



City of
Whittlesea

MINUTES

OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2016

AT 6:00PM

**IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, 25 FERRES
BOULEVARD, SOUTH MORANG**

COUNCILLORS

STEVAN KOZMEVSKI	MAYOR, SOUTH WEST WARD
KRIS PAVLIDIS	SOUTH WEST WARD
DARRYL SINCLAIR	SOUTH WEST WARD
ADRIAN SPINELLI	SOUTH WEST WARD
NORM KELLY	DEPUTY MAYOR, SOUTH EAST WARD
SAM ALESSI	SOUTH EAST WARD
KEN HARRIS	SOUTH EAST WARD
MARY LALIOS	SOUTH EAST WARD
REX GRIFFIN	NORTH WARD
RICKY KIRKHAM	NORTH WARD
CHRISTINE STOW	NORTH WARD

SENIOR OFFICERS

MICHAEL WOOTTEN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RUSSELL HOPKINS

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

STEVE O'BRIEN

DIRECTOR PLANNING AND MAJOR PROJECTS

NICK MANN

DIRECTOR CITY TRANSPORT & PRESENTATION

MICHAEL TONTA

ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

SEAN MCMANUS

ACTING DIRECTOR PARTNERSHIPS &
ENGAGEMENT

NARELLE WILLIAMSON

GOVERNANCE OFFICER

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chief Executive Officer submits the following business:

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Note:

In these Minutes, Resolutions adopted by Council are indicated in bold text.

1. OPENING**1.1 MEETING OPENING AND PRAYER**

The Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:03pm.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS STATEMENT

On behalf of the City of Whittlesea the Mayor recognised the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.

1.3 PRESENT**Members:**

Cr Stevan Kozmevski	Mayor (South West Ward)
Cr Darryl Sinclair	Councillor (South West Ward)
Cr Adrian Spinelli	Councillor (South West Ward)
Cr Norm Kelly	Deputy Mayor (South East Ward)
Cr Sam Alessi	Councillor (South East Ward)
Cr Mary Lalios	Councillor (South East Ward)
Cr Ricky Kirkham	Councillor (North Ward)
Cr Rex Griffin	Councillor (North Ward)
Cr Christine Stow	Councillor (North Ward)

Officers:

Mr Michael Wootten	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Steve O'Brien	Director Planning and Major Projects
Mr Russell Hopkins	Director Community Services
Mr Nick Mann	Director City Transport & Presentation
Mr Michael Tonta	Acting Director Corporate Services
Mr Sean McManus	Acting Director Partnerships & Engagement
Mrs Narelle Williamson	Governance Officer

2. APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

Apologies were received on behalf of Cr Harris and Cr Pavlidis who requested that leave be granted for this meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: *Cr Alessi*
SECONDED: *Cr Kirkham*

THAT the Councillors apologies be received and leave be granted.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL DECLARATIONS

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**4.4 CORPORATE SERVICES****4.4.1 DECLARATION OF RATES AND ADOPTION OF 2016/17 BUDGET****File No:** 194574**Attachments:**
1 Minutes from Budget Submissions Advisory Committee
2 2016/17 Annual Budget**Responsible Officer:** Acting Director Corporate Services**Author:** Manager Finance & Assets**REPORT****SUMMARY**

To consider the outcomes from the 2016/17 Budget Submissions Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2016 (*Attachment 1*) and adopt the 2016/17 Annual Budget (*Attachment 2*).

BACKGROUND

Council resolved at its Council Meeting on 26 April 2016, in accordance with Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ('the Act'), to give public notice of its intention to adopt the 2016/17 Budget and to invite submissions on the proposed Annual Budget from the public.

In accordance with Section 223 of the Act, Council invited written submissions on the Proposed Budget from 28 April 2016 to close of submissions on 26 May 2016. A total of nine submissions were received.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council consider the recommendations of the Budget Submissions Advisory Committee to determine whether or not they should be included in the 2016/17 adopted budget, then following this consideration, adopt the 2016/17 Budget.

CONSULTATION

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, public notice has been given inviting submissions on the Proposed Budget for 2016/17. A total of nine submissions were received and considered by the Budget Submissions Advisory Committee appointed by Council.

