



Annual Electors' Meeting

Minutes

Monday 3 February 2025



City of
Belmont

CITY OF BELMONT

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Alternative Formats

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**Minutes from the Annual Electors' Meeting held in the Function Room,
City of Belmont Civic Centre, 215 Wright Street, Cloverdale on Monday
3 February 2025 commencing at 6:30pm.**

Minutes

Present

Mayor R Rossi, JP (Presiding Member)	Mayor
Cr D Sessions (Deputy Mayor)	West Ward
Cr G Sekulla, JP	Central Ward
Cr J Harris	Central Ward
Cr P Marks	East Ward
Cr J Davis	South Ward
Cr C Kulczycki	West Ward

In attendance

Mr J Christie	Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Downing	Director Corporate and Governance
Mr W Loh	Director Development and Communities
Mr M Murphy	Director Infrastructure Services
Ms M Chambers	Acting Coordinator Governance
Ms S Bell	Governance Officer

Electors

Mr M Cardozo
Mr R Fleming
Ms J Gee
Mr S Maher
Ms K Neill
Mr S Osborne
Mr M Phelan
Ms R Potter
Ms D Ransome
Ms E Ransome
Mr R Reakes
Ms D Sekulla
Mr T Teasdale

Members of the Public (Non-Elector)

Ms L Hollands

1 Welcome

6:30pm The Presiding Member welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.

The Presiding Member read aloud the Acknowledgement of Country.

Acknowledgement of Country

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of this land and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

I further acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs, connection and relationship with this land which continues today.

6:35pm 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.

Ms L Hollands indicated that she would like the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Ms J Gee moved, Ms D Ransome seconded

That in accordance with Section 17.2 of the Standing Orders Local Law 2017 Ms Hollands, who is not an elector or ratepayer, be permitted to participate in the discussion.

Carried 9 votes to 0

2 Apologies and leave of absence

Cr J Powell (apology)

Cr B Ryan (apology)

Ms D Dabala (apology)

South Ward

East Ward

Manager Governance and Legal

3 Report of the Mayor

The Report of the Mayor is contained in the 2023-24 Annual Report. The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the report.

Ms L Hollands asked the following questions:

1. Does the City have any figures yet on which types of trees will be planted this year?

Response

The Director Infrastructure Services stated that the City is targeting over 3,000 trees this year.

2. Will the program continue this year for residents to get trees for their verge gardens?

Response

The Director Infrastructure Services stated that this is correct, and this program will be available. The City is hoping to expand the tree and streetscape programs.

4 Report of the Chief Executive Officer

The report of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is contained in the 2023-24 Annual Report. The Mayor asked if there were any questions regarding the content of the report. There were no questions.

5 Receiving the Annual Report

Ms L Hollands asked the following questions:

1. The Annual Report 2023-24 makes mention of an increase of 4 staff, with a paygrade of over \$130,000. Can we get an idea of what these staff do?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the increase would have been as a result of salary increases linked to the City's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. The Chief Executive Officer stated that he would take the remainder of that question on notice.

2. Could the City explain why there was a nearly \$500,000 increase for negotiating contracts?

Response

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

3. Why is the City getting rid of some committees that previously existed?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that there was consideration years ago that the committees for Community Vision and Environmental were only meeting when there was something to endorse. These matters are now presented and updated through Information Forums which the City conducts on Tuesday evenings, and then items are presented at Ordinary Council Meetings for consideration.

4. It is also mentioned in the Annual Report 2023-24 that the City seeks community input for different projects. I would like to know why community input is not what it should be, particularly at Council Meetings when we cannot make submissions or deputations. This is not consistent with what is said in the report.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that with due respect to Ms Hollands, he did not agree. He further stated that as is known by Ms Hollands, if the public wishes to make a submission or deputation at an Agenda Briefing Forum, members of the public are required to explain how they are directly affected by an item on the agenda, and then it is up to the Presiding Member to determine whether to allow the person to speak.

5. In terms of 'directly affected', when will we be provided the definition of this term, as it is often determined before the meeting?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that he has provided a response to this question at a Council Meeting a few months back. The Chief Executive Officer further stated that it is up to the Presiding Member, and that Ms Hollands is correct, there is no set definition for 'directly affected', but that there are ample definitions of 'directly affected' online.

6. Can we have a breakdown of what the Chief Executive Officer feels has been achieved this year?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that there is a summary of what has been achieved on page 8 of the Annual Report 2023-24, under 'Report of the Chief Executive Officer'.

7. What is the City doing in regard to Housing Commission properties, such as those on Belvidere Street, where there is junk left about the properties, and it is left for the City Rangers to pick up. Is the State Government reimbursing the City of Belmont for this?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the short answer is no, the Department of Communities has not reimbursed the City to date. The reason for this is the concern in regard to identifying who the culprit is. The City is working closely with the Department of Communities, and the Member for Belmont to try and resolve this matter at Belvidere and Towton Street.

