



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 27 June 2017

Held at Swan Hill Town Hall
Council Chambers
McCallum Street, Swan Hill
Commenced at 5:30 PM

COUNCIL:

Cr LT McPhee – Mayor

Cr JN Katis
Cr GW Norton
Cr C Jeffery
Cr L Johnson
Cr B Moar
Cr A Young

Confirmed 15 August 2017

Chairperson.....

SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS3

SECTION B – REPORTS.....4

B.17.51 SUBMISSIONS TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND STRATEGIC
RESOURCE PLAN 2017-20214

B.17.52 COUNCIL PLAN AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2017-
2021.....6

B.17.53 ADOPTION OF 2017/18 BUDGET 10

SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Open**

Mayor, Cr Les McPhee assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

- **Acknowledgement of Country**

Mayor, Cr Les McPhee read the Acknowledgement of Country.

- **Prayer**

Cr John Katis read the prayer.

- **Apologies**

Nil

Recommendation

That the apologies be accepted.

SECTION B – REPORTS

B.17.51 SUBMISSIONS TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2017-2021

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: 22-23-05
Attachments: Nil

Declarations of Interest:

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

At the close of submissions to the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021 none were received.

This report is to enable Council to formally note this fact.

Discussion

In accordance with the Local Government Act Council advertised for submissions to the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021.

At the close of the submission period no submissions were received.

Consultation

The consultation was undertaken as a formal section 223 process, involving public notice, written submissions, and the right to appear in support of a submission and be heard by Council.

Submissions closed on 19 June 2017. No submissions were received. Council officers suggested some minor wording changes which were considered and included as appropriate.

Financial Implications

Not applicable.

Social Implications

Not applicable.

Economic Implications

Not applicable.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

Risk Management Implications

Not applicable.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Governance and Leadership - Community leadership through effective strategic planning.

Options

Nil.

Recommendation

That Council note no submissions were received to the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021.

28/17 Motion

MOVED Cr Johnson

That Council note no submissions were received to the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021.

SECONDED Cr Norton

The Motion was put and CARRIED

B.17.52 COUNCIL PLAN AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2017-2021

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: 22-23-05
Attachments: 1 Placeholder - Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021

Declarations of Interest:

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The Local Government Act requires the Council to prepare and approve a Council Plan, incorporating a Strategic Resource Plan, within six months after a general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

A draft Council Plan was prepared and advertised for public submissions during May-June 2017 in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act. No submissions were received and the Plan is now ready for adoption.

Discussion

The Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021 has been prepared and advertised in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

As a result of the advertising process, Council received no public submissions but a number of minor word changes were recommended by officers. These changes included minor grammar and punctuation errors and the insertion of updated figures on page 5 – Our place in the region.

Updated regional data changes included:

- Population updated from 20,580 to 20,361 (2017 Remplan figures)
- Length of local roads from 4,492kms to 3,492kms (typing error)
- Rateable properties from 11,849 to 11,939 (current rates figures)
- Gross regional product from 1.124 billion to 1.18 billion (2017 Remplan figures)
- Visitors to the municipality from 380,000 to 656,000 (2017 Remplan figures)
- Injection to the economy from visitors from \$55 million to \$95 million (2017 Remplan figures)
- Employees working in agriculture, health care and retail from 50 per cent to 45 per cent (2017 Remplan figures)
- Average population age from 37.8 to 38 (2017 Remplan figures)

The Council Plan is a high level document that sets the strategic direction and major initiatives for the next four years. A quarterly report on the progress towards achieving the initiatives will be prepared and presented to Council.

Consultation

The consultation was undertaken as a formal section 223 process, involving public notice, written submissions, and the right to appear in support of a submission and be heard by Council.

Submissions closed on 19 June 2017. No submissions were received. Council officers suggested some minor wording changes which were considered and included as appropriate.

Financial Implications

Once adopted, the Council Plan sets the strategic direction of Council over the next four years.

All resourcing decisions are reviewed annually as part of the Budget process.

Social Implications

The Council Plan contains initiatives to improve social, economical and environmental outcomes for our community.

