

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 1 February 2017
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 5.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr Amanda Findley - Chairperson
Clr Joanna Gash
Clr John Wells
Clr Patricia White
Clr John Levett
Clr Nina Cheyne
Clr Annette Alldrick
Clr Kaye Gartner
Clr Andrew Guile
Clr Mitchell Pakes
Clr Greg Watson – left the meeting 7.04pm
Clr Mark Kitchener – left the meeting 7.01pm
Clr Bob Proudfoot

The Mayor opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional land owners and gave the acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Nil

Declarations of Interest

Nil

Presentation of Petition

Clr Watson presented a petition containing 1325 signatures, **“to stop the proposed rate & as a consequence rent increases”**, *“we the undersigned, call on the Mayor, General Manager and Councillors in Council assembled; to abandon all three of the unaffordable rate increase proposals in favour of a financial strategy which will not impose crushing rate, and rent increases on Shoalhaven residents”*.

DEPUTATIONS

Ms Liza Butler (Bawley Point Kioloa CCB) addressed the Council in relation to CL17.23 – Special Rate Variation

REPORTS

CL17.23 Proposed Special Rate Variation for Financial Sustainability including infrastructure renewal	HPERM Ref: D17/25963
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A deputation was provided in relation to this matter earlier in the meeting.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive the feedback and results of the community engagement
2. Endorse a financial sustainability approach that includes continued improvement in our procurement and asset management practices and improving productivity and implementing a Special Rate Variation
3. Authorise staff to make formal application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and lodge a Section 508A Special Rate Variation (SRV) on general income for an increase of 11.5% in 2017/18 and 11.5% in 2018/19, above rate peg for each of the 2 years in order for Council to financially support the ongoing provision of service levels to the community and increase levels of asset maintenance and renewal.
4. That staff provide a report to the next Ordinary Council Meeting on the establishment of a Citizen's Panel to provide recommendations to Council on priority areas for expenditure related to the Special Rate Variation

RESOLVED (Clr Findley / Clr Gash)

MIN17.71

That:

1. Council receive the feedback and results of the community engagement
2. Council endorse a financial sustainability approach that includes continued improvement in our procurement and asset management practices and improving productivity and implementing a Special Rate Variation
3. Council authorise staff to make formal application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and lodge a Section 508A Special Rate Variation (SRV) on general income for an increase of 11.5% in 2017/18 and 11.5% in 2018/19, above rate peg for each of the 2 years in order for Council to financially support the ongoing provision of service levels to the community and increase levels of asset maintenance and renewal.
4. Staff provide a report to the next Ordinary Council Meeting on the establishment of a Citizen's Panel to provide recommendations to Council on priority areas for expenditure related to the Special Rate Variation
5. Council accept the submission from The Shoalhaven Independents on behalf of the ratepayers and residents who attended protest meetings at St Georges Basin, Bomaderry, Huskisson and Nowra as part of the overall submissions and the submission also be reported to IPART.
6. The General Manager report back to Council on how Council could capture any business that is operating from residential premises and re-categorise to business and if there are any legislative hurdles should Council wish to pursue this as an ongoing part of revenue review. This should include the cost for resourcing such a project- this suggestion was put to Council by concerned ratepayers.

7. The General Manager report back if any other Councils apply a levy or any other mechanism to increase rates on those properties that are known to supply accommodation to the tourism industry and are essentially a business- these properties would be those listed by real estate agents and online mechanisms such as Air BnB and Stayz –this suggestion has been raised by concerned business operators.
8. The General Manager also report back on any measures that can be used to essentially pass some of the financial burden of maintaining assets onto the many tourist that come to the Shoalhaven, suggestions that have come through include parking meters for peak tourist times and places and bed taxes. The report should also include any legislative or resourcing issues for such matters.
9. In reporting back could the General Manager please comment on any timing issues that could be foreseen if such mechanisms were to be adopted by Council.
10. Council refer the matters raised by an Independent Auditor in a recent confidential meeting with councillors to Council’s Risk & Audit committee for consideration and any further advice.

.CARRIED

AMENDMENT (Clr Watson / Clr Guile)

That:

1. The Special rate variation application be deferred until next year.
2. Council receive the feedback and results of the community engagements including the series of rates protest meetings organised by the Shoalhaven Independents.
3. Council implement an independent financial investigation and review in consultation with qualified and experienced community representatives to determine the extent of or any real need for Section 508A Special Rate Variation (SRV).
4. Council direct the General Manager to withhold any IPART application subject to the results of the investigation and review.
5. Staff implement a community ‘Waste Watch’ task force to identify waste and reduce costs.
6. Council accept the submission from The Shoalhaven Independents on behalf of the ratepayers and residents who attended protest meetings at St Georges Basin, Bomaderry, Huskisson and Nowra as part of the overall submissions and the submission also be reported to IPART.
7. The General Manager report back to Council on how Council could capture any business that is operating from residential premises and re-categorise to business and if there are any legislative hurdles should Council wish to pursue this as an ongoing part of revenue review. This should include the cost for resourcing such a project- this suggestion was put to Council by concerned ratepayers.
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9. The General Manager also report back on any measures that can be used to essentially pass some of the financial burden of maintaining assets onto the many tourist that come to the Shoalhaven, suggestions that have come through include parking meters for peak tourist times and places and bed taxes. The report should also include any legislative or resourcing issues for such matters.
10. Council in reporting back could the General Manager please comment on any timing issues that could be foreseen if such mechanisms were to be adopted by Council.
11. Council refer the matters raised by an Independent Auditor in a recent confidential meeting

with councillors to Council's Risk & Audit committee for consideration and any further advice.

PROCEDURAL MOTION – EXTENSION OF TIME (Clr Kitchener / Clr Proudfoot)

That an extension of time be granted for Clr Pakes.

LOST

FOR: Clr Guile, Clr Pakes, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Proudfoot

AGAINST: Clr Findley, Clr Gash, Clr Wells, Clr White, Clr Levett, Clr Cheyne, Clr Alldrick and Clr Gartner

PROCEDURAL MOTION – AMENDMENT BE PUT (Clr Gartner / Clr White)

That the AMENDMENT BE PUT.

CARRIED

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Gash, Clr Wells, Clr White, Clr Levett, Clr Cheyne, Clr Alldrick and Clr Gartner

AGAINST: Clr Guile, Clr Pakes, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Proudfoot

AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST

FOR: Clr Guile, Clr Pakes, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Proudfoot

AGAINST: Clr Findley, Clr Gash, Clr Wells, Clr White, Clr Levett, Clr Cheyne, Clr Alldrick and Clr Gartner

Note: Clr Kitchener left the meeting at 7:01pm

Note: Clr Watson left the meeting at 7:04pm

MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Gash, Clr Wells, Clr White, Clr Levett, Clr Cheyne, Clr Alldrick and Clr Gartner

AGAINST: Clr Guile, Clr Pakes and Clr Proudfoot

Please note: A rescission motion was received in relation to this item. It will be considered at an Extra Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 2 February 2017 at 4.00pm at the Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 7.16pm.

Clr Findley
CHAIRPERSON