8. Are you suggesting the best person to put some pressure on during this election year is the Member for Belmont?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that no, he did not say that.

9. Can I please be provided a breakdown on how much this is costing the ratepayer?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated he is happy to provide a breakdown, and further noted that the City staff want to improve the amenity and the streetscape, rather than leave waste laying around. The Chief Executive Officer further stated that the Department of Communities has a response rate of within 28 days, the City believes it is important to clear the debris prior to this.

10. In regard to CCTV cameras around the City, what is the purpose of these cameras, and do these have facial recognition on them?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the City provides 630 CCTV cameras around the City. The cameras that are externally facing are linked to the police, therefore if there are any issues with anti-social behaviour this assists us with potentially apprehending those individuals. The Chief Executive Officer further stated that he does not believe these cameras are equipped with facial recognition.

11. The cameras for instance on Garratt Road, what sort of cameras are they, are they number plate recognition cameras?

Response

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

Ms J Gee asked the following question:

1. In regard to Elected Members Professional Development, are all the current Councillors up to date with their Professional Development training? Can you let me know what this training is?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer stated that all the mandatory training that Councillors have to undertake has all been completed by Elected Members. The Chief Executive Officer further stated that the remainder of the question would be taken on notice.

Note:

Subsequent to the above response, it is noted that Cr Harris and Cr Powell have not completed their compulsory Elected Member training. Both are within the twelve months provided for in the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)* for training to be completed.

Officer Recommendation
<p>Mr T Teasdale moved, Ms D Sekulla seconded</p> <p>That the City of Belmont Annual Report 2023-2024 be received.</p> <p>Carried 11 votes to 0</p>

6 General business

6.1 Notice of Motion 1

Mr S Osborne moved, Mr R Fleming seconded

To change the Local Law allowing children's swings to be hung from verge trees allowing neighbouring kids to have use and allow community interaction and encourage outdoor play. Follow South Perth's Local Law and be a City friendly community shire.

Carried 10 votes to 2

6.2 Notice of Motion 2

Ms R Potter moved, Ms K Neill seconded

For the City of Belmont to investigate the pricing, suitable locations and needs for bird watering stations to be installed throughout the City. Presenting a report back to Council at the Agenda Briefing Forum on 18 March 2025 for further questions and comments with officer recommendations then presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 25 March 2025.

Carried 13 votes to 0

6.3 Notice of Motion 3

Ms R Potter moved, Ms K Neill seconded

For the City of Belmont to investigate a project in conjunction with the adjoining businesses and local residents to beautify the intersection of Orrong Road and Oats Street Kewdale, including greening and landscaping. With a report to be presented back to Council at the Agenda Briefing Forum on the 8 April 2025.

Carried 7 votes to 0

6.4 Notice of Motion 4

Mr M Phelan moved, Mr M Cardozo seconded

I propose a notice of motion that the Council have a look at its traffic calming methods, such as chicanes, speed bollards etc. Does the Council believe that this method is the better and economical use of ratepayers' dollars in order to carry out what is in effect a police duty and indeed I would suggest that some of the methods used is downright dangerous and an invitation to speed.

Carried 8 votes to 2

6.5 Notice of Motion 5

Mr M Phelan moved, Ms E Ransome seconded

I propose a notice of motion that controls should be placed on e-scooters with a plan for tracking the owners e.g. licensing etc., as I would regard them as a danger to pedestrians and motorists alike.

Carried 8 votes to 0

6.6 Notice of Motion 6

Mr M Phelan moved

I propose a notice of motion for verge tree planting. I pose the question to the people who plan this, have they given thought to the fact that these trees will become a safety hazard, when they grow a body of leaves as they will leave blind spots for people on the street as they gain access to the road with a car etc.

The motion was lost due to the want of a seconder

6.7 Notice of Motion 7

Mr M Cardozo moved, Ms R Potter seconded

That the Council instruct the Chief Executive Officer to commence the livestreaming of Agenda Briefing Forums (ABFs) effective immediately, aligning Belmont with the Local Government Authorities of Victoria Park, Canning, Kalamunda, Swan, Bassendean, Bayswater, and South Perth by activating the existing livestreaming infrastructure and ensuring that all future ABFs are made publicly accessible on the City's website and relevant digital platforms.

Carried 12 votes to 0

6.8 Notice of Motion 8

Ms J Gee moved, Mr M Phelan seconded

That Council exclude those at the podium from being on facial recognition and from being recorded on camera whilst attending Council Meetings.

Carried 10 votes to 0

7 Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:43pm.