Economic Implications

As above.

Environmental Implications

As above.

Risk Management Implications

A number of initiatives in the Council Plan relate to actions that will reduce Council risks through improved asset management, systems and processes.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Governance and Leadership - Community leadership through effective strategic planning.

Options

Council can choose to adopt or amend the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021

Recommendation

That Council Adopt the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021 as presented.

29/17 Motion

MOVED Cr Jeffery

That Council Adopt the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021 as presented.

SECONDED Cr Moar

The Motion was put and CARRIED

Attachment

- Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2021

B.17.53 ADOPTION OF 2017/18 BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: S15-06-08
Attachments: 1 Placeholder - 2017/18 Annual Budget

Declarations of Interest:

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

Following the statutory advertising period, the 2017/18 Budget is ready for adoption. The Budget is the primary source of financial control across Council operations, and expresses the nature and level of Council's service and infrastructure provision in financial terms for the 2017/18 financial year.

Discussion

At the close of the statutory advertising period five submissions were received. The submissions were formally received and heard at the Special Council Meeting on 23 June 2017. A response to points raised in the submissions was provided at that meeting. Officers believe the points raised in the submissions do not require the Budget to be amended. Council is now in a position to adopt the Budget.

Councillors have been involved in the preparation of the Budget and are well informed as to its content, however highlights and significant issues are as follows:

1. Rating Strategy

No changes to the Differential Rate types applied in 2016/17 are proposed. The 2017/18 budget proposes an average increase on the 2016/17 rates of 2.0%. This follows last year's 2.5% increase in rate revenue. A 1% early payment discount will apply if rates installments are paid in full by 30 September 2017.

The proposed average rate rise is consistent with the State Government's Rate Cap.

2. Waste Management

The budget reflects increased Waste Management charges at landfill sites in line with State Government policy changes and general cost increases. The fee for a 120 litre garbage bin will be \$290 (an increase of \$10) and a 240 litre bin \$440 (an increase of \$15). The optional green waste service charge has been reduced to \$100.

3. Capital Works

The Budget proposes \$16.9 million capital works program focusing on infrastructure replacement and works to improve drainage and flood protection in Swan Hill and Robinvale. This is dependent on receiving \$5.8 million in external funding. Some of the major works to be undertaken include \$6.1 million for roadworks, \$1.5 million for the implementation of the Swan Hill Riverfront Master Plan, \$0.8 million towards

construction of the Robinvale town levee, \$0.2 million to replace and improve footpaths, \$0.2 million to improve the drainage in Swan Hill's CBD, \$0.4 million for major maintenance to community buildings, \$0.5 million to upgrade the Ken Harrison Soccer Complex, \$0.2 million for design of an Art Gallery upgrade and \$1.7 million for the redevelopment of Swan Hill Livestock exchange.

4. Asset Management

The Budget is clearly focused on asset management issues and the need to fund infrastructure replacement. \$10 million (subject to external funding) will be spent replacing Councils assets, primarily roads, footpaths and drains.

5. Financial Management

The Budget predicts an operating surplus of \$6.4 million and a rates surplus of \$0.06 million. Net debt will decrease by \$0.2 million. Net assets are budgeted to increase by \$14 million due mainly to asset revaluations and capital expenditure. Cash and investments will decrease slightly to \$13.9 million.

Consultation

The Draft Budget was presented at community information sessions in Robinvale and Swan Hill.

A formal advertising and submission process has taken place. Five submissions were received. Suggestions for projects and programs from the community were received throughout the year and considered as part of the Budget preparation process.

Financial Implications

Adoption of the 2017/18 Budget authorises Council officers to expend Council funds and raise revenue to implement the budgeted programs and projects.

Social Implications

Council's budget covers all aspects of Council operations and therefore impacts economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Economic Implications

As above.

Environmental Implications

As above.

