



City of Belmont
ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING
MINUTES

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16 December 2020

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City of Belmont

ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

MINUTES

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INFORMATION ON HOW THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING WAS CONDUCTED

The purpose of the Annual Electors' Meeting (AEM) is to receive the City's Annual Report and any other general business pertaining to Council. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and supporting Regulations, the Mayor is to preside at a General or Special Meeting of Electors and shall determine the procedure to be followed, as set out below:

1. The *Standing Orders Local Law 2017* will apply subject to the discretion of the Presiding Member.
2. All present are required to sign the attendance register at the entry to the Civic Centre including name and address.
3. Speakers must be Electors of the City of Belmont as defined in s1.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
4. During General Business, questions or statements may only relate to matters that affect the City of Belmont and will be accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Member.
5. Motions from Electors, where presented in writing, will be read aloud by the Presiding Member to ensure that everyone is clear about what they are voting on. Motions from the floor will only be accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Member. A [form](#) to submit your Motion is available online and copies will also available at the meeting.
6. The Presiding Member will call for a mover and a seconder for a motion.
7. No motion or amendment is open to debate until it has been seconded. Only one amendment on any one motion shall be received at a time and such amendment shall be dealt with before any further amendment can be received; however any number of amendments may be proposed.
8. Upon a motion being proposed, the Presiding Member will call for speakers to address the Chair.
9. When addressing the meeting a person is to:
 - a) Rise and move to the podium unless unable to do so by reason of sickness or disability
 - b) State his or her name and address for recording in the minutes
 - c) Address the meeting through the Presiding Member.
10. The mover of a motion (but not the mover of an amendment) has the right of reply, and this closes the debate.

11. An Elector may raise and move without discussion "That the question be now put", which, on being duly seconded and carried by a majority, will result in submission of the motion at once to the meeting, after the mover has replied.
12. The Presiding Member will then ask for a vote on the motion from the floor.
13. Each Elector has one vote. An Elector does not have to vote.
14. Voting is determined by a show of hands.
15. A simple majority carries the vote.
16. Minutes of this meeting will be available for inspection by members of the public. Any motions arising from the meeting requiring action will be presented to the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council for consideration.

The decisions of the AEM are not binding on the Council, but as required by the *Local Government Act 1995*, the reasons for any Council decision on a decision of this meeting are to be recorded in the minutes of the Council Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, CITY OF BELMONT CIVIC CENTRE, 215 WRIGHT STREET, CLOVERDALE ON TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM.

PRESENT (AS ELECTORS)

Cr P Marks, Mayor (Presiding Member)	East Ward
Cr G Sekulla, JP, Deputy Mayor	West Ward
Cr M Bass	East Ward
Cr B Ryan	East Ward
Cr J Davis	South Ward
Cr J Powell	South Ward
Cr R Rossi, JP	West Ward

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Christie	Chief Executive Officer
Ms M Bell	Director Corporate and Governance
Ms J Gillan	Director Development and Communities
Ms M Reid	Director Infrastructure Services
Mr J Olynyk, JP	Manager Governance
Mrs M Lymon	Principal Governance and Compliance Advisor
Ms K Spalding	Coordinator Marketing and Communications
Ms D Morton	Media and Communications Adviser
Mrs H Mark	Governance Officer

ELECTORS

Mr J Bass
Mr R Birch
Ms S Carter
Ms J Gee
Ms H Hawke
Mr P Hitt
Ms D Panzich-Sekulla
Mr R Reakes
Mr T Teasdale

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr B Brody
Ms L Hollands
Mr E Purvis

There was no press representative in attendance.

1. WELCOME

7.00pm The Presiding Member welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.

The Presiding Member read the Acknowledgement of Country.

Before I begin I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the Noongar Whadjuk people, and pay respect to Elders past, present and future leaders.

7.07pm In accordance with Section 17.2 of the *City of Belmont Standing Orders Local Law 2017*, the Presiding Member informed the meeting, that should any person in attendance wish to participate in the discussions, who is not an elector or a ratepayer, an elector can move a motion in order for this to occur.

Note:

Ms L Hollands and Mr E Purvis indicated that they would like the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

MR J BASS MOVED, MS J GEE SECONDED

That in accordance with Section 17.2 of the *Standing Orders Local Law 2017* Ms L Hollands and Mr E Purvis, who are not electors or ratepayers, be permitted to participate in the discussion.

CARRIED 6/1

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr S Wolff (Apology)
Cr L Cayoun (Apology)

South Ward
West Ward

3. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

The Report of the Mayor is contained in the 2019-2020 Annual Report. The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the report.

Ms L Hollands asked the following questions:

1. How many community groups use the facilities at the Belmont Hub?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer advised that there are opportunities for not-for-profit groups to use the facilities at the Hub. Such groups can make contact with staff at Belmont Hub.

The Director Development and Communities further advised that there are meeting spaces available within the library for community groups to use. To utilise rooms booking is required. It will not be possible to schedule recurrent bookings and will be available on an as required basis. There are fees associated with booking these rooms.

