

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET/LTCCP MEETING OF THE TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILDING, KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2009 AT 9.00AM

PRESENT Mayor Janie Annear (Chairman), Cllrs Barker, Bennett, Bowan, Bradley, Coughlan, Jack, Kennedy, Lyon, Mulvey, and Oliver

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive (WA Isaacs), Assistant Chief Executive (PH Nixon), Regulatory Services Manager (P Thompson), District Services Manager (AA Harper), Chief Financial Officer (T Rogers), Assistant Executive Secretary (JM Brownie)

OPENING PRAYER John McMullan from the Wilson Street Baptist Church offered a prayer for the work of the Council

1 BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2009 TO 30 JUNE 2019 (File F1/4)

The Council considered -

- a report by the Chief Financial Officer
- the draft Budget document for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2019 (including fees and charges)
- the Committee and Community Board Recommendations.

The Chairman noted that in these economic times the community expects any rate increase to be kept to a minimum and the management team and Council officers have worked hard to achieve this in preparing the draft budget.

1.1 Further Reports Requested

The Council agreed that the following issues be subject to separate reports to future meetings of the appropriate Standing Committee: -

- Sunshine Coach
- Geraldine Domain Pavilion – the upgrading of the downstairs kitchen and installation of a lift
- Marine parade redevelopment
- Aorangi park paths
- Temuka and Geraldine pool floodlights.

Queries/Comments

The following comments were made:

- Aquatic Centre – a request was made to show this expense as a targeted rate in the budget document.
- Halls – bond for functions involving alcohol
Concern was expressed at the significant increase (\$300 to \$750) in the proposed bond for functions involving alcohol, noting that some groups may not be able to afford that amount for a bond, on top of the hall hire charge. However the meeting was advised that the higher bond is considered necessary due to the damage experienced in some of the district's halls following events involving alcohol. The amount of \$750 is considered reasonable, taking into account the excess on the insurance policy, the fact

that \$750 damage can be done in a short time and it is not the ratepayers' responsibility to pay for these types of repairs. It was suggested that hirers could pay the bond up to one week before the hire, rather than when they pay the deposit.

- Make a clear distinction between 'deposits' and 'charges'.
- Check to see if DVDs are being charged for in the library.
- Highlight in the LTCCP that parking fees will increase by 80% over the next years.
- Publicise that the Council will pay for the first hour of professional fees for colour consultancy for upgrading heritage buildings.

1.2 Proposed Increases for Social Housing Rentals (File P4/1)

The Council considered a report by the Property Manager on proposed increases for social housing rentals, with the Assistant Chief Executive pointing out that even with the proposed increases, Timaru District Council will still have some of the lowest rental charges in New Zealand compared with market rentals. It was further explained that the relativity of rents between the different types of flats (new versus old) will be reviewed and there may be a need to review the amount of increase next year.

Proposed Clr Jack
Seconded Clr Bradley

"That the \$5.00 per week increase be approved and applied from 1 July 2009 for the 2009/10 year."

MOTION CARRIED

Proposed Clr Jack
Seconded Clr Bradley

"That the same level of increase be the minimum increase applied for the following two financial years, being the 2010/11 and 2011/12 years."

MOTION CARRIED

Clrs Barker and Coughlan requested their dissenting votes be recorded in the minutes.

1.3 Community Works and Services Rates (File F1/2)

The Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the possibility of changing the Community Works and Services Rates.

Proposed Clr Lyon
Seconded Clr Bowan

"That the basis for the Community Works and Services Rates remain unchanged at this time (ie Option 4 of the report)."

MOTION CARRIED

1.4 Appendix A - Additional Expenditure Requests for 2009/10 to 2018/19 Budget

Geraldine Stormwater

Soak Holes Raukapuka

It was noted that this item is already in the budget document.

Domain Camping Ground Swales

Proposed Clr Oliver
Seconded Clr Bowan

“That \$135,000 be included in the budget in the 2011/12 year.”

MOTION CARRIED

Transport

Geraldine NonSubsidised Roding

Cox Street Access

Proposed Clr Jack
Seconded Clr Coughlan

“That \$17,000 be allocated in the 2009/10 budget from general rates for work on the Cox Street carpark access to improve it to useable level.”

MOTION CARRIED

Footpaths – increase to \$15,000 pa

Proposed Clr Oliver
Seconded Clr Jack

“That the allocation for footpaths be increased to \$15,000 per annum.”

MOTION CARRIED

Pleasant Point Non-Subsidised Roding

Railway Land Purchase

Proposed Clr Bennett
Seconded Clr Lyon

“That \$50,000 for the land purchase including the carpark and toilet area be included in the current 2008/09 year.”

MOTION CARRIED

Timaru Non-Subsidised Roding

Timaru CBD Wayfinding Maps

Proposed Clr Jack
Seconded Clr Kennedy

“That \$10,000 be included in the budget for Timaru CBD wayfinding maps for

2009/10 and 2010/11 from the Depreciation fund.”

MOTION CARRIED

Subsidised Roading

Seal Widening – Coach and Tiplady Roads

Proposed Clr Oliver
Seconded Clr Bennett

“That \$200,000 be allocated in 2009/10 for Tiplady Road seal widening and \$300,000 in 2011/12 for seal widening on Coach Road.”

