



# **Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes**

**held on Tuesday 1 August 2017 at 7.04pm  
Richmond Town Hall**

**[www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au)**

## **1. Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land**

*“Welcome to the City of Yarra.”*

*“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to the Elders past and present.”*

## **2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**

### **Attendance**

#### Councillors

- Cr Amanda Stone (Mayor)
- Cr Danae Bosler
- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei
- Cr Misha Coleman
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Mike McEvoy
- Cr Daniel Nguyen
- Cr James Searle

#### Council officers

- Vijaya Vaidyanath (Chief Executive Officer)
- Ivan Gilbert (Group Manager - CEO's Office)
- Andrew Day (Director - Corporate, Business and Finance)
- Chris Leivers (Director - Community Wellbeing)
- Joanne Murdoch (Director - Advocacy and Engagement)
- Bruce Phillips (Director - Planning and Place Making)
- Jane Waldock (Assistant Director - Planning and Place making)
- Guy Wilson-Browne (Director - City Works and Assets)
- Mel Nikou (Governance Officer)

## **3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**

Nil

## **4. Confidential business reports**

### **Item**

- 4.1 Matters relating to legal advice

## Confidential business reports

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Councillor Fristacky

**Seconded:** Councillor Coleman

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989, to allow consideration of matters relating to legal advice.
2. That all information contained within the Confidential Business Reports section of this agenda and reproduced as Council Minutes be treated as being and remaining strictly confidential in accordance with the provisions of sections 77 and 89 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 until Council resolves otherwise.

**CARRIED**

Following consideration of Item 4.1, Council resolved to make the following points of the resolution available to the public:

1. That in the matter of Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board vs Yarra City Council, Council resolves that:
  - (a) a special leave application to the High Court be prepared and lodged; and
  - (b) a strong advocacy campaign be conducted with the State Government to intervene in the matter.

Following consideration of Confidential business, the meeting resumed in open session.

## 5. Confirmation of minutes

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Councillor Fristacky

**Seconded:** Councillor McEvoy

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 July 2017 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****Moved:** Councillor Fristacky**Seconded:** Councillor McEvoy

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2017 be confirmed.

**CARRIED****6. Petitions and joint letters**

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**7. Public question time**

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7.2 Mr Peter Symes - Submission to Parks Victoria	7
7.3 Mr Richard Konarik - Permits for Businesses	8

**8. General business**

Nil

**9. Delegates' reports**

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**10. Questions without notice**

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## **11. Council business reports**

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## **12. Notices of motion**

Nil

## **13. Urgent business**

Nil

## 6. Petitions and joint letters

### 6.1 Petition - Street Tree Planting on Holtom Street East, Princes Hill

Reference: D17/103692

A petition containing 15 signatures from residents of Princes Hill are requesting that Council consider planting street trees on Holthorn Street East, Princes Hill and replacing any centre road trees which are not thriving by planting footpath trees on both sides of the street i.e. Elm and Golden Elm Trees.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Coleman

**Seconded:** Councillor Fristacky

That the petition be received and referred to the appropriate officer for action.

**CARRIED**

## 7. Public question time

### 7.1 Mr Andrew Leung - Yarra Planning Scheme

Question:

In the Yarra Planning Scheme, the DDO for main roads and boulevards (DDO2 on the planning scheme map) requires consideration of several critical aspects before approving development along main roads.

These relate to the design, height and visual bulk of a development in relation to:

- Its surrounds
- The streetscape and street character.

Are there any specific or quantifiable parameters used in these considerations which might provide certainty for the public or developers?"

Council has recently publicised development along Bridge Road. Bridge Road is a major thoroughfare and road but yet not covered by DDO2 and interested to know why?

Response:

*The Director Planning and Place Making advised the following:*

*The Planning Scheme provides a statement in the planning scheme that highways and boulevards are very important and provides some general objectives around and the appearance of those areas; there really isn't any specific quantifiable matters in that header provision. Good urban design principles certainly come to the fore and that's about urban design and heritage matters, heights, building bulk, podium heights etc. More specific elements would come through Structure Planning or streetscape masterplans and those sort of areas. As Councillors are aware there are a number of projects under way at the moment in terms of built form analysis for the area around Brunswick Street through to the west side of Wellington Street, certainly from Victoria Street and Bridge Road as two major projects, and the Swan Street structure plan implementation analysis as well.*

*The header control DDO provision is general only and further planning scheme provisions through due process would provide more detail and quantifiable matters.*

*In relation to the second question, Bridge Road has some heritage overlays, it doesn't have a development design overlay although with the built form analysis, the intention is to bring some design development overlays into those streets to help proponents prepare their applications and certain to assist Council staff and decision makers of Council making decisions. So the intention is to seek more design development overlays in a number of areas, with that study and analysis it would be probably hoped that Council might be able to achieve some interim controls whilst permit controls are worked through the process.*

### 7.2 Mr Peter Symes - Submission to Parks Victoria

Question:

Is the Yarra City Council able to provide further information needed by the "Gipps Street Steps Action Group" for their alternate proposal to that of Parks Victoria such as information concerning waste, drainage, traffic management and other urban space issues?

*Response:*

*The Director City Works and Assets advised that information can be provided to Mr Symes.*

*The Director Planning and Place Making advised that officers can provide some factual information and Council's policy positions. There was a proposal by Parks Victoria in March last year that was effectively a different proposal to what is being provided now. The project at the moment is a Parks Victoria project. Although we are receiving letters, we are making sure that people are lodging their concerns with Parks Victoria direct. Whether the current proposal and indeed the alternate proposal needs a planning permit, I'm not sure, I'm seeking more information. There may or may not be a further formal process beyond the current Parks Victoria are undertaking.*

### 7.3 Mr Richard Konarik - Permits for Businesses

*Question:*

*I've been in Yarra for 12 years as a business person and resident and time and time again, even in private meetings etc. we have talked about the delays in getting things done for people that want to open a business.*

*I am frustrated for the businesses that try to build a business in this area and just don't get anywhere. We have new Councillors to the Melba Ward that haven't come to discuss it with me; they have been in and said hello but haven't discussed it with me.*

*As the CEO for 5 years, what are you going to do about it? You are welcome to come for a walk with me and speak to all the new businesses and all the people that are frustrated about this situation.*

*You can move fairly quickly when you want to, such as the Rainbow Flag, which was put up quickly. Was there a permit for it? I have no problem with equality but when is Council going to put up a Heterosexual Flag up?*

*Response:*

*The Chief Executive Officer advised that I have to work within the Yarra planning scheme and the Government Scheme but not withstanding that, just as you have requested me to come for a walk with you, yes I will do that. I will request that you and any community member come for a walk with me to Church Street, whether the Council is involved or not, as we speak we have got SEEK moving into Richmond in Cremorne with 1500 employees and many other companies that we have helped get established. Sometimes some matters are dealt with quickly and some are delayed, it depends on each application.*

*The Mayor advised that there is no Heterosexual flag.*

## 8. General business

Nil



## 9. Delegates' reports

### 9.1 Councillor Coleman - Yarra Energy Foundation

Councillors Coleman and Chen Yi Mei reported the following:

#### Financial Management

- YEF finished FY 2016/17 strongly with a surplus of around \$28,000. This represents a fantastic result given the challenges faced by YEF during the year.
- YEF has started the new FY in a strong position with two early funding wins that has created ongoing opportunity to strengthen its financial position throughout the year and invest significantly in programs in the City of Yarra.

#### People & Culture

- The Acting CEO, Dean Kline, has been appointed as the substantive CEO based on his extremely impressive performance in the Acting CEO role.
- Dean's background includes:
  - Senior Project Manager at British Gas UK, overseeing over 10,000 energy efficient retro fits as well as residential and commercial solar PV installs.
  - Senior Manager Impact Investment – British Gas UK, managing a fund of \$10m per annum investing in low income and CALD community energy efficiency projects.
  - Sustainability Officer at Hume City Council (Energy Efficiency Advisor) Project design and management of several energy efficiency and solar projects to both business and residential.

