
**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7:03 PM**

PRESENT

The Mayor, Doug Curran in the Chair; Councillors, Shari Blumer, Jenny Ellis, Manjit Singh Lally, Melissa Marin, Christine Stead, Laurie Testoni and Dino Zappacosta

STAFF

Acting General Manager/Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs and Minute Taker, Hannah Hall

MEDIA

Cai Holroyd, Area News

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Manjit Singh Lally reading the Opening Affirmation and the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

24/038

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Melissa Marin that apologies be received from Councillor Chris Sutton, Glen Andreazza, Anne Napoli and Simon Croce and General Manager, Brett Stonestreet and a leave of absence granted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

24/039

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 13 February 2024, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed with a change to include the reason of Councillor Manjit Singh Lally's Pecuniary Interest Declaration.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta
CL04 Request for In-Kind Support – Griffith Vintage Festival 2024
Reason - I own a winery but will not be participating at this event.

Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
CL06 - Suspension of Alcohol Free Zone and Alcohol Prohibited Area - Kooyoo Street Mall
Event - Punjabi Mela - 20 April 2024
Reason – One of the organising Committee members of this event.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta
CL06 Suspension of Alcohol Free Zone and Alcohol Prohibited Area – Kooyoo Street Mall
Event – Punjab Mela – 20 April 2024
Reason – I own an Alcohol Licence.

Councillor Christine Stead
CL01 - DA 228/2023 - Electricity Generating Works - 4.9mW Solar Farm and Battery storage System
Reason – I am a member of the NSW Planning Panel.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta
Traffic Committee Minutes 13 February 2024
Reason – I own businesses in Hanwood.

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Councillor Christine Stead left the meeting having declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:14pm.

CL01 DA 228/2023 - ELECTRICITY GENERATING WORKS - 4.9MW SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

24/040

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council make a submission to the Western Regional Planning Panel to provide Council's support of or objections to the application.
- (b) Council resolve to prepare a submission based on Option 1 being;

***"Objection:** Council has viewed and considered the submissions made as part of the notification of the application and concurs with the objections to the application."*
- (c) The General Manager, within 10 days of the Council resolution, forward Council's submission to the Chairman of the Western Region Planning Panel for the panel's consideration during application determination.

In accordance with the Local Government Action (section 375A - Recording of voting on planning matters) Council must record the Councillor's vote in relation to the matter.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 0.

Councillor Christine Stead returned to the meeting, the time being 7:16pm.

CL02 DA 240/2023 - DETACHED DUAL OCCUPANCY DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TWO (2) STOREY DWELLING AND RETENTION OF AN EXISTING TWO-STOREY DWELLING, WITH A COMMUNITY TITLE SUBDIVISION

24/041

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council, as the consent authority pursuant to Section 4.16(1)(a) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 grant consent to modify the Notice of Determination, to permit the construction of a dual occupancy development with Community Title subdivision at 59 Clifton Boulevard Griffith subject to conditions including those set out provided in Attachment A with a revision to Condition 50 and another condition inserted into that section as 50A as follows;

50. Compliance with Conditions of Consent

Prior to issue of the Subdivision Certificate, the applicant is to ensure that all conditions of Development Application 240/2023 relevant to the subdivision and the first mandatory critical stage inspection are completed satisfactorily.

50A. Restriction on Title

No dwelling shall be constructed on Lot 3 other than the dwelling approved under DA 240/2023

- (b) Development Application 240/2023 be delegated to the Director of Sustainable Development for the preparation and issue of the Notice of Determination.

In accordance with the Local Government Action (section 375A - Recording of voting on planning matters) Council must record the Councillor's vote in relation to the matter.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

CL03 SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24 - BUDGET REVIEW AND OPERATIONAL PLAN INCORPORATING THE DECEMBER DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Dino Zappacosta asked for a breakdown of costs associated with Consultancy Fees. The Mayor took this **ON NOTICE**.

Councillor Manjit Singh Lally questioned the value of his reported Councillor Expenses. The Mayor took this **ON NOTICE**.