Item 4 Continued

2. What is the fee for booking a meeting room?

Response

The Director Development and Communities stated all applicable fees are included in the Fees and Charges which are available on the City's website but can be sent to Ms Hollands.

4. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided a summary of the report and asked if there were any questions regarding the content of the report.

Ms J Gee asked the following question:

1. Is the CEO going to acknowledge the fact that the reduction in crime is primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic? We need to be mindful that people have been at home more during the pandemic, which will have contributed to the reduction in crime.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the City is being mindful that crime statistics may increase as life returns to normal and is committed to continuing initiatives such as the Community Taskforce, the Alliance and the ongoing safety of all residents.

Ms S Carter asked the following questions:

1. Is Ascot Marina part of the Trust land and if so where do the assets go?

Response

The Manager Governance stated Ascot Marina is not part of Trust land.

2. Is the City of Belmont head lessor of Ascot Marina?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the question would be taken on notice.

Item 4 Continued

Mr E Purvis asked the following questions:

1. I note the comments within the Annual Report relating to the inclusion of disability access in its construction. Would the City find it worthwhile to consider leasing the café space to a not-for-profit organisation (rather than a commercial café) that would provide training for people with a disability to enable them to get back into the workforce?

Response

The Director Development and Communities stated a number of options were considered for potential lessor opportunities, including criteria for Social Enterprises in the first tender process. The City did speak to various stakeholders; unfortunately there was no interest from community groups during the initial tender process.

2. Is there something the City can do about this?

Response

The Director Development and Communities stated the consideration for potential lessors was explored some time ago and unfortunately the opportunity has now passed.

Mr R Birch asked the following questions:

1. Does the City have any planned areas for potential projects in conjunction with State Government for future underground power?

Response

The Director Infrastructure Services stated that the programme is currently under review and at this stage the planning of these projects will be based on the renewal programme for this infrastructure. The City is waiting on formal advice from Western Power who will lead any such programme and will continue to monitor this matter. The City is yet to receive advice regarding the financial parameters and the level of contribution required by residents in relation to future projects.

2. The wooden poles currently used for power are becoming damaged and are visibly held up with metal braces. The project would come at a cost for ratepayers but will improve the streetscape.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the City agreed the amenity and streetscape would improve with underground power. The previous arrangement for contributory funding for such projects was 30% of total costs distributed evenly between the Office of Energy, Western Power and Residents. The City will pursue the possibility of applying for funding if the opportunity arises following the review.

Item 4 Continued

Ms J Gee asked the following question:

2. If the renewal is to be based on poles being replaced as the current infrastructure runs out, what sort of timeframe is envisaged and what would the cost of replacement be? Would the cost to residents be less?

Response

The Director Infrastructure Services stated that the City is still working through the review process. The cost to replace existing poles with like for like would be cheaper than converting to underground power.

Ms L Hollands asked the following questions:

1. Does the revenue for general purpose funding in the income statement relate to rates?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that General Purpose Funding includes both residential and commercial rates.

2. How much rates do Perth Airport pay the City and have they paid their rates for this year?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated Perth Airport contributes approximately \$10 - \$11 million and they have paid their contribution for this year.

3. What was the cost to the City for payments to employees?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the question would be taken on notice.

4. Was the land that is now Ascot Racecourse part of the Grove Farm Trust and how was the land acquired?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the question would be taken on notice.

5. There is 4,000 acres between Belmont and Grove Farm, how much of this was Trust Land?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the question would be taken on notice.

Item 4 Continued

6. The Executive Committee Report states the committee was not required to meet regarding complaints against the Chief Executive Officer. Can you clarify what is meant by this?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the Committee would only meet if a complaint was substantiated.

7. In regard to the Standing Committee (Environmental) Report, what policy does Belmont have to protect wetlands, birds and native animals from the removal of trees?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the City's website has various environmental plans and strategies available which covers the protection of trees.

8. Is the City going to put an order or something in place to prevent the removal of trees in new developments?

Response

The Director Development and Communities stated the City was looking at implementing measures to protect trees on private property. Each site is different and so are the standards that will apply. The City is however bound by the rules set by the State Government. The City's Planning Officers do work closely with the environmental team and within the rules imposed by State Government.

9. How does the application for the removal of 15 trees for roads within DA9 fit in with current policies?

Response

The Director Development and Communities stated this will be considered as part of the Scheme Amendment.

11. As part of the Urban Forest Strategy, when will the City double its urban canopy?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the Council can increase its budget for tree planting at any time as part of the budget process. Doubling canopy cover would impact the annual budget, which may then impact rates.

12. What percentage of contractors are local companies and what percentage are WALGA contractors?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the question would be taken on notice.

Item 4 Continued

13. What is the expectation of Councillors to attend Information Forums?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated Information Forums are designed to give Councillors information on items that are relevant to the City and Councillors that are unable to attend these meetings review the Notes or meet with Officers to clarify details. The reports that are prepared for Council Meetings include all the necessary information Councillors need to enable informed decisions to be made.

14. Should residents be concerned that the four Standing Committees do not meet as frequently at the City of Belmont compared to Standing Committees of other Councils, some of which meet fortnightly?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated he is not aware which other Councils hold Committee Meetings every two weeks and cannot comment on those. The City of Belmont convenes Committee meetings as required and when reports need to be endorsed.

