

MINUTES

**SCHEDULED (ANNUAL) COUNCIL MEETING
WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL
5:45 PM - MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023**



VENUE:

**Reception Room
Warrnambool Civic Centre
25 Liebig Street
Warrnambool**

COUNCILLORS

Cr. Ben Blain (Mayor)
Cr. Otha Akoch
Cr. Debbie Arnott
Cr. Vicki Jellie AM
Cr. Angie Paspaliaris
Cr. Max Taylor
Cr. Richard Ziegeler

Copies of the Warrnambool City Council's Agendas & Minutes
can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

**Andrew Mason
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Open and Special Council Meetings will be audio recorded, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda. This includes public participation sections of the meeting. Audio recordings of meetings will be made available for download on the internet via the Council's website by noon the day following the meeting and will be retained and publicly available on the website for 12 months following the meeting date. The recordings will be retained for the term of the current Council, after which time the recordings will be archived and destroyed in accordance with applicable public record standards. By participating in Open and Special Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information that they share at the meeting (including any personal/sensitive information), for the purposes of Council carrying out its functions.

BEHAVIOUR AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thank you all for coming – we really appreciate you being here. These meetings are the place where, we as Councillors, make decisions on a broad range of matters. These can vary greatly in subject, significance and the level of interest or involvement the community has. As part of making these decisions, we are presented with comprehensive information that helps us to form our position – you will find this in the agenda. It should also be remembered that the Council meeting is a “meeting of the Council that is open to the public”, not a “public meeting with the Council.” Each Council is required to have Governance Rules that pertains to meeting procedures. Warrnambool City Council has followed best practice in this regard and its Governance Rules provides regulations and procedures for the governing and conduct of Council meetings. Copies of the Conduct and Behaviour excerpt from Warrnambool City Council's Governance Rules can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au. We thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

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**MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE RECEPTION ROOM, WARRNAMBOOL CIVIC CENTRE, 25 LIEBIG
STREET, WARRNAMBOOL ON MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:45 PM**

PRESENT: Cr. Ben Blain, Mayor/Chairman
Cr. Otha Akoch
Cr. Debbie Arnott
Cr. Vicki Jellie AM
Cr. Angie Paspaliaris
Cr. Max Taylor
Cr. Richard Ziegeler

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Andrew Mason, Chief Executive Officer

1. OPENING PRAYER & ORIGINAL CUSTODIANS STATEMENT

Almighty God
Grant to this Council
Wisdom, understanding and Sincerity of purpose
For the Good Governance of this City
Amen.

ORIGINAL CUSTODIANS STATEMENT

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we stand and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

**3. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST
IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

Section 126(2) of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 127 of the Act or a **material conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 128 of the Act.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken. Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

Nil.

4. REPORTS

4.1. TERM OF OFFICE OF MAYOR

PURPOSE:

To determine the Term of Office of the Mayor of Warrnambool City Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to determine the length of the Mayoral term prior to the election of the Mayor. The term decided will apply to the Deputy Mayor, if one is also elected. The term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor may be a 1 year term or a 2 year term.

Under the Act, where the Mayor is elected for a 1 year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by Council that is as close to the end of the 1 year term as is reasonably practicable.

Where the Mayor is elected for a 2 year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by Council that is as close to the end of the 2 year term as is reasonably practicable.

Due to the next Council elections to be held in October 2024, there is only 1 year left of the current Council term, the Term of Office for the Mayor can only be for 1 year.

MOVED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT

SECONDED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS

That Term of Office of the Mayor for Warrnambool City Council be for a period of 1 year.

CARRIED - 7:0

4.2. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF MAYOR

PURPOSE:

This report is to give information regarding the procedure for Election of the Mayor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The election of the Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Act* and the Governance Rules of Warrnambool City Council.
2. The Chief Executive Officer must open the Annual (Statutory) Meeting at which the Mayor is to be elected.
3. Any nominations for the office of Mayor must be made verbally by Councillors present at the Annual (Statutory) Meeting.
4. A nomination for Mayor does not require a seconder.
5. The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors.
6. If an absolute majority of the Councillors cannot be obtained at the meeting, the Council may resolve to conduct a new election at a later specified time and date.
7. If only one Councillor is a candidate for Mayor, the meeting must declare that Councillor to be duly elected as Mayor.
8. The Chief Executive Officer will declare the result of the election and the successful candidate.

NOMINATIONS TO BE CALLED FOR THE POSITON OF MAYOR

The Chief Executive Officer to call for nominations for the position of Mayor.

If more than one candidate is nominated, before a vote is conducted, each of the candidates shall be invited to speak to their nomination in alphabetical order for no more than three (3) minutes.