Councillor Christine Stead asked for the revenue raised from Council's Compliance Activities be provided at the next Councillor Workshop. The Mayor took this **ON NOTICE**.

24/042

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council note the variations to the 2023/24 original budget for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 as presented in this report.
- (b) The Financial Review and any additional approved variations for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 be adopted.
- (c) Council adopt the 31 December 2023 Operational Plan Review advising the extent to which the Operational Plan Actions (Performance Indicators) have been achieved.
- (d) Council endorse minor amendments to the Organisational Structure as per this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta left the meeting having declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, the time being 7:29pm.

CL04 REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SUPPORT - GRIFFITH VINTAGE FESTIVAL 2024

24/043

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Jenny Ellis that Griffith City Council provide in-kind support including traffic management, traffic control and event bins for the Griffith Vintage Festival 2024.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Shari Blumer	Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

The division was declared PASSED by 5 votes to 2.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta returned to the meeting, the time being 7:30pm.

CL05 QUICK TURN AROUND GRANT APPLICATION OZFISH UNLIMITED FOR LAKE WYANGAN FISHING CLASSIC

24/044

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Laurie Testoni that Council approve the application for a Quick Turn Around Grant of \$2,350 to OzFish Unlimited for the Lake Wyangan Classic.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Christine Stead

The division was declared PASSED by 6 votes to 2.

**CL06 SUSPENSION OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONE AND ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AREA -
KOOYOO STREET MALL EVENT - PUNJABI MELA - 20 APRIL 2024**

Due to lack of quorum, this clause was deferred to the next meeting.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL07 INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2024

24/045

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Melissa Marin and Shari Blumer that the report be noted by Council.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SCENIC HILL USER GROUP MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2024

24/046

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Scenic Hill User Group meeting held on 5 February 2024 be adopted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2024

24/047

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Laurie Testoni that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee meeting held on 7 February 2024 be adopted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE MEMORIAL PARK GARDENS EMBELLISHMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2024

24/048

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Jenny Ellis that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Memorial Park Gardens Embellishment Committee meeting held on 7 February 2024 be adopted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2024

24/049

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Manjit Singh Lally that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 7 February 2024 be adopted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2024

24/050

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Dino Zappacosta and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 8 February 2024 be adopted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2024

24/051

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Melissa Marin that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024 be adopted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

Nil

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

24/052

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that the report be noted.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

14 MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY CLOSED COUNCIL

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Set out below is Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to matters which can be dealt with in the closed part of a meeting.

The matters and information are the following:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)**
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer**
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business**
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:**
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or**
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or**
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret**
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law**
- (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property**
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege**

- (h) **information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on Community land.**
- (i) **alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993.**

24/053

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Manjit Singh Lally that:

- (a) Council resolve to go into closed Council to consider business identified.
- (b) Pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provision of section [10A(2)] as outlined above.
- (c) The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Council resolved that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items listed below, and that discussion of the report in open Council would be contrary to the public interest.

CC01 REQUEST TO DRAW DOWN FUNDS FROM GPPM STRATEGIC RESERVE FOR ELECTRICAL UPGRADE OF MYALL PARK HALL AND WORKSHOP

Reason: Commercial Advantage 10A(2)(d)

Council closed its meeting at 7:51pm. The public and media left the Chamber. Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

24/054

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Manjit Singh Lally that Open Council be resumed.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	

Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

Open Council resumed at 7:58pm.

Livestream was reconnected.

Upon resuming open Council the Acting General Manager reported that the following resolutions had been made in Closed Council:

MATTERS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED COUNCIL

CC01 REQUEST TO DRAW DOWN FUNDS FROM GPPM STRATEGIC RESERVE FOR ELECTRICAL UPGRADE OF MYALL PARK HALL AND WORKSHOP

24/055

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Shari Blumer that:

- (a) Griffith City Council endorse the request for \$10,000 to be drawn down from the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Strategic Reserve in order to meet electrical compliance at Myall Park Hall and Museum Workshop.
- (b) Council note that the balance of the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Strategic Reserve after the electrical compliance expenditure will be \$80,000.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Melissa Marin	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 8 votes to 0.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:00pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON