



SHIRE OF MANJIMUP ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING 2020

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Electors Meeting held Wednesday 16 June 2021 in the Shire of Manjimup JC Rose Room, corner Rose and Brockman Streets, Manjimup

1. Attendance

Councillors

Cr Paul Omodei (Chairperson)
Cr Jayde Darin
Cr Susan Dawson Vidovich
Cr Robert Taylor

Electors

Nancy Giblett
David Giblett
Alan Lloyd
Paul McEvoy

Staff

Andrew Campbell (Chief Executive Officer)
Jason Giadresco (Senior Governance Officer)

Apologies

Nil.

Cr Omodei opened the meeting at 5.00pm and acknowledged the attendance of electors, and gave a background on the purpose of the Annual Electors Meeting.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved: Cr S Dawson Vidovich

Seconded: D Giblett

“That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held 22 January 2020 be confirmed as a true record.”

Carried

3. Business Arising from Annual Electors Meeting held 22 January 2020

- Nil.

4. Receipt of the Annual Report for year ended 30 June 2020

The Shire of Manjimup Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020 was tabled with copies available to all attendees.

The Chairperson noted that an overview of the activities carried out by Council over the 2019-2020 financial year is located on pages 5-8 of the Annual Report. The Chairperson acknowledged the good work of Councillors and staff alike in delivering services to the community over this time, noted that the COVID – 19 pandemic had an impact on Shire operations but was well managed, and that there were several changes to the *Local Government Act 1995* to embed into Shire operations.

The Chairperson invited the Chief Executive Officer to provide an overview of the Shire's performance for the year. Matters discussed are collated in the **Chief Executive Officer's Discussion Points for Annual Electors Meeting 16 June 2021** attached to these minutes.

Moved: P McEvoy

Seconded: D Giblett

“Confirm receipt of the Shire of Manjimup Annual Report for the 2019-2020 financial year.”

Carried

5. General business

No written questions were received by the Shire prior to the meeting.

Mr Alan Lloyd

Mr Lloyd asked three (3) questions as given below:

- Queried the lateness in the year in holding the Annual Electors Meeting.

Chairperson Response: Advised that the lateness in the delivery of the Annual Report and Annual Electors Meeting was due to delays in the preparation and receipt of the Annual Financial Report component of the Annual Report. The delay was brought about by one of the Shire's auditors being involved in a serious accident, and the need for the Office of the Auditor General to sign off on the Shire's Annual Financial Report.

- Is there likely to be a greater increase in rates this coming financial year?

Chief Executive Officer Response: Noted there has been escalating costs brought about by the COVID – 19 pandemic, and that zero percent rate rise has put some pressure on the Shire's financials. Stated that the Shire will work to minimise impact of any rate increase.

- With reference to the new accommodation site in Manjimup, has the second year payment been received from the developer?

Chief Executive Officer Response: Advised that the second year payment has been received by the Shire from the developer. The CEO also noted that there has been some delay to the progression of the project due to difficulty obtaining building certification, as most building certifiers are inundated with work.

No further questions or statements were received from electors.

6. Close

The Chairperson thanked those in attendance for their ongoing interest in Council matters before closing the meeting at 5:28pm.

Signed

Handwritten signature of Paul D. Omodei in black ink.

Paul Omodei
Shire President

ATTACHMENT**CEO Discussion Points for Annual Electors Meeting 16 June 2021****Timing of Annual Report and Annual Electors Meeting**

Apologies for the timing of the Annual Report and Annual Electors Meeting. The reason for the delay has been the audit of the Annual Financial Report. Firstly, our main Auditor, and partner in AMD was involved in a very serious car crash which initially delayed the final 2019/20 audit significantly. Following this as it was the first year of the Shire of Manjimup being under the jurisdiction of the Office of Auditor General and this caused further delays in the final sign off of the Annual Financial Report. The Annual Financial Report is a compulsory part of the Annual Report and the Annual Electors meeting can only be held at least 14 days after the Annual Report was adopted by Council.

COVID Response

I activated the very early organisation response to the COVID-19 pandemic including business continuity planning, establishment of an Incident Management Team, securing Shire facilities and sites, and interpreting and communicating Direction Order requirements.

Provided COVID-19 response and recovery efforts for the organisation:

- Incident Support Group activation;
- Local Emergency Management Committee activation;
- Leadership Group meetings to implement business continuity plans;
- Community COVID recovery systems including crisis management, hardship options and no rise in Shire Rates for 2020/21;
- Staff and facility management; and
- Council system management including exercising delegation for twenty eight items that would ordinarily go to Council.

