



Council Meeting - July 2005

Council Minutes (Andrei Koeppen)

Date: 2 August 2005

Apologies

Robin Rogers

Jerry Ashley

Peter Lansen (Resigned)

Present

Bobby Ngungamtjbarr

Walter Rogers

Anita Thompson

Daphne Daniels

Kevin Rogers

Alan Watson

Dallas Kingsley

David Daniels

Others

Andrei Koeppen CEO

Guests

Leigh Gregory - Regional Authority, Dept. Local Government

Michael Devereay - Community Development Officer, Dept. Local Govt.

Meeting Opened 11.00am

Previous Minutes

No objections received and all agreed the minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting.

Minutes accepted;

Moved: Bobby Ngungamtjbarr Second: Kevin Rogers. Carried

Correspondence

The correspondence folder was circulated among Councillors.

Conflict of Interest

The issue of conflict of interest was again discussed and the decision to provide a stipend to the Council President was again explained. The position of Daphne

Daniels is not yet clear. Council has received advice that Daphne should hold her position on Council until the next election (2006). CEO will make further enquiries.

Insurance Premium Funding

CEO noted for the record that the new insurance broker has used Insurance Premium Funding through Macquarie Bank to cover the premiums over the twelve months. The Broker (Northern Insurance Brokers) indicated many communities in the NT had similar arrangements. CEO expressed concern that this funding may be seen as a loan and therefore Ministerial approval might have to be sought. Previous broker, Elders, simply invoiced monthly. New arrangements are similar in that the premium is paid over twelve months. Deferred for further enquiry.

Sale of Air Ngukurr Shareholding

This issue was raised and adjourned until a later meeting. No buyer has been found, but CEO has flagged the possibility that a buyer might be interested in Council's share of the airline and therefore is Council prepared to sell? Deferred.

President's Stipend

Council were advised that the Department of Local Government had indicated the Minister would be unlikely to approve a vehicle for the President. No clear reasons were provided. Council requested CEO seek approval to lease/buy a general purpose Council vehicle, which the President would have use of for Council business. The stipend could be amended to cover the cost. Deferred until Ministerial approval sought and either accepted or denied.

Licensing Commission

Council discussed the prospect of asking the Licensing Commission to extend the restricted area to include the entire Yugul Mangi region. Council are particularly concerned about the large landholdings on the south side of the Roper River (St Vidgeons etc.) and the frequent drinking at Roper Bar. It was noted that Roper Bar is an important ceremonial ground and that it is being abused by drinkers. Council also expressed concern that Mununga (whitefellas) are drinking alcohol on Aboriginal land in camping grounds along the Roper River. They feel that by extending the restricted area to cover the region they will alleviate many concerns by locals.

Resolution #1 July 2005:

To submit an application to the Licensing Commission under the Liquor Act Sect. 76 requesting that the entire Yugul Mangi Community Government Council Region be declared a Restricted Area.

Moved: Kevin Rogers

Second: Bobby Nunggumajbarr

Grant & Funding Applications

CEO advised that Roz Yakas had returned to Adelaide after three months at Ngukurr. Roz has several grant applications under construction including a grant to cover the cost of contracting a grants & funding officer. CEO suggested the position should be a contract and not employment. Roz will invoice Council for hours worked at around \$30/hour. This is a similar relationship to that proposed for the Accountant Michelle Green (\$40/hr). There was a general consensus of agreement. Council welcomed the idea of monthly progress reports.

Janet Fletcher

The question of Janet Fletcher's contract with Sunrise Health was raised. Janet has been the Senior Nurse at Ngukurr for 15 years. Sunrise have indicated her services will no longer be required, as she is an employee of NT Health. This affects Council in that Barry Fletcher would also leave. Barry and Janet occupy a Health house, so new accommodation will need to be found for a new Housing Maintenance Manager.