DISCUSSION

In 2016/17, Council will spend \$251 million to deliver more than 100 services to our community, including \$43 million on our new works program. Our new works program includes more than 115 projects to build and upgrade community centres, sporting fields and tennis courts, playgrounds, roads, bike paths and footpaths across our new and established areas.

The 2016/17 financial year sees the introduction of rate capping by the State Government. The nominated rate rise of 2.5% for the year has meant Council has had to work hard to ensure that we are able to continue to provide our community with the high level of services and facilities needed by the community.

Council has carefully considered the needs of the community, in addition to the capacity of our community to pay and has complied with the 2.5% rate cap imposed by the State Government. The City of Whittlesea has not sought a variation of the rate rise for the 2016/17 budget, however looking ahead, it will become increasingly challenging for Council to be able to continue to provide the same level of quality services and infrastructure projects to our growing community within the constraints of the rate cap.

Council has prepared and advertised an Annual Budget that represents a sound and responsible approach to financial management as legislated under Section 136 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

CRITICAL DATES

The process adopted by Council was:

Council approved 2016/17 Proposed Budget for public notice	26 April 2016
Council gave public notice	28 April 2016
Period for lodging submissions closed	26 May 2016
Special Advisory Committee of Council met to consider submissions	14 June 2016
Council meeting to adopt 2016/17 Budget	23 June 2016

SUBMISSIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

An Advisory Committee of Council comprising the Mayor; Cr Kozmevski, Cr Alessi, Cr Kirkham and Cr Sinclair were appointed to hear and consider submissions. The Committee met on 14 June 2016 and gave each submitter requesting to be heard the opportunity to speak to their submission.

After hearing from the Submitters, the Committee considered each submission and made its recommendations, which proposes to add a net \$275,000 in expenditure to fund the following items:

- Norris Bank Reserve – Hot Shot Courts (\$90,000 including club contribution of \$30,000; net cost to Council: \$60,000)
- Duffy Street Reserve Master Plan & Pavilion feasibility (funded from Planning & Feasibility budget)
- Huskisson Reserve –sports lighting (additional \$85,000, a total of \$100,000)
- Epping Recreation Reserve – Tennis clubroom upgrade (\$30,000)
- Increase New Works Program Planning & Feasibility budget (\$100,000).

A full summary of the budget submissions and the recommendations of the Committee are included in *Attachment 1*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Committee's recommendations will add projects with a net cost of \$275,000. The cost of these items will be accommodated within the 2016/17 Budget.

POLICY STRATEGY AND LEGISLATION

Council prepares its annual budget under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

LINKS TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**FUTURE DIRECTION** **Good Governance****Theme** **Resource Management****Strategic Objective** **Council is financially sustainable for the long term**

The Annual Budget is one of the key components of the planning and accountability framework, which guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations. Together with the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan, one of the framework's underlying guiding principles is ensuring long term financial sustainability.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Under section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with the relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council amend the advertised 2016/17 Annual Budget noting the changes recommended by the Budget Submissions Advisory Committee and notify each submitter of Council's decision.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council resolve to:

1. Accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Council outlined in *Attachment 1*, having heard and considered public submissions on the proposed 2016/17 Annual Budget, noting that the Committee's recommendations will add the following projects with a net cost of \$275,000. The cost of these items will be accommodated within the 2016/17 Budget.
 - a) Norris Bank Reserve – Hot Shot Courts (\$90,000 including club contribution of \$30,000, net cost to Council \$60,000)
 - b) Duffy Street Reserve Master Plan & Pavilion feasibility (funded from Planning & Feasibility budget)
 - c) Huskisson Reserve – New sports lighting (\$85,000)
 - d) Epping Recreation Reserve – Tennis clubroom upgrade (\$30,000)
 - e) Increase New Works Program Planning & Feasibility budget (\$100,000).
2. Notify submitters of Council's decision and the reasons for the decision.
3. Adopt the 2016/17 Annual Budget attached to this resolution (*Attachment 2*).
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of this decision to adopt the Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989 ("the Act").

