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MINUTES OF THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 14 March 2023

Released to the public on 16 March 2023

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS
COMMITTEE OF THE DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON
TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM

WELCOME

The Chairperson, Mayor Julie Williams opened the meeting with the following statement:

“I would like to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land and pay my respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.”

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Julie Williams (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Susan Rennie

Council Officers

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer

Rachel Ollivier – General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

Sam Hewett – General Manager Operations and Capital

Kylie Bennetts - General Manager Community

Jacinta Stevens - Manager Corporate Governance

Sadiq Mohammed – Chief Financial Officer

Dean Gibbons – Coordinator Management Accountant

Jody Brodribb – Coordinator Governance Services

Georgina Steele – Senior Governance Officer

Jeme Liang – IT Support Officer

2. APOLOGIES

Cr Lina Messina

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Decision

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

That the Minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting held on 26 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 HEARING OF BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

Author: Coordinator Management Accountant

Reviewed By: General Manager Governance and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Working in partnership with community to identify priorities, will allow Council to make important financial decisions, balance current and future needs, while also ensuring Darebin is financially sustainable well into the future.

Our current economic landscape presents additional challenges. Rising inflation and construction costs has and will continue to place significant cost pressures on Councils budget over the short to medium term at levels not previously seen. We recognise the need for a stronger focus on financial sustainability whilst meeting community's expectations.

To help Council prioritise its deliverables in this financially challenging time, Council undertook community consultation prior to the establishment of a draft budget, so meaningful engagement with the community can occur to help understand their priorities early in the process and consequential information can be utilised to help shape and develop Councils 2023-24 budget, four year budget and the Long Term Financial Plan.

Community engagement occurred between 6th – 26th February 2023 through multiple channels. The engagement process included a combination of an online/hardcopy survey, online/hardcopy budget submission form and various pop-up sessions. We invited budget submissions, with any person requesting to be heard in support of their written submission to be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at 7.00pm on 14 March 2023.

This year we asked the community to prioritise what is most important to them through completing an online/hardcopy survey. This survey asked community members to distribute 100 'points' across 12 key themes/services aligned to our Council Plan 2021-25.

Two Hundred and Five (205) community members completed the survey. Summary of results as follows:

Council Service	Total No. of points allocated	% of total points allocated
Open spaces, parks and natural environment	2,760	13.6%
Sustainable transport	2,260	11.1%
Aged and disability	2,260	11.1%
Facilities, infrastructure and maintenance	2,220	10.9%
Community wellbeing and social policy	1,880	9.3%
Recreation and leisure	1,840	9.1%
Waste management	1,520	7.5%
Built environment and natural resources	1,500	7.4%
Creative culture and community facilities	1,180	5.8%
Families, youth and children	1,120	5.5%
Learning and libraries	1,040	5.1%
Economic development	700	3.5%
Totals	20,280	100%

Twenty-four (24) budget submissions were received by the closing date, including ten (10) submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission. A break-down on the number of submissions by major theme is as follows:

- Recreation & Reserves: 8 (33%)
- General Matters: 5 (21%)
- Active Transport / Sustainable Transport: 5 (21%)
- Environmental issues: 3 (13%)
- Traffic Management: 1 (4%)
- Additional Funding and Grants: 1 (4%)
- Public Places: 1 (4%)

Submissions

The following people addressed the Committee in support of their submission:

- Jessie Sadovsky
- Josephine Montalto
- Jim Crosthwaite
- Kelvin Hui
- Ruth Jelly
- Christina DiPierdomenico
- Louise Kenny-Shen
- Molly Hoak
- Luke Smith

The following submitter did not attend the Committee Meeting:

- Carol McConville

7.45pm - Cr Rennie left the meeting

The CEO advised the Committee that the Officers Recommendation had been amended to provide clarity around the next steps.

Amended Officer Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1) Receives and notes the Committee's receipt of written and verbal submissions on the priorities for Council's preparation of the draft Budget 2023-24.
- 2) Thanks all submitters for making their submissions and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their submissions.
- 3) Provides copies of all written submissions and a report on verbal submissions received to Council.
- 4) Recommends that Council:
 - a. Receives and notes the Committee's receipt of written and verbal submissions on the priorities for Council's preparation of the draft Budget 2023-24 and its report on same.
 - b. Thanks all submitters for making their submissions and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their submissions.
 - c. Directs officers to provides all submissions to it for further consideration at the Council meeting to be held on 22 May 2023 as part of Council's deliberations in the adoption of the draft Budget 2023-24, or the subsequent three financial year draft budgets as required by the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - d. Resolves to conduct a further community engagement process on the draft Budget 2023-24 once it has been prepared.

Committee Decision**MINUTE NO. 23-029**

MOVED: Cr. T Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That the Committee:

- 1) Receives and notes the Committee's receipt of written and verbal submissions on the priorities for Council's preparation of the draft Budget 2023-24.
- 2) Thanks all submitters for making their submissions and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their submissions.
- 3) Provides copies of all written submissions and a report on verbal submissions received to Council.
- 4) Recommends that Council:
 - a. Receives and notes the Committee's receipt of written and verbal submissions on the priorities for Council's preparation of the draft Budget 2023-24 and its report on same.

- b. Thanks all submitters for making their submissions and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their submissions.
- c. Directs officers to provides all submissions to it for further consideration at the Council meeting to be held on 22 May 2023 as part of Council's deliberations in the adoption of the draft Budget 2023-24, or the subsequent three financial year draft budgets as required by the Local Government Act 2020.
- d. Resolves to conduct a further community engagement process on the draft Budget 2023-24 once it has been prepared.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.