



Ararat Rural City

MINUTES

STATUTORY MEETING

Tuesday 14 November 2023

Held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Jo Armstrong
Cr Gwenda Allgood
Cr Rob Armstrong
Cr Peter Beales
Cr Henry Burridge
Cr Bob Sanders
Cr Bill Waterston

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

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PRESENT:

Cr Gwenda Allgood, Cr Jo Armstrong, Cr Rob Armstrong, Cr Henry Burrridge, Cr Bob Sanders, Mr Tim Harrison, Chief Executive Officer, and Josie Frawley, Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Tim Harrison will open the meeting.

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council's Facebook page from 6pm and on Council's website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement- CR BEALES

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer- CR ALLGOOD

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge- CR BURRIDGE

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 12194

The process of election of the Mayor will take place in accordance with the section 25 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2 – Part B of Council's Governance Rules. The Governance Rules state that any nominations for the office of Mayor must be, in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer and seconded by a Councillor.

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor on Wednesday 8 November 2023 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Monday 13 November 2023.

The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors to be declared.

2.1 MAYORAL TERM

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

MOVED CR BEALES

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

CARRIED 4907/23

2.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr _____ as Mayor.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG

SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That Council elect Cr Bob Sanders as Mayor.

CARRIED 4908/23

ITEM 3 – ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 12195

3.1 DECISION TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Council has no obligation to elect a Deputy Mayor as per the Local Government Act 2020. Council's Governance Rules 2022 Clause 8 states:

"If Council has not established an office of Deputy Mayor and it becomes required to appoint an Acting Mayor, it can do so by:

- 1.1 resolving that a specified Councillor be so appointed; or
- 1.2 following the procedure set out in Rules 5 and 6 (inclusive) of this Chapter,

at its discretion"

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine if it wishes to elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2023/2024 term.

**MOVED CR BEALES
SECONDED CR BURRIDGE**

That Council determine if it wishes to elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2023/2024 term.

CARRIED 4909/23

The process of election of the Deputy Mayor will take place in accordance with the section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2 – Part B of Council's Governance Rules. The Governance Rules state that any nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor must be, in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer and seconded by a Councillor.

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor on Wednesday 8 November 2023 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Monday 13 November 2023.

The Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors to be declared.

3.2 DEPUTY MAYORAL TERM

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

MOVED CR BEALES

SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

CARRIED 4910/23

3.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr _____ as Deputy Mayor.

MOVED CR BURRIDGE

SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That Council elect Cr Jo Armstrong as Deputy Mayor.

CARRIED 4911/23

SECTION 4 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

4.1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES/ORGANISATIONS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 12197

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides clarity on Council representation on the various Council Committees and external bodies that Council will be represented for 2023/2024.

DISCUSSION

Council is represented on a range of committees, which are convened by external bodies and on various internal committees.

It is important to have a consistent representation on these Committees and Organisations during the Council term.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 Strong and effective governance

Budget Implications

Costs for Councillors attending (travel expenses) are included in the current budget allocations.

Policy/Relevant Law

Council is required to have delegates on various bodies and committees, this report will outline those delegations.

Sustainability Implications

Economic, social and environment matters were taken into account when preparing this report.

Risk Assessment

A definitive list will clarify who is the Council appointed representatives/s to any particular body or Committee.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Representation on these Committees and Organisation will ensure that Council is kept up to date with relevant legislative and sector changes.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Councillors and Chief Executive Officer will discuss the proposed Councillor Delegates on Committees and Organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Committees and Organisations for the Council term 2022/2023 as listed below:

| <i>Committee or Organisation with Council Representation</i> | <i>Basis of Representation</i> | <i>Council Delegate</i> |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| <i>National/State/Regional Bodies</i> | | |
| <i>Municipal Association of Victoria</i> | <i>One Councillor</i> | |
| <i>Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum</i> | <i>Mayor</i> | <i>Mayor</i> |
| <i>Western Highway Action Committee</i> | <i>One Councillor</i> | |
| <i>Rail Freight Alliance</i> | <i>One Councillor</i> | |
| <i>Council Committees</i> | | |
| <i>Audit Committee</i> | <i>Two Councillors</i> | |
| <i>CEO Employment and Recruitment Advisory Committee</i> | <i>Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor</i> | |

MOVED CR BURRIDGE SECONDED CR BEALES

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Committees and Organisations for the Council term 2022/2023 as listed below:

| Committee or Organisation with Council Representation | Basis of Representation | Council Delegate |
|--|---|--|
| <i>National/State/Regional Bodies</i> | | |
| Municipal Association of Victoria | One Councillor | CR J ARMSTRONG |
| Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum | Mayor | MAYOR – CR SANDERS |
| Western Highway Action Committee | One Councillor | CR J ARMSTRONG |
| Rail Freight Alliance | One Councillor | CR SANDERS |
| <i>Council Committees</i> | | |
| Audit Committee | Two Councillors | CR J ARMSTRONG & CR BOB SANDERS |
| CEO Employment and Recruitment Advisory Committee | Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor | CR R ARMSTRONG, CR J ARMSTRONG & CR BOB SANDERS |

CARRIED 4912/23

4.2 FIXING OF MEETING DATES 2022/2023

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 12198

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to set Council Meeting dates for 2023/2024 Council term.

It is proposed to keep the scheduling of future Council meetings to the last Tuesday of each month.

This report outlines the proposed dates for the ensuing 12 months and is presented to Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

The proposed Council Meetings dates outlined in the recommendation are to be considered for the ensuing twelve months.

Further proposed changes to the schedule are as follows:

- There will be no December Council Meeting

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 6 Strong and effective governance

Budget Implications

Advertising of Council Meeting dates is allocated in the Annual Budget 2023/2024.

Policy/Relevant Law

Schedule set for Council Meetings, meetings advertised and placed on Council website as required under the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

None identified.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer briefed Council on proposed Council Meeting dates.

Following adoption of this report an advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper and on Council's website advising the community of the Council Meeting schedule for 2023/2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 *Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2023/2024 as follows:
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 November 2023;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 January 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 February 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 March 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 April 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 May 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 June 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 July 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 August 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 24 September 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 October 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 12 November 2024 (Statutory Meeting); and*
- 2 *Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2023/2024 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.*

MOVED CR BEALES

SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That Council:

- 1 *Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2023/2024 as follows:
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 November 2023;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 January 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 February 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 March 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 April 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 May 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 June 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 July 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 August 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 24 September 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 12 November 2024 (Statutory Meeting); and*
- 2 *Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2023/2024 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.*

CARRIED 4913/23

ITEM 5 - CLOSURE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 6:11pm.



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 7960 TO 7969 ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

MAYOR – CR BOB SANDERS