice as was practical including notification on its webpage www.darebin.vic.gov.au and via its social media channels, and that pursuant to Section 89(4A)(b) this explanation will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - AMENDMENT TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES AND / OR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Author: Coordinator Governance, Council Business & Civic Services

Reviewed By: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is presented to seek Council approval to amend the delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer to enable broader delegations in the event of an emergency and/or extraordinary circumstances.

Considering the recent developments with COVID-19 these changes are deemed necessary and reasonable to continue the good governance and operations of Council.

4.11 pm Cr. Messina arrived at the meeting.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S Amir

That Council:

- (1) Endorse and execute the 'Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Chief Executive Officer' as provided as **Attachment A**.
-

Amendment

Cr. Greco moved that Clause 10 and 12 of the S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer as provided as Attachment 'A' be amended as follows (changes shown) ;

Part 2 Emergency Powers

10. Where a State of Emergency is in force after having been declared by the Premier of Victoria under the provisions of the Emergency Management Act 2013 and a quorum of Council or the Planning Committee cannot be formed or the convening of a meeting represents in the view of the Chief Executive Officer an unacceptable risk to public health and safety, the Chief Executive Officer **in consultation with the Mayor** may make any decision on any matter, (with the exception of those matters they are explicitly prevented from determining under the Act) as required to continue the good governance and operation of Council, which would normally be subject of a resolution of Council.
 12. Any decision taken by the Chief Executive Officer under this Part **will in a timely manner be communicated to Councillors** and is required to be subject of a report to the next available Council Meeting.
-

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

THE MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL WAS PUT AND CARRIED

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-029

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

That Council:

- (1) Endorse and execute the 'Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Chief Executive Officer' as provided as **Attachment A.** subject to the following changes to clause 10 and 12

Part 2 Emergency Powers

- (10) Where a State of Emergency is in force after having been declared by the Premier of Victoria under the provisions of the Emergency Management Act 2013 and a quorum of Council or the Planning Committee cannot be formed or the convening of a meeting represents in the view of the Chief Executive Officer an unacceptable risk to public health and safety, the Chief Executive Officer **in consultation with the Mayor** may make any decision on any matter, (with the exception of those matter they are explicitly prevented from determining under the Act) as required to continue the good governance and operation of Council, which would normally be subject of a resolution of Council.
- (12) Any decision taken by the Chief Executive Officer under this Part **will in a timely manner be communicated to Councillors** and is required to be subject of a report to the next available Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 COVID-19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY**Author:** Manager Finance**Reviewed By:** General Manager Governance and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Financial Hardship Policy is to provide Council with a policy framework to provide financial relief to residents and businesses who may need assistance from the impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The policy aims to provide our residents and businesses with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available if currently experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

Council Resolution

MINUTE NO. 20-030**MOVED:** Cr. J Williams
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That Council adopts the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy (refer **Attachment A**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3 DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL'S COVID-19 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PACKAGE**Author:** General Manager Governance and Engagement**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Like the rest of Australia, and the world, the Darebin community is facing an unprecedented and potentially devastating challenge in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 will have a substantial impact on the social and economic health of our community, in particular those community members already experiencing disadvantage. Swift action is needed to minimise the negative impacts of the pandemic on the wellbeing of our community and on our local businesses, and to ensure that they are in the best position to recover.

In order to respond to this challenge, this paper sets out a proposal for Council to focus and reprioritise its resourcing, workplan and budgets to implement a COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package (the Package). The Package seeks to:

- Mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents, in particular vulnerable community members and those already experiencing disadvantage.
- Provide immediate and ongoing support to our local businesses who are currently experiencing devastating levels of disruption and uncertainty.
- Advocacy for change at the State and Federal level that support the immediate recovery and long-term wellbeing of our community and local economy

In particular, the Package prioritises people already experiencing disadvantage and those who have emerging vulnerabilities and provides immediate and ongoing support to our local businesses.