#### Programs

- YEF started this financial year with some significant wins. We were informed late last month that together with the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association that we had been successful in securing \$100,000 (\$60,000) from the New Energy Jobs Fund to run a Solar Bulk Buy with the Vietnamese community across Yarra and beyond.
- Planning has commenced for a Yarra wide residential/ commercial Solar PV and battery Bulk Buy to commence early in the new year. YEF is continuing discussions with Ikea to run a further low income retro fit.
- YEF partnered in a Grant application from Kildonan Uniting Care who will be looking to fund retro fits in Yarra from low income residents who are under a retailer hardship program.
- YEF was also successful in a bid (\$11,500) to run a Solar Bulk Buy for Strathbogie Shire Council.
- The launch of this program on Saturday saw a spectacular turn out of around 130 farmers and residents who were excited by the program which will result in their resilience to climate change and to increasing power prices.



*Launch of Bogie Bulk Buy hosted by the Mayor of Strathbogie Shire, 29.7.17*

### Commercial

YEF's commercial program currently has 30 "live" solar and LED opportunities within Yarra. Commercial opportunities tend to have a 6mth sales cycle and we are expecting some sales to be completed in the very near future. At time of writing 9 leads are at "sale agreed stage", with a revenue potential of \$18,000.

### Results for 15/16

YEF reduced over 21 000 tonnes of Co2 in the last financial year. The following results table benchmarks this achievement with our neighbour, the Moreland Energy Foundation.

	MEFL	YEF
Carbon reduced through solar (15/16)	13,001TCO2e	21,395TCO2e
Number of Staff	22	3
Annual Council Funding	685k + 400k	325k
KPIs for Core Funding	0	Numerous

MEFL only provides data on solar installs, which is why this indicator is shown. We have used MEFL's methodology for comparison purposes.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Councillor Coleman

**Seconded:** Councillor Chen Yi Mei

That Council note the Delegates' report.

**CARRIED**

## 9.2 Councillor Stone - Ecocity World Summit 2017

Councillor Stone reported the following:

The biennial Ecocity World Summit was held in Melbourne in July.

**Humanity has entered its urban age, with a rapidly growing majority of the population now living in cities. The ‘urban globe’ faces unprecedented social and environmental challenges. The chief danger is climate change, which threatens epic disruption and hardship. But there are related challenges to human health, biodiversity and the bedrocks of life – food, water, and energy. At the same time, new ‘smart’ technologies are proposing solutions to planetary problems.**

**One principal solution is apparent: our cities must become ecological cities if we want a sustainable world. Creating ecocities must now be a human priority. Australia, a nation of cities, is well-placed to contribute to this urgent global project.**

**In July 2017 Melbourne hosted the ECOCITY World Summit. The focus was on *Changing Cities: Resilience and Transformations*, highlighting the need to deploy expert knowledge – academic, professional, civic – to make cities resilient in the face of rapid change. The ECOCITY World Summit 2017 harnessed the expertise and developed the networks needed to create a world of ecocities.**

***Ecocity Organising Committee***

Australia is one of the most urbanized nations in the world. With 90% of our population living in cities, it's clear that solutions for sustainability lie in how we live in urban environment.

With density and scale, urban settings have opportunities for more sustainable living and Yarra is demonstrating many of these already.

Key speakers at the Ecocity Summit focused on the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>



Whilst the Sustainable Development Goals are all relevant in an urban environment, the common thread of the summit was in SDG Goal 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Participants shared common problems of cities including the spread of urban boundaries and loss of agricultural land, waste, and air pollution.

Key note speakers addressed the SDGs and the challenges of climate change: from Al Gore presenting confronting images and statistics about the current impact of global warming and the destruction being caused worldwide, the loss of life, the displacement of people and the increasingly challenging task of providing food and water to a growing world population to Yarra Valley Water, who has embedded the SDGs into their strategic planning and engage the community at key steps in projects and problem solving.

Workshops focused on Urban Leadership for Sustainability: from the role of art and culture in creating sustainable and resilient cities, to transforming urban spaces with a PhD presentation on Yarra's laneways and urban agriculture projects.

The common themes and messages emerging were that despite the acknowledged climate crisis and increasingly urgent need for widespread action, there are many responses - whether from a technical/engineering, academic, governance, ecosystems, cultural or social perspectives - which are occurring, sometimes independently, often converging, but all with the same goals in mind.