15. Would a meeting be convened if for example, a resident wrote to the City about a certain breach or complaint?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the Committees meet when required, if there was an alleged breach of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the appropriate internal or external investigation would be carried out.

The Manager Governance further stated the City has policies and procedures in place and any potential breach or complaint would be investigated to the letter of the law.

Mr R Birch asked the following question:

3. The Belmont Oasis is undergoing renovation at the moment. Are there any plans to install a hydrotherapy pool at the centre and what is the plan going forward to re-establish the centre at a new location?

Response

The Director Infrastructure Services stated relocating the leisure centre to a new location would be a long way down the track and would require extensive investigation and planning. This would include considering options such as redeveloping on the existing site or relocating the facility. The City is investigating various options for the current facility and the installation of a hydrotherapy pool is one of the options that can be considered.

5. RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

RECOMMENDATION

MR R BIRCH MOVED, MR T TEASDALE SECONDED

That the [City of Belmont Annual Report 2019-2020](#) be received.

CARRIED 12/0

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS S CARTER MOVED, MR P HITT SECONDED

That the City of Belmont Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and staff adopt the same position as the Environment Protection Authority, by recognising and expressing the view that the portion of the Swan River, in the City of Belmont and the land within 200 metres of the River, is a public trust rather than a resource to be appropriated to the benefit of individuals.

CARRIED 5/2

6.2 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS S CARTER MOVED, MR P HITT SECONDED

The City, in accordance with a broad interpretation of the *Local Government Act 1995* and its subsidiary legislation, provide its Electors with the opportunity to have a representative read out a question at the Ordinary Council Meetings.

CARRIED 6/0

6.3 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS S CARTER MOVED, MS L HOLLANDS SECONDED

That the City of Belmont's Development planners consider the future need of owners and occupiers ability to access the City's waste management services for onsite skip bin placement in the development application and approval processes by the adherence to plot ratios defined by the R-Codes and to not allow plot ratios to be varied significantly so as to cause future nuisance to owners and occupiers in obtaining the services they pay for.

CARRIED 4/3

6.4 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS J GEE MOVED, MS L HOLLANDS SECONDED

When preparing a budget for the 2021-2022 Financial Year, the City of Belmont undertakes cost saving measures of 2% or the anticipated amount of CPI across the board, in order to provide a rate freeze for residents for the corresponding period.

CARRIED 6/3

6.5 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS J GEE MOVED, MS L HOLLANDS SECONDED

1. That the City of Belmont prepare a report on the trust land known as Parry Field to allow public consultation on how the land could be used in the future.
2. Meetings of the Trust are to be held at least once a year and open to the public.

CARRIED 7/3

6.6 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS L HOLLANDS MOVED, MR P HITT SECONDED

1. That the City of Belmont undertakes a complete review of the Gratuity Policy. The CEO is to provide an itemised report on the previous payments made to leaving staff and likely future payments.
2. That Council acts under Section 210 of the *Fair Work Act 2009* to amend and remove any gratuity payments that are not in compliance with Section 19A of the *Local Government Administration Regulations 1996*.

CARRIED 6/3

6.7 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS L HOLLANDS MOVED, MS S CARTER SECONDED

That the City of Belmont replace the existing meals provided with more cost effective sandwich platter.

CARRIED 6/3

6.8 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS L HOLLANDS MOVED, MS J GEE SECONDED

That the City of Belmont commit to live streaming of Council Meetings open to the public by the end of 2021 financial year.

CARRIED 7/3

6.9 NOTICE OF MOTION

MR P HITT MOVED, MS L HOLLANDS SECONDED

Vote of no confidence in the City of Belmont Council.

Reason¹

My concerns at the present state of affairs as seen from the public gallery include but are not limited to:

- Apparent from questions asked by some Councillors that some of them do not do the necessary reading of important items on an Agenda, to make a well informed decision.
- A very small minority of Councillors look around the Chamber to see how other Councillors have cast their vote before they personally vote on an Item. This hardly projects the image of Councillors making independent decisions and could be seen as some Councillors voting en bloc.

We, the residents and ratepayers, finance this Council and the remuneration of its Councillors and we expect honest, experienced knowledgeable decisions to be made on behalf of the citizens of Belmont.

CARRIED 6/3

6.10 Mr P Hitt, 14 McLachlan Way, Belmont

1. The Belmont Trust area was utilised in the past as a venue for basketball and baseball. Has monies the City of Belmont raised from the rent been placed in the Trust Account, or was this classed as general revenue?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated the question would be taken on notice.

2. Some residents feel this meeting is the most important meeting of the year, yet it is not being recorded. Can I ask that this meeting be recorded?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that if an elector wished to make a request that Annual Electors' Meetings are recorded, a Motion should have been moved at the appropriate part of the meeting to request this.

7. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.22pm.

¹ Explanation and reasons for Notices of Motion are not normally contained within the Annual Electors' Meeting Minutes – in this instance, as the Motion does not stand alone, additional information provided by the Elector has been included for the Notice of Motion.

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