Revitalisation of Manjimup's Town Centre

I oversaw the finalisation of the last stage of the most significant project in the Shire of Manjimup's history in direct collaboration with Council. Overall \$34M of public expenditure has already created \$36M of private investment with a projection of 222 jobs once all investment reaches the operational phase.

It is pertinent to note that Shire's executive team managed this whole process providing value for money, economy driven and meaningful liveable community infrastructure improvements.

Other benefits have included:

- Increased business confidence, which will lead to additional private sector investment and job creation into the future;
- Potential increase in population, which can dramatically increase local expenditure, encourage business investment and create jobs;

- Increased tourism and visitor expenditure, which would flow to local businesses and support future job growth and business sustainability;
- Increased services for residents across healthcare, retail, personal services, etc.; and
- Marketing value through various national and state awards, media and news outlets stories as well as first-hand accounts and experiences in the town, which provides broader positive marketing for the area.

Aged Care

The Shire of Manjimup engaged in a very complex process to acquire by management order a 20,000m² portion of the old Warren District Hospital site with a power to lease to a third party aged care provider. This was successful and the Shire entered a 42 year lease with Baptistcare to enable the replacement of the current Moonya Aged Care facility with a brand new 80 bed aged care facility immediately adjacent to the Warren Health Service.

Baptistcare are currently working on design and a business case with an expectation that the new facility will be delivered within three years.

Business Assistance and Development

The Shire continues to provide support, advocacy and advice to a range of existing and prospective commercial businesses across the district. The Shire President and I meet regularly with business owners and operators to discuss matters and this often leads to desirable outcomes that enhance the local economy. Our Development Control Unit remains a key to this process in guiding proponents through statutory red tape on their way to sourcing Development Approvals and Building Permits.

Regional Collaboration

The Shire remains a key member of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils comprising the Shire of Manjimup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup and the recent inclusions of Donnybrook-Balingup and Boyup Brook. The Alliance is a vehicle to partner on projects, share resources, address collective issues and explore regional opportunities.

In addition the Shire remains an integral part of the South West Zone of the Western Australian Local Government Association being one of twelve local government organisations located in the South West of Western Australia.

Conclusion

The 2019/20 financial year has again been very challenging for the Shire organisation. Certainly, the largest event to dominate this financial year was the COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated the Shire to rethink how it goes about its delivery of service to the local community. The management of the new social, economic and environmental circumstances brought about COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing delivery of the resource heavy Revitalisation of Manjimup's Town Centre drew considerable effort from both Council and Shire employees. At no other time in the Shire's history had the organisation reached out so widely to the community to offer support to local businesses and ratepayers than during the early stages of COVID-19. Staff and Councillors are to be congratulated for their understanding and efforts during this demanding time.

Despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic event, the Revitalisation of Manjimup's Town Centre is now delivering significant economic benefits to the community which should increase over time as potential opportunities are identified through marketing and other mechanisms designed to promote the district.

Working relationships between Shire employees and Council are clearly defined and continue to be productive. It is considered that these relationships remain open at all times to assist the organisation to deliver the best results for the community in line with the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan.

Financially the Shire continues to have very robust, transparent and accountable financial systems and funds are spent rationally to benefit the community in accordance with the Strategic Community Plan. The Shire prides itself on providing strong governance arrangements and for a number of years has rated highly compliant with financial and non-financial statutory measures.

In 2020/21 the Shire is looking forward to facilitating growth in the region by continuing to work with the commercial and not for profit sectors to promote and enhance the local economy in the district. Enabling proponents to access the Shire's key personnel via the Development Control Unit and Senior Management Team has enabled greater understanding of Shire's development requirements resulting in time efficient and less complicated approvals being issued.

Currently the Shire has a very competent team of personnel in all levels and areas with the Senior Management Team being highly qualified and experienced to lead the Shire alongside Council, as the community and organisation strategic and transformational objectives take shape. Shire employees are our biggest asset and very low staff turnover rates comparative to Local Government across Western Australia clearly indicates that the organisation is in a very strong and stable position. Significant work has been put into the development of the Shire's potential future senior leaders and the current Senior Management Team will continue with these programs.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of our dedicated Shire President, Councillors, employees plus our volunteers and the outstanding support of our funding agencies in 2019/20 in what has been a very challenging and unique year in local government. Going forward, I look forward to prosperous times ahead for our whole community.



Andrew Campbell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
16 June 2021