Whilst Yarra is leading in many of these areas, especially energy, water, urban food systems, sustainable buildings, and emergency management, there is an opportunity to take a broader perspective with regard to the universal Sustainable Development Goals and to use that lens in assessing progress in achieving our strategic goals over the next 4 years.

<https://www.ecocity2017.com/>

## **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Stone

**Seconded:** Councillor Bosler

That Council note the Delegates' report.

**CARRIED**

## **10. Questions without notice**

### **10.1 Councillor Fristacky - Damaged Bins**

Question:

The clause in the contract requires the contractor to either report the bin or take some action, however most of the bins I have seen in a particular street, have missing buttons and have been missing for months.

How is the clause in the contract re-enforced, given the many bins in the street are missing buttons and are damaged? It has been happening for a long time and they are getting more and more damaged because they can't be emptied easily without being further damaged. What's been done about it and how do we hold the contractors to account?

*Response:*

*The Director City Works and Assets advised that extensive contract auditing goes on. There are clauses in the contract; when bins are reported or observed there are certain timeframes they have to be actioned in. It hasn't come to my attention as a problem in other areas, we are investigating the particular North Carlton area issue and when I receive a response from the contractor I will be forthcoming with some information. If residents report a damaged bin through the Council's normal request channels i.e. the general number or Yarra Information, the turnaround time I believe is 2 days, but I will need clarify that, but believe it is days in the contract, not weeks.*

#### 10.2 Councillor Chen Yi Mei - No Plastic Bags Policy at Gleadell Street Market

*Question:*

*I remember before becoming a Councillor that Gleadell Street Market had a policy of no plastic bags and were distributing net bags. What happened to that policy?*

*Response:*

*The Chief Executive Officer took the question on notice at the meeting.*

*The Director Corporate Business and Finance advised via email that the policy regarding plastic bags at the Market is still in place and Officers conduct audits to ensure that they are being utilised by the Stallholders. There is a Stallholder who sells the biodegradable bags to other Stallholders.*

*If you or any Councillors are aware that plastic bags are being used or have community members raising this as an issue, please direct the details to the Compliance Department.*

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**11.1 Adoption of the Council Plan 2017-21 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan**

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Trim Record Number: D17/96232

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate, Business and Finance

[Help](#)

**RECOMMENDATION****1. That Council:**

- (a) having received and considered all submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 (the Act), Council resolves to adopt the Council Plan 2017-21 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:
  - (i) with the amendments as per Attachment 3; and
  - (ii) with amendments to the Strategic Resource Plan that reflect the 2017/18 Budget as adopted by Council on 1 August 2017; and
- (b) make copies of the Council Plan 2017-21 available at Council offices, libraries and on the Council website;
- (c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Council Plan and submit a copy of each to the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 130 (Budget) and 125 (5) (Council Plan) of the Act;
- (d) notify in writing the persons who have made a submission regarding the Council Plan 2017-21 of Council's decision, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, which will include a detailed response to the issues raised in the submission; and
- (e) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative changes to the Council Plan 2017-21 document, which may be required.

**MOTION**

**Moved:** Councillor McEvoy

**Seconded:** Councillor Coleman

**1. That Council:**

- (a) having received and considered all submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 (the Act), Council resolves to adopt the Council Plan 2017-21 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:
  - (i) with the amendments as per Attachment 3; and
  - (ii) with amendments to the Strategic Resource Plan that reflect the 2017/18 Budget as adopted by Council on 1 August 2017; and
- (b) make copies of the Council Plan 2017-21 available at Council offices, libraries and on the Council website;
- (c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Council Plan and submit a copy of each to the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 130 (Budget) and 125 (5) (Council Plan) of the Act;
- (d) notify in writing the persons who have made a submission regarding the Council Plan 2017-21 of Council's decision, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, which will include a detailed response to the issues raised in the submission; and
- (e) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative changes to the Council Plan 2017-21 document, which may be required.

