

**MINUTES OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, 144 OTHO STREET,
INVERELL
ON WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2024 AT 3.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Paul Harmon (Mayor), Cr Kate Dight, Cr Di Baker, Stewart Berryman, Cr Paul King OAM, Cr Jacko Ross, Cr Wendy Wilks and Cr Jo Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Brett McInnes (General Manager), Paul Pay (Director Corporate and Community Services), Justin Pay (Director Civil Services), Anthony Alliston (Director Environmental Services) and Sharon Stafford (Governance and Executive Services Coordinator).

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2024/35

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 March, 2024, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS / PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

4 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

6 ADVOCACY REPORTS

Nil

7 NOTICES OF BUSINESS

Nil

8 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1	CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES - 10 APRIL 2024
RESOLUTION 2024/36	
Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman	
Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks	
<p><i>i. That the Minutes of the Civil and Environmental Services Committee held on Wednesday, 10 April, 2024, be received and noted; and</i></p> <p><i>ii. The following recommendations of the Civil and Environmental Services Committee be adopted by Council.</i></p>	
CARRIED	

9.1.1 Bitumen Resurfacing Program 2024-2025

RECOMMENDATION:
<i>That subject to the endorsement of the 2024/25 budget:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the proposed 2024-2025 Bitumen Resurfacing Program be adopted as presented; and</i> • <i>the adopted Bitumen Resurfacing Program be placed on Council's website for the information of the community.</i>

9.1.2 Urban Works Program 2023/24

RECOMMENDATION:
<i>That the \$531,136 in the 2023/24 Urban Works budget be allocated to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Libani Close, Inverell.</i>

9.1.3 Information Reports

RECOMMENDATION
<i>That the information reports be received and noted.</i>

9.2 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES - 10 APRIL 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/37**

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

- i. That the Minutes of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee held on Wednesday, 10 April, 2024, be received and noted; and*
- ii. The following recommendations of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee be adopted by Council.*

CARRIED

9.2.1 2024/2025 Draft Estimates and Operational Plan, and Long-Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *That the following works be funded from the Urban Works Vote and be included in the 2024/2025 Budget:*

i) *Inverell and Villages - Urban Renewal and Upgrade General Fund, Water Fund*

		General Fund	Water Fund
A	Inverell and Villages - Urban Renewal and Upgrade <i>Project subject to a further report to Civil and Environmental Committee</i>	\$612.331K	\$ 0K
B	Urban Work Contribution to Pool Loan	\$58.754K	
C	Footpaths and Cycleway Construction \$ for \$ Contribution to PAMP Program (Subject to RMS approving the 2024/2025 Program)	\$49.67K	
D	Village Works – Community suggested projects		
	Ashford	\$ 7.890K	
	Delungra	\$ 7.890K	
	Gilgai	\$ 7.890K	
	Yetman	\$ 7.890K	
	Tingha	\$ 7.890K	
	Oakwood	\$ 1.170K	
	Bonshaw	\$ 1.170K	
	Graman	\$ 1.170K	
	Nullamanna	\$ 1.170K	
	Elsmore	\$ 1.170K	
	Stannifer	\$ 1.170K	
	Gum Flat	\$ 1.170K	
	TOTALS	\$ 768.395K	\$0K

2. *That:*

- i) *the budget allocations of \$2.842M for the 2024/2025 ACRD Program be endorsed and a further report be presented to the Civil and Environmental Services Committee in respect of the funding allocations and individual works proposed to be undertaken under this program;*
- ii) *the budget allocations of the \$160K RMS Supplementary Block Grant Program be the subject of a further report to the Civil and Environmental Services Committee Meeting;*
- iii) *the budget allocation of \$3.108M for the 2024/2025 Block Grant Program be endorsed and a further report be presented to the Civil and Environmental Services Committee in respect of the specific projects to be funded;*

- iv) *the budget allocation of \$1.402M for the 2024/2025 Roads to Recovery Program be endorsed and a further report be presented to the Civil and Environmental Services Committee in respect of the specific projects to be funded; and*
- v) *the budget allocation of \$544.99K for the RERRF/REPAIR Program be endorsed and a report on the projects for the RERRF/REPAIR Program for 2024/2025 be presented to the Civil and Environmental Services Committee once funding allocation has been confirmed.*