Risk Management Implications

Setting a budget is a vital control that enables the organisation to track financial performance.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Governance and Leadership - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

Options

1. Adopt the 2017/18 Budget as presented.
2. Adopt the 2017/18 Budget with minor amendments.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Having considered the five submissions, adopt the budget as presented.
2. Declare that \$23,186,380 be raised in rates for the 2017/18 financial year.
3. Declare a Differential Rate of 0.817292 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable Commercial properties within Residential 1, Business or Industrial zones of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme in the townships of Swan Hill and Robinvale.
4. Declare a Differential Rate of 0.653834 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable Residential and Industrial properties within the drainage districts Swan Hill and Robinvale townships.
5. Declare a Differential Rate of 1.307667 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable Vacant Residential land within the townships of Swan Hill and Robinvale that has remained as vacant land for a minimum of 5 years since it was last zoned as residential land or 3 years after its sale as a residential allotment, whichever is the latter.
6. Declare a Differential Rate of 0.565818 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable farming properties without access to irrigation water infrastructure and which are primarily used for broad acre grain/sheep production and are allocated an Australian Valuation Property Classification Code of 510, 520, 523, 524 or 530.
7. Declare a Differential Rate of 0.628686 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all other rateable land within the municipality.
8. Declare a Garbage Service Charge of \$290 for a 120 litre bin service and \$440 for a 240 litre bin service for residential properties within the declared garbage service areas of the Municipality, for the year commencing 1 July 2017.

9. **Declare an optional Green Waste Garbage Service Charge of \$100 for a 240 litre bin service for Residential properties within the declared garbage service area of Swan Hill City (collection area number 20) for the year commencing 1 July 2017.**
10. **Authorise borrowings of up to \$800,000. \$500,000 for capital works and \$300,000 for refinancing in 2017/18.**
11. **Provide a payment equivalent to 50% of the applicable rates for Not-For-Profit recreational properties which would have been previously entitled to the lower Recreational Differential Rate.**
12. **Provide a payment equivalent to 50% of the difference between the Commercial Rate and Urban Rate in Swan Hill and Robinvale for Commercial properties in Common Occupancy with a residence.**

30/17 Motion

MOVED Cr Katis

That Council:

1. **Having considered the five submissions, adopt the budget as presented.**
2. **Declare that \$23,186,380 be raised in rates for the 2017/18 financial year.**
3. **Declare a Differential Rate of 0.817292 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable Commercial properties within Residential 1, Business or Industrial zones of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme in the townships of Swan Hill and Robinvale.**
4. **Declare a Differential Rate of 0.653834 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable Residential and Industrial properties within the drainage districts Swan Hill and Robinvale townships.**
5. **Declare a Differential Rate of 1.307667 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable Vacant Residential land within the townships of Swan Hill and Robinvale that has remained as vacant land for a minimum of 5 years since it was last zoned as residential land or 3 years after its sale as a residential allotment, whichever is the latter.**
6. **Declare a Differential Rate of 0.565818 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for rateable farming properties without access to irrigation water infrastructure and which are primarily used for broad acre grain/sheep production and are allocated an Australian Valuation Property Classification Code of 510, 520, 523, 524 or 530.**

- 7. Declare a Differential Rate of 0.628686 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all other rateable land within the municipality.**
- 8. Declare a Garbage Service Charge of \$290 for a 120 litre bin service and \$440 for a 240 litre bin service for residential properties within the declared garbage service areas of the Municipality, for the year commencing 1 July 2017.**
- 9. Declare an optional Green Waste Garbage Service Charge of \$100 for a 240 litre bin service for Residential properties within the declared garbage service area of Swan Hill City (collection area number 20) for the year commencing 1 July 2017.**
- 10. Authorise borrowings of up to \$800,000. \$500,000 for capital works and \$300,000 for refinancing in 2017/18.**
- 11. Provide a payment equivalent to 50% of the applicable rates for Not-For-Profit recreational properties which would have been previously entitled to the lower Recreational Differential Rate.**
- 12. Provide a payment equivalent to 50% of the difference between the Commercial Rate and Urban Rate in Swan Hill and Robinvale for Commercial properties in Common Occupancy with a residence.**

SECONDED Cr Young

The Motion was put and CARRIED

Attachment

- 2017/18 Annual Budget

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.38pm