MOTION CARRIED

Streetlighting

Network extension Greig St Pleasant Point

Proposed Clr Oliver
Seconded Clr Lyon

“That \$65,000 be included from Depreciation (with \$33,800 subsidy) for streetlighting extension at Greig Street Pleasant Point.”

MOTION CARRIED

Solid Waste

EDAY participation

It was suggested that Timaru District Council should be seen as a national leader in this field, given its profile with refuse disposal, but the collection could be every second year.

Proposed Clr Mulvey
Seconded Clr Lyon

“That \$15,000 be allocated in the 2010/11 year and every two years after that for the EDAY collection.”

MOTION CARRIED

Clr Kennedy requested his dissenting vote be recorded in the minutes.

Museum

Building extension feasibility study

Proposed Clr Bennett
Seconded Clr Jack

“That the possibility of obtaining external funding for the museum building extension study be investigated and included in the Budget as expenditure and income.”

MOTION CARRIED

Halls & Community Centres

Geraldine Pavilion

Proposed Clr Oliver
Seconded Clr Lyon

“That \$8,000 from depreciation be allocated in the 2009/10 year for upgrading the showers at the Geraldine Domain pavilion.”

MOTION CARRIED

Parks

Mulcahys Reserve

Proposed Clr Kennedy
Seconded Clr Coughlan

“That \$65,000 funded by loan in the 2011/12 year for redevelopment of Mulcahys reserve, and \$6,000 for maintenance from rates annually from 2012/13 – 2018/19 be put in the budget.”

MOTION CARRIED

Temuka Domain cycle track

Proposed Clr Mulvey
Seconded Clr Lyon

“That the entries for the Temuka Domain grass cycletrack and resealing the track remain in 2013/14 until the Council reviews the management plan for the Temuka Domain.”

MOTION CARRIED

Public toilets

Arundel bridge toilet

Proposed the Mayor
Seconded Clr Bennett

“That \$15,000 be put in the 2009/10 budget for a replacement Arundel bridge toilet.”

MOTION CARRIED

It was noted that the draft LTCCP (page 54) which notes Arundel rural public toilet should read Rangitata River Mouth.

1.5 Appendix B - Items Removed from 2009/10 to 2018/19 Budget

Drainage and Water

Temuka Stormwater

Stormwater upgrades – the meeting agreed that \$450,000 be removed from the 2009/10 year and \$370,000 be removed from the 2011/12 year.

Transport
Road/Street landscapes
Security cameras

Proposed Clr Jack
Seconded Clr Barker

“That \$20,000 be put back into the budget in the 2009/10 year to be funded from depreciation for security cameras.”

MOTION CARRIED

Subsidised Roding

Seal extensions

The Council noted the cost of seal extensions for the amount of kilometres of sealing achieved, querying whether this was the best use of Council's money and stressing the need to attract subsidy to offset the cost.

Proposed Clr Lyon
Seconded Clr Mulvey

“That \$330,000 for seal extensions be deleted in the 2009/10 year, \$330,000 be put in the budget in the 2010/11 year, \$330,000 be deleted in the 2011/12 year, \$330,000 be put in the 2012/13 year and remain annually until 2018/19.”

MOTION CARRIED

Clr Oliver requested his dissenting vote be recorded in the minutes.

Railway Warning Signals

The Council agreed that the \$100,000 for railway warning signals be removed from the budget while discussions be held between the Council's Land Transport Unit and the rail owner as to the future of railway crossings.

Recreation and Leisure

Parks

Torepe Fields and Temuka Domain bowling carpark

Proposed Clr Mulvey
Seconded Clr Bowan

“That sealing of the Torepe Fields carpark remain in the budget but be deferred two years (to 2013/14) and the sealing of the Temuka Domain bowling carpark remain and be deferred two years (to 2012/13).”

MOTION CARRIED

1.6 Temuka Non Subsidised Roding

Proposed Clr Mulvey
Seconded Clr Bowan

“That the Temuka Works and Services rate be increased by \$15,000 for the Temuka footpath upgrading programme.”

MOTION CARRIED

1.7 RL9 Pleasant Point Courts Resurfacing

Proposed Clr Lyon
Seconded Clr Bowan

“That the allocation for sealing of the Pleasant Point courts be deferred 5 years from 2010/11 to 2014/15.”

MOTION CARRIED

2 DRAFT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Council considered the draft Long Term Council Community Plan, commending staff on its style and wording, and congratulating the Strategic Planning Manager on the excellent work he had done preparing the document, resulting in a draft LTCCP which is readable and informative. The Council was disappointed to be informed that the Audit Office has some issues with the draft document, which the Council may contest.

It was suggested that the proposed increase in parking fees be highlighted in the draft LTCCP.

Proposed Clr Bowan
Seconded Clr Bennett

“That the draft budget and Long Term Council Community Plan be approved subject to the amendments made at this meeting, for confirmation at the Council meeting on 14 April 2009, before being made available for public consultation.”

MOTION CARRIED

Clr Coughlan requested her dissenting vote be recorded in the minutes.

3 CONCLUSION

The Mayor thanked the Council officers for the significant amount of work devoted to the process so far.

The Mayor also acknowledged the Timaru Herald reporter Claire Allison, who is changing journalistic roles to become a feature writer, after working as the local government correspondent for some time. Mayor Janie commended Claire on her professionalism, balanced reporting, accuracy, respect and intellect, and wished her well for the future.

The meeting concluded at 3pm.

Chairman