3. *That Council utilises the maximum permissible rate increase allowed by IPART of 4.5%.*

4. *That:*

- i) *Council provide an allocation of \$108K for joint industry promotions and assistance;*
- ii) *the 2024/2025 Strategic Capital Infrastructure Fund of \$670K be utilised for loan repayments for the Inverell Aquatic Centre Redevelopment;*
- iii) *additional interest on investments of \$476K be allocated to Strategic Capital Infrastructure fund to fund future capital projects with a further report to be presented to Council to utilise these funds;*
- iv) *the budget allocation of \$324K for the 2024/2025 Special Projects – Roads Infrastructure Fund be endorsed;*
- v) *a further report be presented to the Civil and Environment Committee in respect of the specific projects to be funded under the Special Projects – Roads Infrastructure Fund;*
- vi) *the transfers to and from Internally Restricted Assets be endorsed; and*
- vii) *the list of additional one off budget adjustments listed in section 5.2.2 & 5.2.3 of the report be endorsed.*

5. *That:*

- i) *the following rating categories be utilised for the 2024/2025 rating year:*

Residential – Inverell

Residential – General

Residential – Ashford

Residential – Delungra

Residential – Gilgai

Residential – Yetman

Residential - Tingha

Residential – Rural

Business – Inverell Industrial/Commercial

Business – Other

Farmland

Mining

ii) a General Base Amount of \$235 plus an Ad Valorem Rate be determined for the categories detailed in above.

6. The Interest Rate applicable to Outstanding Rates and Charges for 2024/2025 be the maximum allowable as advised by the Office of Local Government.

7. That the following Waste Management Charges be adopted:

i) Waste Management Charge – All Properties \$100.00

ii) Domestic Waste Management - Occupied Charge: per service per assessment \$418.00

iii) Domestic Waste Management - Occupied Charge \$418.00

Tingha Boundary Adjustment – properties with 140lt garbage bin per service per assessment

iv) Domestic Waste Management – Unoccupied Charge \$75.00

v) Weekly Commercial Waste Management Charge \$418.00

(This Charge is levied per Service, and GST is charged if applicable)

vi) Weekly Commercial Recycling Charge (ex GST) \$160.00

vii) Fortnightly Commercial Recycling Charge (ex GST) \$85.00

(These Charges are levied per Service, and GST is charged if applicable)

8. That the Fees and Charges, as recommended, be adopted.

9. That:

i) the Stormwater Management Service Charge be set at the maximum amount allowable of \$25.00 per Residential Premises, \$12.50 per Residential Strata lot, and \$25.00 for Business Premises for each 350 square metres or additional part thereof, subject to a maximum charge on Business Premises of \$200.00; and

ii) the Stormwater Management Program as recommended being Gilgai Drainage Project as per the adopted Gilgai Drainage Upgrade Plan, be adopted.

10. That:

i) the report on the 2024/2025 budget be noted;

ii) the draft estimates (incorporating the Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plans) for the General Activities for 2024/2025 be adopted and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days as required by Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993.

11. That:

- i) a 2024/2025 “Deficit” Budget of \$211K for the Sewer Fund from ordinary activities before capital amounts be adopted;
- ii) the Sewerage Charges as listed below be adopted for 2024/2025:

Charge	\$
Sewerage Charge Occupied	645.00
Sewerage Charge Unoccupied	406.00
Sewerage Charge Flats/Units	645.00
Sewerage Charge Nursing Homes	3,025.00
Sewerage Charge Inverell Showground	4,090.00
Sewerage Charge Hotel/Licensed Clubs	1,928.00

Number of Services per Assessment	Annual Charge Per Assessment \$
1	645.00
2	1,051.00
3	1,457.00
4	1,863.00
5	2,269.00
6	2,675.00
7	3,081.00
8	3,487.00
9	3,893.00
10	4,299.00
11	4,705.00
12	5,111.00
13	5,517.00
14	5,923.00
15	6,329.00
16	6,735.00