5. Declare that the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates is \$135,300,661 and such further amount as lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.
6. Declare that the general rate be declared in respect of the 2016/17 financial year.
7. Declare that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.
8. Declare that a differential rate be set for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:

Farm Land

Any land which is "farm land" within the meaning of section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

Other Land

Any land which is not farm land, including land which is used or adapted to be used primarily for:

- a) residential; or
- b) commercial purposes.

9. Determine each differential rate by multiplying the Net Annual Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 6 of this Resolution) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:

Category	Percentage
Other Land (including Residential and Commercial Land)	0.06389510% (or 0.06389510 cents in the dollar of Net Annual Value)
Farm Land	0.05431084% (or 0.05431084 cents in the dollar of Net Annual Value)

10. Record that it considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions and that:
 - a) The respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution.
 - b) The respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution.
 - c) The respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution.
 - d) The relevant -
 - i) uses;
 - ii) geographical locations;

- iii) planning scheme zonings of;
 - iv) types of buildings on; and
 - v) the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution.
11. Confirm that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.
12. Declare that no incentives be given by Council for the payment of general rates before the dates fixed or specified for their payment under section 167 of the Act.
13. Record that:
- a) Council grants to each owner of rateable land which -
 - i) is located within or part within a Green Wedge, Green Wedge A or Rural Conservation Zone within the meaning of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme; and
 - ii) is not less than 8 hectares in area or which, when combined with adjacent land in the same ownership, is continuous and not less than 8 hectares in area;a rebate (the Sustainable Land Management Rebate).
 - b) The Sustainable Land Management Rebate be an amount equal to -
 - i) 30% of the general rates which would otherwise be payable in respect of rateable land which is 50 hectares or more in area; and
 - ii) 20% of the general rates which would otherwise be payable in respect of rateable land which is not less than 8 hectares and not equal to or more than 50 hectares in area or which, when combined with adjacent land in the same ownership, is continuous and not less than 8 hectares and not equal to or more than 50 hectares in area.
 - c) The Sustainable Land Management Rebate be conditional upon -
 - i) the owner of the rateable land (or his or her agent) bi-annually making application for the Sustainable Land Management Rebate to be granted;
 - ii) the ability of the owner of the rateable land (or his or her agent) to demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and improving the quality of their land, consistent with the assessment criteria stated in the Sustainable Land Management Rebate Scheme Application Guidelines;
 - iii) the owner of the rateable land (or his or her agent) establishing to the satisfaction of Council such plans for land management works, and the carrying out of such land management works over a specified time, as are consistent with the Sustainable Land Management Rebate Scheme Application Guidelines; and

- iv) the application of, and compliance with, the Sustainable Land Management Rebate Scheme Application Guidelines.
- d) The Sustainable Land Management Rebate be granted to -
- i) assist in the proper and sustainable development of the municipal district;
 - ii) support and encourage the application of sustainable land management practices;
 - iii) preserve places within the municipal district which are of environmental interest;
 - iv) preserve, restore and maintain places of environmental importance and value within the municipal district;
 - v) improve the productive capacity of rural land; and
 - vi) promote the objectives described in the Sustainable Land Management Rebate Scheme Application Guidelines.
14. Record also that:
- a) Council grants a rebate to each owner (or, where applicable, occupier) of land comprising any part of the Melbourne Wholesale Markets (“the Markets”);
 - b) the rebate became operative upon the commencement of trading at the Markets (September 2015), and is an amount equal to the rates which would otherwise have been payable in respect of the land (2016/17 budget: \$1.37 million); and
 - c) the rebate be granted to assist the proper development of the municipal district.
15. Require that the general rates must be paid -
- a) By lump sum payment, made on or before 15 February 2017; or
 - b) By four instalments made on or before the following dates:
 - i) Instalment 1: 30 September 2016
 - ii) Instalment 2: 30 November 2016
 - iii) Instalment 3: 28 February 2017
 - iv) Instalment 4: 31 May 2017
16. Confirm that it will, subject to sections 171 and 172 of the Act, require a person to pay interest on any general rates which -
- a) that person is liable to pay; and
 - b) have not been paid by the date specified for payment.