Reflecting the Victoria State Government's State Relief Plan and the various Commonwealth and State measures for COVID-19, the proposal seeks to build on existing social and health networks to strengthen the ongoing reliance and capacity within the community. Council will work closely with and where possible seek to enhance the capacity of organisations already working with vulnerable community members.

Likewise, developing a program to support businesses, we have designed our proposals to complement existing services, policies and agencies such as Business Victoria and Federal and State Government economic stimulus packages. Wherever possible, the plan will enable businesses to articulate and define their own needs and ideas for support and recovery and act as the lead for delivery.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that a range of activities aimed at supporting the community and local businesses respond to COVID-19 have commenced through reprioritisation of Council resources, workplan and budgets.
- (2) Notes that changes to services, programs and projects have been made, and will continue to be made, by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure critical service delivery and the safety of staff and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (3) Endorses the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which totals approximately \$10 million (to be reflected in the 20/21 budget) and includes:
 - a) a range of community and economic development programs (refer Attachment A)
 - estimated amount \$5.2 million which includes but not limited to:
 - the development of packages that deliver a range of additional small and medium scale grants that support community organisations to deliver initiatives which support recovery and wellbeing.
 - the waiver of footpath trading fees from 1 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of food and health registration renewal fees from 1 March to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of ground use lease fees for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - the waiver of ground use charges for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - freeze on all current fees related to licensees in our arts venues and community hubs.
 - The waiver of overdue library books/items until the libraries reopen.
 - b) waiver of interest accrued on late payment of rates for the period 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2021 for residential, business and commercial properties – estimated amount \$300K
 - c) where possible, the temporary reallocation of Darebin City Council's employees' responsibilities to support community resilience and recovery programs and projects – estimated value \$2.5M
 - d) allocation of funds to on-demand projects and initiatives yet to be developed but will be required during 2020-21 – estimate value \$2M
- (4) Notes that the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package costs will be included in the 20/21 Budget and met by reducing capital works expenditure to no more than \$33m (including the commencement of construction of the Multi-purpose Sports Stadium and the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) to allow for a redirection of funds to support operational and strategic community recovery activities.
- (5) Endorses a targeted COVID-19 Advocacy Strategy that includes the following three pillars:

Pillar 1 – Community resilience

- Support for vulnerable groups: Homeless people
- Family violence, elder abuse and children at risk
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Neighbourhood House coordination funding
- Immediate expansion of CALD communications
- Income support payments
- Building capacity for community services

Pillar 2 – Financial hardship

- Mortgage and rent relief
- Fines Victoria – extension of pay period
- Rate Relief
- Economic stimulus, employment and business packages

Pillar 3 – Local Government sector

- Defer the 2020 Local Government Elections to 2021-22
- Delay the implementation of the 2020 Local Government Act changes
- No increase to Landfill levy

Motion

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. J Williams

That the Officer Recommendation be adopted subject to the deletion of clause 4.

The motion was put and lost.

LOST

Motion

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. L Messina

That Council:

- (1) Notes that a range of activities aimed at supporting the community and local businesses respond to COVID-19 have commenced through reprioritisation of Council resources, workplan and budgets.
- (2) Notes that changes to services, programs and projects have been made, and will continue to be made, by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure critical service delivery and the safety of staff and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (3) Endorses the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which totals approximately \$10 million (to be reflected in the 20/21 budget) and includes:

- a) a range of community and economic development programs (refer Attachment A)
- estimated amount \$5.2 million which includes but not limited to:
- the development of packages that deliver a range of additional small and medium scale grants that support community organisations to deliver initiatives which support recovery and wellbeing.
 - the waiver of footpath trading fees from 1 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of food and health registration renewal fees from 1 March to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of ground use lease fees for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - the waiver of ground use charges for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - freeze on all current fees related to licensees in our arts venues and community hubs.
 - The waiver of overdue library books/items until the libraries reopen.
- b) waiver of interest accrued on late payment of rates for the period 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2021 for residential, business and commercial properties – estimated amount \$300K
- c) where possible, the temporary reallocation of Darebin City Council's employees' responsibilities to support community resilience and recovery programs and projects – estimated value \$2.5M
- d) allocation of funds to on-demand projects and initiatives yet to be developed but will be required during 2020-21 – estimate value \$2M
- (4) Notes that the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package costs will be included in the 20/21 Budget and met by reducing capital works expenditure to no more than \$33m (including the commencement of construction of the Multi-purpose Sports Stadium and the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre) to allow for a redirection of funds to support operational and strategic community recovery activities.
- (5) Endorses a targeted COVID-19 Advocacy Strategy that includes the following three pillars:
- Pillar 1 – Community resilience
- Support for vulnerable groups: Homeless people
 - Family violence, elder abuse and children at risk
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
 - Neighbourhood House coordination funding
 - Immediate expansion of CALD communications
 - Income support payments
 - Building capacity for community services
- Pillar 2 – Financial hardship
- Mortgage and rent relief
 - Fines Victoria – extension of pay period
 - Rate Relief
 - Economic stimulus, employment and business packages
-

Pillar 3 – Local Government sector

- Defer the 2020 Local Government Elections to 2021-22
- Delay the implementation of the 2020 Local Government Act changes
- No increase to Landfill levy.

Amendment

Cr. Amir moved that clause 4 of the Officer Recommendation be amended as follows (changes shown):

4. Notes that the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package costs will be included in the 20/21 Budget and met by reducing capital works expenditure to no more than \$33m (including the commencement of construction of the Multi-purpose Sports Stadium, ~~and~~ the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre **and ongoing upgrades to the Reservoir Leisure Centre**) to allow for a redirection of funds to support operational and strategic community recovery activities

The mover and seconder consented to the amendment.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 20-031****MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. L Messina**

That Council:

- (1) Notes that a range of activities aimed at supporting the community and local businesses respond to COVID-19 have commenced through reprioritisation of Council resources, workplan and budgets.
- (2) Notes that changes to services, programs and projects have been made, and will continue to be made, by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure critical service delivery and the safety of staff and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (3) Endorses the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which totals approximately \$10 million (to be reflected in the 20/21 budget) and includes:
 - a) a range of community and economic development programs (refer Attachment A)
 - estimated amount \$5.2 million which includes but not limited to:
 - the development of packages that deliver a range of additional small and medium scale grants that support community organisations to deliver initiatives which support recovery and wellbeing.
 - the waiver of footpath trading fees from 1 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of food and health registration renewal fees from 1 March to 30 June 2021.
 - the waiver of ground use lease fees for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.

- the waiver of ground use charges for sporting clubs from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
 - freeze on all current fees related to licensees in our arts venues and community hubs.
 - The waiver of overdue library books/items until the libraries reopen.
- b) waiver of interest accrued on late payment of rates for the period 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2021 for residential, business and commercial properties – estimated amount \$300K
- c) where possible, the temporary reallocation of Darebin City Council's employees' responsibilities to support community resilience and recovery programs and projects – estimated value \$2.5M
- d) allocation of funds to on-demand projects and initiatives yet to be developed but will be required during 2020-21 – estimate value \$2M
- (4) Notes that the Darebin City Council's COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package costs will be included in the 20/21 Budget and met by reducing capital works expenditure to no more than \$33m (including the commencement of construction of the Multi-purpose Sports Stadium, the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and ongoing upgrades to the Reservoir Leisure Centre) to allow for a redirection of funds to support operational and strategic community recovery activities
- (5) Endorses a targeted COVID-19 Advocacy Strategy that includes the following three pillars:
- Pillar 1 – Community resilience
- Support for vulnerable groups: Homeless people
 - Family violence, elder abuse and children at risk
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
 - Neighbourhood House coordination funding
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 - Economic stimulus, employment and business packages
- Pillar 3 – Local Government sector
- Defer the 2020 Local Government Elections to 2021-22
 - Delay the implementation of the 2020 Local Government Act changes
 - No increase to Landfill levy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. CLOSE OF MEETING


The meeting closed at 5.23 pm.

**CITY OF
DAREBIN**

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