Charge Structure for Non-Rateable Properties

Charge	\$
Non-ratable - Schools - wc's	133.00
Non-ratable - Other - wc's	143.00
Non-rayable - Urinals	133.00

Charge Structure for Motels and Caravan Parks

In accordance with the charge structure for Motels and Caravan Parks, the following charges are proposed for 2024/2025:

Charge	\$
Motel Residence	1,928.00
Motel Restaurant	645.00
Motel Ensuite	203.00
Caravan Park Residence	645.00
Caravan Park Amenities Block	1,928.00
Caravan Park Ensuite Cabins	203.00

Charge Structure for Showgrounds

In accordance with the charge structure for Inverell Showgrounds the following charges are proposed for 2024/2025:

Charge	\$
Inverell Showgrounds	4,090.00

- iii) *The Draft Estimates (incorporating Operational Plan) for the Sewerage Fund for 2024/2025 be adopted and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days as required by Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993.*

12. That:

- i) *a 2024/2025 “Deficit” Budget of \$217K for the Water Fund from ordinary activities before capital amounts be adopted;*
- ii) *a water availability base charge of \$457.00 per assessment (includes first water meter) be adopted for 2024/2025;*
- iii) *a water charge of \$457.00 per additional water meter, per assessment be adopted for 2024/2025;*
- iv) *a water charge of \$457.00 per assessment (includes first water meter) be adopted for properties within the Tingha Boundary Adjustment area for 2024/2025;*
- v) *a water charge of \$457.00 per additional water meter, per assessment be adopted for properties within the Tingha Boundary Adjustment area for 2024/2025;*
- vi) *a charge of \$2.14 per kilolitre be adopted for commercial water consumption for 2024/2025;*
- vii) *a charge of \$2.14 per kilolitre, 0 to 600 kilolitres and \$2.46 per kilolitre over 600 kilolitres be adopted for residential water consumption for 2024/2025;*
- viii) *a charge of \$1.14 per kilolitre be adopted for water consumption - Abattoirs, plus a 20 per cent early settlement discount for 2024/2025;*
- ix) *a charge of \$1.14 per kilolitre be adopted for Community Facilities water consumption; eligible entities include: Inverell Minor League, Inverell Golf Club, Inverell Tennis Club, Inverell Rugby Club, Gilgai Tennis Club, Inverell Equestrian Council and Inverell Shire Council (sporting facilities and parks) for 2024/2025;*
- x) *a charge of \$0.56 per kilolitre be adopted for Raw Water consumption for 2024/2025; and*

- xi) *the draft Estimates (incorporating Operational Plan) for the Water Fund for 2024/2025 be adopted and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days as required by Section 405 of the Local Government Act, 1993.*

9.2.2 Crime and Community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities – Inverell Shire Council Perspective

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. *Council make a submission to the Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities regarding the level and impact of crime in the Inverell Shire;*
2. *Council encourage community members that have been impacted upon by crime and other interested parties to make submissions to the Inquiry into Community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities;*
3. *Council seek the formal support of the Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall MP and Northern Tablelands Councils to have an Inquiry hearing conducted in Inverell; and*
4. *Council continue to advocate on behalf of the community to relevant authorities, agencies and government to ensure an appropriate and wholistic response to crime and community safety in Inverell Shire.*

9.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Internal Audit Charter

RECOMMENDATION:

The adoption of the proposed Internal Audit Charter.

9.2.4 Information Reports

RECOMMENDATION

That the information reports be received and noted.

**9.3 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 15 APRIL 2024
S2.14.1**

RESOLUTION 2024/38

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That the minutes from the Aboriginal Consultative Committee meeting held on Monday, 15 April, 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED

10 DESTINATION REPORTS

10.1 INTERMENT SERVICES LEVY S24.6.6/01

RESOLUTION 2024/39

Moved: Cr Di Baker
 Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That Council:

- (a) *note the information contained in the report and the response to the feedback questions provided to Local Government NSW; and*
- (b) *endorse the intent of a submission as outlined in the report that Council do not support the proposed Interment Industry Levy being imposed on Council cemetery operators.*

CARRIED

10.2 EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY REFORM S12.13.1

RESOLUTION 2024/40

Moved: Cr Kate Dight
 Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That Council make a submission on the consultation paper for reforming the emergency services funding consistent with the LGNSW policy position on the Emergency Services Levy.