Accounting

In November 2004, YM Council changed its accounting package from MYOB to SynergySoft - part of the NT Vision System developed by LGANT. Council staff have found the SynergySoft program difficult to train and lacking in some functions, such as point of sale (cash register links) and reporting. When the position of Finance Officer was advertised, Michelle Green - Accountant for Numbulwar, applied. CEO in consultation with Director of Corporate Services and the Council President, took the decision to engage Michelle and adopt her recommendation that Council change the accounting system to Quickbooks. One of the primary reasons for the proposed change was the fact that Numbulwar also uses Quickbooks, and this would provide an opportunity to align the accounting of Yugul Mangi with Numbulwar, thereby facilitating the move to a Regional Authority. Other important factors included ease of use and training, Quickbooks ability to link with point of sale, as well as clearer reporting of monthly budgets against expenditure. Numbulwar is a similar size to Yugul Mangi - in terms of income and staff - and Quickbooks has proven to be very successful. Another consideration is cost. Quickbooks costs around \$2,000 for a multiple site license, plus \$99 per month for hosting (Quickbooks is run via an Application Service Provider (ASP) www.easeaccounting.com.au). The NT Vision system from LGANT was expected to cost around \$30,000 per year for SynergySoft and the website and email hosting. We have secured a quote from Smartyhost for hosting and email for \$140/year. The annual cost of the Quickbooks/EaseAccounting/Smartyhost system is \$1328.

Resolution:

To adopt the recommendation that Yugul Mangi switch Accounting software to Quickbooks and switch email and website hosting to Smartyhost.

Moved: Kevin Rogers Second: Daphne Daniels Carried

Alignment of Keys

CEO advised Council that he intends to review key and locks in accordance with the new organisational structure. Council have an Abloy key system, but a number of locks and keys have been changed to other brands by staff. These will be returned to the Abloy system. It is proposed that each Director hold sub-master keys for their departments only and issue keys to subordinates in accordance with access requirements etc.

Resolution: to make the necessary changes to the key system in alignment with new organisational structure.

Moved: Bobby Nunggumajbarr Second: David Daniels Carried

Leisure Centre

A proposal has been put to Council to upgrade the leisure centre to include short-term accommodation and a bakery and café.

Deferred until plans and details of the proposal are finalised. CEO to contact NLC to learn current land use agreement status (may have expired).

Plumbing Contractor

Tony Dell, Council's plumber, has advised he is unable to meet the expectations of the community and that a second plumber is required for about three months to help catch up on the enormous work load. Blocked toilets and other emergency plumbing are consuming most of the plumbing time, so upgrades to solar hot water systems and infrastructure work is not being attended to. Estimated cost \$20,000.

Resolution:

To engage a contract plumber for a period of three months to assist Tony with plumbing installations, repairs and maintenance.

Moved: Daphne Daniels Second: Kevin Rogers Carried

Corporate Services

Bob Savage provided a summary of the current position and advised that funds were currently limited and that all major spending be put on hold until expected revenue arrives in the bank. He also briefly discussed the human resources section and outlined some changes to staffing in accordance with the new organisational structure. The list of cheques and EFT transfers was circulated.

Regional Authority

Council was addressed by Michael Devery and Leigh Gregory on the matter of regionalisation. A proposed map of Regional Authorities was presented to Council, showing an enlarged Yugul Mangi region, temporarily labelled "Roper". Michael suggested a steering committee be formed by Council. Council will discuss this at the next Council Meeting. See the attached draft Corporate Plan powerpoint presentation which includes details of the Regional proposal as well as the new Staff Structure.

David Wainwright

Council requested CEO write to David on behalf of Council expressing their appreciation for the technical training and support which resulted in the paving of the area surrounding Council offices.

President's Stipend

Council President left the room. Council discussed the stipend arrangements for David Daniels and it was agreed a car should be purchased for general Council use and that the vehicle would be available for the Council President as required. CEO indicated Ministerial approval would be required and a resolution of Council was necessary to apply the Common Seal.

Resolution: to approve the purchase of a new Toyota Troop Carrier under a Goods & Chattel Mortgage at a purchase price of \$55,000.

Moved: Kevin Rogers Second: Anita Thompson Carried

Meeting Closed: 3pm.

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday August 24, 2005. Ngukurr Council Meeting Room.

Signed

David Daniels