## AMENDMENT

**Moved:** Councillor Fristacky

(e) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative changes which may be required to the Council Plan 2017-21 document, also adding a new initiative to Planning Strategy 4.2 on page 71:

- (i) develop planning controls for Heidelberg Road, Alphington in conjunction with Darebin Council, the Nicholson Street Bus Depot, North Fitzroy and Wellington Street, Collingwood.

*The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and Incorporated into the motion.*

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Councillor McEvoy

**Seconded:** Councillor Coleman

1. That Council:

- (a) having received and considered all submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), Council resolves to adopt the Council Plan 2017-21 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan:
  - (i) with the amendments as per Attachment 3; and
  - (ii) with amendments to the Strategic Resource Plan that reflect the 2017/18 Budget as adopted by Council on 1 August 2017; and
- (b) make copies of the Council Plan 2017-21 available at Council offices, libraries and on the Council website;
- (c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Council Plan and submit a copy of each to the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 130 (Budget) and 125 (5) (Council Plan) of the Act;
- (d) notify in writing the persons who have made a submission regarding the Council Plan 2017-21 of Council's decision, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, which will include a detailed response to the issues raised in the submission; and
- (e) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative changes which may be required to the Council Plan 2017-21 document, also adding a new initiative to Planning Strategy 4.2 on page 71:
  - (i) develop planning controls for Heidelberg Road, Alphington in conjunction with Darebin Council, the Nicholson Street Bus Depot, North Fitzroy and Wellington Street, Collingwood.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**11.2      2017/18 Budget & 10 Year Long Term Financial Strategy Adoption**


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Trim Record Number: D17/97021

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate, Business and Finance

[Help](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

## 1. That Council:

- (a) adopts the alternate 2017/18 Proposed Budget (excluding the waste service charge) as the Annual Budget of Council for the 2017/18 financial year;
- (b) adopts the alternate 2017/18 – 2026/27 LTFS (excluding the waste service charge) as the Long Term Financial Strategy for 2017/18;
- (c) makes copies of the 2017/18 Adopted Budget & LTFS available at Council offices, libraries and on Council's website;
- (d) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Annual Budget and submit a copy to the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 130 of the Act;
- (e) notifies in writing the persons who have made a submission regarding the 2017/18 Proposed Budget and LTFS of Council's decision, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, which will include a response to the issues raised in the submission;
- (f) declares rates and charges as per pages 57-59 of the budget document, in summary, an amount of \$ 105,398,000.00 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution) as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$ 104,058,000.00
Special Rates Schemes	\$ 240,000.00
Supplementary Rates	\$1,100,000.00
<b>Total Rates and Charges</b>	<b>\$ 105,398,000.00</b>

- (g) advises in respect to General Rates:
  - (i) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2017/18 financial year;
  - (ii) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
  - (iii) a percentage of 0.04091118 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as \$0.04091118 cents in the NAV dollar;
  - (iv) it be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of a general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipality; and
  - (v) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$178.50 for 2017/18;
- (h) declares no Annual Service Charge in respect of the 2017/18 financial year;
- (i) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2017/18 financial year; and
- (j) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the 2017/18 Budget & LTFS documents, which may be required.



## MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Fristacky

**Seconded:** Councillor Coleman

1. That Council notes:

- (a) that Council's Budget and Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) is under pressure due to population increases, capital and asset renewal needs, the State Government Rate Cap, debt management requirements, and increasing costs of providing services within the constraints of shrinking grants and financial assistance;
- (b) its primary responsibility to delivery good quality services and programmes to the community and to do so within an environmentally and financially sustainable way with an emphasis on social equity;
- (c) the need to review expenditure or raise additional revenue over this Council term;
- (d) that with low working capital, Council will be limited in its ability to respond to emerging community priorities, financial shocks or pressures;
- (e) the many submissions on Council's proposed Budget and LTFS from Yarra residents, ratepayers and citizens focused on these elements; and
- (f) its responsibilities under Section 3D and Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1989, to provide sound governance and financial management.