17. Confirm the Schedule of Fees and Charges included in the Budget.
18. Authorise the Revenue Co-ordinator of Council to levy and recover the general rates in accordance with the Act.

SCHEDULE

Farm Land Objective

To encourage the use (and continued use) of land for agricultural purposes, and ensure that such rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. These include the:

19. implementation of good governance and sound financial stewardship;
20. construction, renewal, upgrade, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
21. development and provision of health, environmental, conservation, leisure, recreation, youth and family and community services;
22. provision of strategic and, economic management, town planning and general support services; and
23. promotion of cultural, heritage and tourism aspects of Council's municipal district.

Types and Classes

Any rateable land which is 'farm land' within the meaning of section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

Use and Level of Differential Rate

This particular differential rate will be used to support farming by providing a discount for Farm Rate properties.

The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015-2016 Financial Year.

Other Land (Including Residential And Commercial Land) Objective

To ensure that such rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, having regard to the relative benefits derived from the cost of carrying out of such functions. These functions include the:

24. implementation of good governance and sound financial stewardship;
25. construction, renewal, upgrade, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
26. development and provision of health, environmental, conservation, leisure, recreation, youth and family and community services;
27. provision of strategic and, economic management, town planning and general support services; and
28. promotion of cultural, heritage and tourism aspects of Council's municipal district.

Types and Classes

Any rateable land which is not Farm Land.

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This particular rate will be used as the default rate that is applicable to the majority of the properties within this municipal district.

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Wherever located within the municipal district.

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Types of Buildings

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COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: *Cr Lalios*
SECONDED: *Cr Kirkham*

THAT Council resolve to:

1. **Accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Council outlined in *Attachment 1*, having heard and considered public submissions on the proposed 2016/17 Annual Budget, noting that the Committee's recommendations will add the following projects with a net cost of \$275,000. The cost of these items will be accommodated within the 2016/17 Budget.**
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 - c) **Huskisson Reserve – New sports lighting (\$85,000).**
 - d) **Epping Recreation Reserve – Tennis clubroom upgrade (\$30,000).**
 - e) **Increase New Works Program Planning & Feasibility budget (\$100,000).**
2. **Notify submitters of Council's decision and the reasons for the decision.**
3. **Note that the Project "Redgum Child and Family Centre" will not be funded in the 2016/17 Budget and that the funding allocation for this project, in the amount of \$587,000, be allocated as follows:**
 - a) **Botanica Park, Bundoora - Playground upgrade (\$300,000).**
 - b) **Leslie Street Reserve, Thomastown - mesh fencing around the Cricket ground (\$30,000).**
 - c) **Epping Memorial Hall, Epping - extension of Verandah (\$5,000).**
 - d) **HR Uren Recreation Reserve, Thomastown - ball catching fencing (\$10,000).**
 - e) **Gorge Road South Morang - footpath construction connecting to 100 Gorge Road (\$50,000).**
 - f) **Sycamore Reserve, Mill Park - Portable buildings for female change rooms (\$50,000).**
 - g) **Mill Park Lakes Reserve Pavilion, South Morang - Cool Room (\$30,000).**
 - h) **Lorne Street Park, Lalor additional parking (\$107,000).**
 - i) **Provision of a large bus shelter on the corner of Yan Yean and Bridge Inn Roads, Doreen - (\$5,000).**

4. Adopt the 2016/17 Annual Budget attached to this resolution (*Attachment 2*).
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18. Confirm the Schedule of Fees and Charges included in the Budget.

19. Authorise the Revenue Co-ordinator of Council to levy and recover the general rates in accordance with the Act.

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Types and Classes

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Geographic Location

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Use of Land

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Planning Scheme Zoning

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Use of Land

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Planning Scheme Zoning

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Types of Buildings

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2015-2016 Financial Year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. CLOSURE

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.16PM

CONFIRMED THIS 19TH DAY OF JULY.

**CR STEVAN KOZMEVSKI
MAYOR**