

MEETING OF SPECIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

AT 5PM

COPACC



COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2017

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COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL held at COPACC
on 20 September 2017 at 5pm.

1. OPENING PRAYER

*Almighty God, we seek your
blessing and guidance in our
deliberations on behalf of the
people of the Colac Otway Shire.
Enable this Council's decisions to be
those that contribute to the true
welfare and betterment of our community.*

AMEN

2. PRESENT

Cr Kate Hanson
Cr Stephen Hart (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Joe McCracken
Cr Jason Schram
Cr Chris Smith
Cr Terry Woodcroft

Robert Dobrzynski, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Errol Lawrence, General Manager, Corporate Services
Tony McGann, General Manager, Infrastructure & Leisure Services
Sarah McKew, Acting Manager, Governance & Customer Service
Lyndal McLean, Acting Governance Officer
Daniel Fogarty, Manager, Financial Services
David Testa, Coordinator Financial Accounting
Tamzin McLennan, Communications Coordinator

3. APOLOGIES

Cr Chris Potter (Mayor)

4. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to start this evening by acknowledging the traditional custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past and present and welcome any descendants here today.

I would also like to advise that all Council meetings are audio recorded, with the exception of confidential matters. This includes the public participation sections of meetings.

Audio recordings of meetings are taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council and Committee meetings and to ensure their accuracy.

In some circumstances a recording will be disclosed to a third party. Those circumstances include, but are not limited to, circumstances, such as where Council is compelled to disclose an audio recording because it is required by law, such as the Freedom of Information Act 1982, or by court order, warrant, or subpoena or to assist in an investigation undertaken by the Ombudsman or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission.

Council will not use or disclose the recordings for any other purpose. It is an offence to make an unauthorized recording of the meeting.

As you know, the sole purpose of this meeting is to provide in principle approval of the 2016/17 financial statements for Council and to authorise the signing of those statements.

BEHAVIOUR

Before we move on to Public Question Time, I would like to remind all Councillors of our obligations under the Councillor Code of Conduct and Local Law 4 which regulates the proceedings at Council Meetings.

I have high expectations of Councillors and expect us to work together and with the organization for our community.

Towards this, it is my expectation that all Councillors exhibit exemplary conduct at all times during tonight's meeting. This means that you will behave in a professional manner throughout and that you will treat each other with courtesy and respect, even if there is disagreement.

I want to be clear that I will not tolerate any form of personal acrimony or insult, grandstanding, unnecessary interruptions or unreasonable or impolite language.

Nor will I tolerate any behaviour or comments that are disrespectful towards our professional officers.

Cr Chris Smith attended the meeting at 5.02pm

5. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received in writing for this Special meeting, so I invite other questions from the community members present in the Gallery.

As you are all aware, this is a Special Council meeting required under legislation. The only item tonight is consideration of the adoption of the Financial and Performance Reporting Statements 2016/17.

A Public Question Time of 30 minutes is allowed but I need to emphasise to everyone here that Council's meeting procedures in our Local Law do not allow you to ask questions on topics that aren't on the agenda tonight.

If you have general questions about other matters I want to encourage you to ask them at the next Ordinary Council meeting.

Questions Received Verbally at the Meeting

James Judd, Colac

What is Council's explanation for the tens of millions of variation between the balances at the end of June 2017 when balances moved in opposite directions to each other? The increase in surplus is shown as a deficit of over ten million dollars and the appropriations positive over ten million. There is a massive difference of over 24 million for the year.

Response from Manager, Financial Services

Apologies Mr Judd, can you tell where you are looking at those particular figures?

The figures are in the agenda. It shows over 11 million deficit for the year, although you claim it is a surplus. It is in brackets which according to the details, it is a deficit.

Response from Manager, Financial Services

Thank you, I understand the question now. The reason why that is showing as a bracket is because in accounting terms a bracket denotes a credit, which means income. So a bracket in accounting terms means an increase in income, or a decrease in expenses. Apologies if that caused some confusion, Mr Judd.

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
**FINANCIAL & PERFORMANCE REPORTING
STATEMENTS 2016/17**

SC172009-1

LOCATION / ADDRESS	COPACC	GENERAL MANAGER	Errol Lawrence
OFFICER	Daniel Fogarty	DEPARTMENT	Corporate Services
TRIM FILE	F17/6554	CONFIDENTIAL	No
ATTACHMENTS	1. 2016/17 Financial Statements 2. 2016/17 Performance Statement		
PURPOSE	To present the Annual Financial and Performance Reporting Statements to Council for adoption and signing for Lodgement with the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).		

RESOLUTION

MOVED Cr Terry Woodcroft seconded Cr Jason Schram

That Council:

- 1. Receives the Annual Financial Performance Report 2016-17 and notes the recommendation from the Audit Committee dated 6 September 2017;*
- 2. Approves, in principle, the 2016-2017 Financial Statements, subject to any changes that are recommended or agreed by the auditor in accordance with section 132(2) of the Local Government Act 1989;*
- 3. Approves, in principle, the 2016-2017 Performance Statement, subject to any changes that are recommended or agreed by the auditor in accordance with Section 132(2) of the Local Government Act 1989;*
- 4. Will refer the 2016-2017 Financial Statements and Performance Statement back to the Audit committee for information, if there is any significant change prior to certification;*
- 5. Authorises Crs Stephen Hart and Jason Schram to certify the final Financial Statements and Performance Statement in accordance with section 132(5)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989; and*

6. *Records its thanks to the Audit Committee and to those Council staff and staff of LD Assurance who were involved with the preparation of the 2016-2017 Annual Accounts and Audit Processes.*

CARRIED 5 : 1

DIVISION

For the Motion: Cr Stephen Hart, Cr Terry Woodcroft, Cr Kate Hanson, Cr Joe McCracken, Cr Jason Schram

Against the Motion: Cr Chris Smith

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 5.23pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

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