2. That Council resolves:

- (a) to articulate the following financial parameters for the 2017/18 budget and term of its new 4-year Council Plan, to be achieved by 30 June 2020, to improve Council's overall financial position;
  - (i) continue to achieve improved operating efficiencies through measures including:
    - a. reviewing staffing and corporate structures;
    - b. further shared services and joint procurement;
    - c. reducing the use and cost of external consultants including legal services;with reporting to Council as part of the mid-term review in 2(a)(ix);
  - (ii) implementing more effective debtor management strategies with actions reported on quarterly;
  - (iii) complete the delivery of a comprehensive property management strategy with targets to increase revenue from more effective use of assets, and prudent management of assets surplus to Council's requirements;
  - (iv) that as part of the mid-term review in 2(a)(ix), Council receive a report, on how cash flow can be improved by setting a working capital ratio target over the next 4 years of 1.4 to be achieved by 30 June 2020;
  - (v) continue advocacy to increase Council's external grants for 2017/18 and subsequent years;
  - (vi) increase the quality of communication with regards to open space contributions, by reporting quarterly on contribution income, expenditure and the running balance (through the quarterly financial reports);
  - (vii) complete the review of Council's fleet with the aim of reducing passenger fleet reliance;
  - (viii) that progress against the above parameters be reported in quarterly financial reports during this Council's 4-year term;
  - (ix) that the Chief Executive Officer implement a rigorous review of the 2017/18 budget and that Council receive a comprehensive mid-term review by the first Council meeting of 2018;
- (b) to implement:

- (i) the approach to the planning of capital works, including renewals and maintenance, be communicated more effectively to the Yarra community;
- (ii) the production of a supplementary plain language budget document that makes the budget more meaningful and accessible to the Community;
- (iii) that considering Council's financial position and the need to review expenditure and/or find additional revenue, and further, considering impacts of changes in expenditure on the provision of services to the community:
  - a. Council implement a deliberative community engagement process with a representative sample of the Yarra population in the development of a Services Policy; this may take the form of a community consultative panel, citizen's jury or some other form;
  - b. that this Services Policy will aim to guide the types and levels of services Yarra should continue to provide within expected resources;
  - c. that this participatory process be provided within existing resources unless appropriate grants are available;

3. That Council:

- (a) having received and considered all submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), resolves to incorporate the following amendments to the 2017/18 Budget:
  - (i) funding Local Area Traffic Management/Placemaking initiatives through a \$2M Local Area Place Making (LAPM) program (\$1M funding from VicRoads) to be delivered over the next 3 years, with \$200,000 funding from VicRoads for 2017/18 to support delivery of outstanding works in Gold Precinct Collingwood (LAPM 10), and undertaking LAPM studies for Scotchmer Precinct North Fitzroy (LAPM 3), Abbotsford Precinct (LAPM 13) and Bendigo Precinct Richmond LAPM 19);
  - (ii) an amount of \$144,000 for intersection up-grades at Nicholson/Harper Street, Abbotsford, and Shelley/Elizabeth Street, Richmond as part of the 2017/18 Capital Works Program, funded by VicRoads Black Spot funding;
  - (iii) the Chief Executive Officer to establish dedicated in-house Heritage Advice from existing internal staffing resources on a 12-month trial;
  - (iv) that as part of the mid-term review in 2(a)(ix), Council receive a report on options for deferring/reducing expenditure in areas that may include the following:
    - a. IT infrastructure, including but not limited to PC/laptop replacement, asset management system, mobile devices;
    - b. Passenger car renewal;
    - c. Expenditure on building assets and Council owned premises;and that the report include the impact of any such measures on services to the community.
- (b) adopts the alternate 2017/18 Proposed Budget (excluding the waste service charge and including the above amendments) as the Annual Budget of Council for the 2017/18 financial year;
- (c) adopts the alternate 2017/18 - 2026/2027 LTFS (excluding the waste service charge) as the LTFS for 2017/18;
- (d) makes copies of the 2017/18 adopted Budget & LTFS available at Council offices, libraries and on Council's website;
- (e) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Annual Budget and submit a copy to the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 130 of the Act;