MOVED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS

SECONDED: CR MAX TAYLOR

That Councillors proceed to elect a Mayor.

CARRIED - 7:0

4.3. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

Cr. Vicki Jellie nominated Cr. Ben Blain for the position of Mayor for the 2023/2024 term.

Cr. Blain accepted the nomination

As there were no further nominations for the position of Mayor, Ben Blain was duly declared elected as Mayor for the 2023/2024 term.

4.4. PRESENTATION TO INCOMING MAYOR

1. Presentation of Mayoral Pendant and Gavel to the Mayor by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Congratulations and support from Councillors and Chief Executive Officer.

Crs. Debbie Arnott, Otha Akoch, Vicki Jellie, Max Taylor, Angie Paspaliaris and Richard Ziegeler offered their congratulations and support to Cr Ben Blain.

The Chief Executive Officer conveyed congratulations and support on behalf of the administration and the Executive Management Team for the next 12 months.

3. Mayor's response.

The elected Mayor for 2023/2024, Cr. Ben Blain addressed the meeting.

4.5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

PURPOSE:

This report provides advice on the process for the election of Deputy Mayor of Warrnambool City Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) states Council *may* establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

Council's Governance Rules outlines the process for the election of a Deputy Mayor.

Under the Act, the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of Mayor and may exercise any powers of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable to attend a meeting (or part thereof), or if the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason (including illness), or if the office of Mayor is vacant. The Deputy Mayor does not hold any other additional powers or functions.

The process for the election of a Deputy Mayor is the same process for the election of Mayor.

Should Council determine to appoint a Deputy Mayor, the Mayor will conduct the election.

MOVED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT
SECONDED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS

1. **That Council determine to appoint a Deputy Mayor.**
2. **That Council conduct an election for the role of Deputy Mayor.**

CARRIED - 7:0

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cr. Angie Paspaliaris nominated Cr. Vicki Jellie for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2023/2024 term.

Cr. Vicki Jellie accepted the nomination.

As there were no further nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor, Cr. Vicki Jellie was duly declared elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/2024 term.

4.6. CEREMONIAL MOTIONS

PURPOSE:

This report lists various ceremonial motions to be considered at the Council's Annual Meeting on 23 October 2023.

a) MOTION OF LOYALTY

MOVED: CR RICHARD ZIEGELER

SECONDED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT

That Warrnambool City Council declare its loyalty and allegiance to Australia, the State of Victoria and the citizens of Warrnambool.

CARRIED - 7:0

b) MOTION TO PREVIOUS MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

MOVED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS

SECONDED: CR VICKI JELLIE

That Warrnambool City Council places on record its appreciation to past Mayors and Councillors who have served on the Warrnambool City Council.

CARRIED - 7:0

c) MOTION TO PARLIAMENTARIANS

MOVED: CR OTHA AKOCH

SECONDED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS

That Warrnambool City Council places on record its appreciation to the Federal and State Members of Parliament who represent the Warrnambool area and who have willingly contributed to the governance and well being of the City and its services through their roles as Members of Parliament.

CARRIED - 7:0

d) MOTION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

MOVED: CR RICHARD ZIEGELER

SECONDED: CR VICKI JELLIE

That Warrnambool City Council places on record its appreciation to the Citizens of this City and district who have willingly contributed to the governance and well being of the City and its services through their service as community members of advisory committees and as volunteers, assisting in many Council and community activities.

CARRIED - 7:0

e) MOTION TO RECOGNISE THE SISTER CITY RELATINSHIP WITH MIURA, JAPAN & CHANGCHUN, CHINA

**MOVED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT
SECONDED: CR VICKI JELLIE**

That Warrnambool City Council places on record its commitment to international peace and understanding by its participation in the Sister City Relationship with Miura, Japan and Changchun, China.

CARRIED - 7:0

f) MOTION OF RECOGNITION OF WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COUNCILS OF THE SOUTHWEST VICTORIA ALLIANCE

**MOVED: CR MAX TAYLOR
SECONDED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS**

That Warrnambool City Council places on record its desire to work for the well being of the region through co-operation with councils of the SouthWest Victoria Alliance.

CARRIED - 7:0

g) MOTION OF RECOGNITION ROLE OF EASTERN MAAR & GUNDITJMARA

**MOVED: CR VICKI JELLIE
SECONDED: CR RICHARD ZIEGELER**

That Warrnambool City Council places on record it's recognition of Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd as the Traditional owners of South West Victoria.

CARRIED - 7:0

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillors and the public are invited to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 6.02 pm.

CHAIRMAN