CARRIED

10.3 INDOOR SPORTS NSW COUNTRY BBI INDOOR CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIPS S12.22.1/17

RESOLUTION 2024/41

Moved: Cr Kate Dight
 Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the supplementary report be received and considered.

CARRIED

Item #10.5 was brought forward for consideration.

10.5 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - INDOOR SPORTS NSW COUNTRY BBI INDOOR CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIPS S26.1.1/14

RESOLUTION 2024/42

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM
 Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That Council sponsor the Indoor Sports NSW Country BBI Indoor Cricket Championships for 2024, 2025 & 2026 at a cost of \$3,000 per year (\$9,000 total) payable to ISNSW, plus a Service Fee to Sports Marketing Australia of \$1225 per year (Total \$3,675). Total Cost over three years being \$12,675.

CARRIED

10.4 REFERRAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS S13.5.2/17**RESOLUTION 2024/43**

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM
Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

That Council refer the items to Closed (Public excluded) meeting of the Council and that the press and members of the public be asked to leave the chambers whilst Council considers the following items:

Item: #13.1 - Appointment of Chairperson to Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Authority: Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (s. 10A (2) (a) Local Government Act 1993)

Item: #13.2 - Inverell Shire Digital Connectivity Plan

Authority: Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it (s. 10A (2) (d(i)) Local Government Act 1993).

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS**RESOLUTION 2024/44**

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman
Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.1 PCG MEETING - INVERELL AQUATIC CENTRE REPLACEMENT S5.9.27**RESOLUTION 2024/45**

Moved: Cr Kate Dight
Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.2 STRATEGIC TASKS - 'SIGN OFF' - MARCH 2024 S4.13.2

RESOLUTION 2024/46

Moved: Cr Jo Williams
Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ADVOCACY UPDATE APRIL 2024 S14.9.12

RESOLUTION 2024/47

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman
Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.4 SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES DURING MARCH 2024 S18.10.2/17

RESOLUTION 2024/48

Moved: Cr Wendy Wilks
Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.5 ORDINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR MARCH 2024 S18.10.1

RESOLUTION 2024/49

Moved: Cr Kate Dight
Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.6 ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES S14.18.6/17

RESOLUTION 2024/50

Moved: Cr Kate Dight
Seconded: Cr Stewart Berryman

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED**11.7 PROTECTING LOCAL WATER UTILITIES FROM PRIVATISATION - INQUIRY OUTCOMES S14.18.6/17****12 GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

Nil

13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)

At 3:43pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public to make representations as to whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council. There was no response.

RESOLUTION 2024/51

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman
Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That Council proceeds into Closed Council to discuss the matters referred to it, for the reasons stated in the motions of referral.

CARRIED**RESOLUTION 2024/52**

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM
Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That Council proceeds out of Closed Council into Open Council.

CARRIED

Upon resuming Open Council at 3:52pm, the Chairperson verbally reported that the Council had met in Closed Council, with the Press and Public excluded, and had resolved to recommend to Council the following:

13.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON TO AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE S4.11.21/04**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- i. Appoint Mr Ray Smith as independent chair to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee commencing 1 June 2024 for a period of four (4) years subject to successful criminal record*

and financial status checks;

- ii. Authorise the Mayor to sign the appointment letter; and*
- iii. Appoint Mr Phil Schwenke as an independent member of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee from 1 June 2024 to 31 December 2024 as per Council resolution 2023/238 made on 13 December 2023.*

13.2 INVERELL SHIRE DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY PLAN S17.10.2

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the Inverell Shire Digital Connectivity Plan.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLUTION 2024/53

Moved: Cr Di Baker
 Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the recommendations of Closed Council be adopted.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 3:54pm.