- (f) notifies in writing the persons who have made a submission regarding the 2017/18 Proposed Budget and LTFS of Council's decision, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, which will include a response to the issues raised in the submission;
- (g) declares rates and charges as per pages 57-59 of the budget document, in summary, an amount of \$105,398,000.00 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution) as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:
  - (i) General Rates \$ 104,058,000.00
  - (ii) Special Rates Schemes \$ 240,000.00
  - (iii) Supplementary Rates \$ 1,100,000.00
  - (iv) Total Rates and Charges \$ 105,398,000.00
- (h) advises in respect to General Rates:
  - (i) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2017/18 financial year;
  - (ii) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
  - (iii) a percentage of 0.04091118 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as \$0.04091118 cents in the NAV dollar;
  - (iv) it be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of a general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipality; and
  - (v) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$178.50 for 2017/18;
- (i) declares no Annual Service Charge in respect of the 2017/18 financial year;
- (j) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2017/18 financial year; and
- (k) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the 2017/18 Budget & LTFS documents, which may be required.

## AMENDMENT

**Moved:** Councillor Searle

Replace 2. (b) (iii) a, b, c with the below:

- a. Council call for a report outlining a proposed participatory/deliberative process to engage a representative sample of the Yarra population in the development of a Services Policy; this process may take the form of a panel, a citizen's jury or some other form;
- b. that this Services Policy will guide the types of services and service levels Yarra will continue to provide within expected resources; and
- c. That the report to Council should include the costs and way to achieve a proposed participative/deliberative process for a Services Policy in 2017/18.

*The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and incorporated into the motion.*

## AMENDMENT

**Moved:** Councillor Bosler

Replace 2. (a) (i) a. with the below:

- a. reviewing management staffing levels and corporate structures;

*The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and incorporated into the motion.*

## AMENDMENT

**Moved:** Councillor Jolly

Replace 2. (a) (i) a. with the below:

- a. reviewing management staffing levels and corporate structures with a plan to readdress and reduce senior and executive level management;

*The amendment was not accepted by the mover.*

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Councillor Fristacky

**Seconded:** Councillor Coleman

1. That Council notes:

- (a) that Council's Budget and Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) is under pressure due to population increases, capital and asset renewal needs, the State Government Rate Cap, debt management requirements, and increasing costs of providing services within the constraints of shrinking grants and financial assistance;
- (b) its primary responsibility to delivering good quality services and programmes to the community and to do so within an environmentally and financially sustainable way with an emphasis on social equity;
- (c) the need to review expenditure or raise additional revenue over this Council term;
- (d) that with low working capital, Council will be limited in its ability to respond to emerging community priorities, financial shocks or pressures;
- (e) the many submissions on Council's proposed Budget and LTFS from Yarra residents, ratepayers and citizens focused on these elements; and
- (f) its responsibilities under Section 3D and Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1989, to provide sound governance and financial management.

2. That Council resolves:

- (a) to articulate the following financial parameters for the 2017/18 budget and term of its new 4-year Council Plan, to be achieved by 30 June 2020, to improve Council's overall financial position:
  - (i) continue to achieve improved operating efficiencies through measures including:
    - a. reviewing management staffing levels and corporate structures;
    - b. further shared services and joint procurement;
    - c. reducing the use and cost of external consultants including legal services;
  - with reporting to Council as part of the mid-term review in 2(a)(ix);
  - (ii) implementing more effective debtor management strategies with actions reported on quarterly;
  - (iii) complete the delivery of a comprehensive property management strategy with targets to increase revenue from more effective use of assets, and prudent management of assets surplus to Council's requirements;
  - (iv) that as part of the mid-term review in 2(a)(ix), Council receive a report, on how cash flow can be improved by setting a working capital ratio target over the next 4 years of 1.4 to be achieved by 30 June 2020;
  - (v) continue advocacy to increase Council's external grants for 2017/18 and subsequent years;
  - (vi) increase the quality of communication with regards to open space contributions,

- by reporting quarterly on contribution income, expenditure and the running balance (through the quarterly financial reports);
- (vii) complete the review of Council's fleet with the aim of reducing passenger fleet reliance;
- (viii) that progress against the above parameters be reported in quarterly financial reports during this Council's 4-year term;
- (ix) that the Chief Executive Officer implement a rigorous review of the 2017/18 budget and that Council receive a comprehensive mid-term review by the first Council meeting of 2018;
- (b) to implement:
  - (i) the approach to the planning of capital works, including renewals and maintenance, be communicated more effectively to the Yarra community;
  - (ii) the production of a supplementary plain language budget document that makes the budget more meaningful and accessible to the Community;
  - (iii) that considering Council's financial position and the need to review expenditure and/or find additional revenue, and further, considering impacts of changes in expenditure on the provision of services to the community:
    - a. Council call for a report outlining a proposed participatory/deliberative process to engage a representative sample of the Yarra population in the development of a Services Policy; this process may take the form of a panel, a citizen's jury or some other form;
    - b. that this Services Policy will **guide** the types of services and service levels Yarra will continue to provide within expected resources; and
    - c. that the report to Council should include the costs and way to achieve a proposed participative/deliberative process for a Services Policy in 2017/18.

3. That Council:

- (a) having received and considered all submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), resolves to incorporate the following amendments to the 2017/18 Budget:
    - (i) funding Local Area Traffic Management/Placemaking initiatives through a \$2M Local Area Place Making (LAPM) program (\$1M funding from VicRoads) to be delivered over the next 3 years, with \$200,000 funding from VicRoads for 2017/18 to support delivery of outstanding works in Gold Precinct Collingwood (LAPM 10), and undertaking LAPM studies for Scotchmer Precinct North Fitzroy (LAPM 3), Abbotsford Precinct (LAPM 13) and Bendigo Precinct Richmond LAPM 19);
    - (ii) an amount of \$144,000 for intersection up-grades at Nicholson/Harper Street, Abbotsford, and Shelley/Elizabeth Street, Richmond as part of the 2017/18 Capital Works Program, funded by VicRoads Black Spot funding;
    - (iii) the Chief Executive Officer to establish dedicated in-house Heritage Advice from existing internal staffing resources on a 12-month trial;
    - (iv) that as part of the mid-term review in 2(a)(ix), Council receive a report on options for deferring/reducing expenditure in areas that may include the following:
      - d. IT infrastructure, including but not limited to PC/laptop replacement, asset management system, mobile devices;
      - e. Passenger car renewal;
      - f. Expenditure on building assets and Council owned premises;
- and that the report include the impact of any such measures on services to the

community.

- (b) adopts the alternate 2017/18 Proposed Budget (excluding the waste service charge and including the above amendments) as the Annual Budget of Council for the 2017/18 financial year;
- (c) adopts the alternate 2017/18 - 2026/2027 LTFS (excluding the waste service charge) as the LTFS for 2017/18;
- (d) makes copies of the 2017/18 adopted Budget & LTFS available at Council offices, libraries and on Council's website;
- (e) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Annual Budget and submit a copy to the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 130 of the Act;
- (f) notifies in writing the persons who have made a submission regarding the 2017/18 Proposed Budget and LTFS of Council's decision, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, which will include a response to the issues raised in the submission;
- (g) declares rates and charges as per pages 57-59 of the budget document, in summary, an amount of \$105,398,000.00 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution) as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:
  - (i) General Rates \$ 104,058,000.00
  - (ii) Special Rates Schemes \$ 240,000.00
  - (iii) Supplementary Rates \$ 1,100,000.00
  - (iv) Total Rates and Charges \$ 105,398,000.00
- (h) advises in respect to General Rates:
  - (i) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2017/18 financial year;
  - (ii) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
  - (iii) a percentage of 0.04091118 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as \$0.04091118 cents in the NAV dollar;
  - (iv) it be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of a general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipality; and
  - (v) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$178.50 for 2017/18;
- (i) declares no Annual Service Charge in respect of the 2017/18 financial year;
- (j) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2017/18 financial year; and
- (k) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect minor administrative and wording changes to the 2017/18 Budget & LTFS documents, which may be required.

**CARRIED****CALL FOR A DIVISION**

**For:** Councillors Coleman, Fristacky, Stone, Chen Yi Mei and Bosler

**Against:** Councillors Jolly, McEvoy and Nguyen

**Abstained:** Councillor Searle

## **Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 8.34pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 15 August 2017

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Mayor