
**ORDINARY MEETING OF GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

PRESENT

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

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Acting Director Business, Cultural, Financial Services, Max Turner, Acting Director Sustainable Development, Carel Potgieter

MEDIA

Cai Holroyd, The Area News

1 COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Meeting opened with Councillor Christine Stead 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

24/072

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Laurie Testoni that apologies be received from Councillors Melissa Marin, Anne Napoli and Chris Sutton and a leave of absence granted.

For
Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

24/073

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Laurie Testoni that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Griffith City Council Chambers on 12 March 2024, having first been circulated amongst all members of Council, be confirmed.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillors Dino Zappacosta and Simon Croce moved the following MOTION that:

- (a) Council secure the sites by clearing and fencing the areas of the Blacksmith Store site and Fire Bell site.
- (b) Council call for public comment regarding the abovementioned sites.
- (c) Council allocate funds in the budget to clear and fence the areas to secure the sites.

For

Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Laurie Testoni

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 5.

The MOTION was declared LOST.

This item is to be considered at a future Council Workshop.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

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

Graham Gordon

CC02 General Manager Key Performance Indicators January 2024 to August 2025

Reason – I am an employee of Griffith City Council and report directly to the General Manager.

Phil King

CC02 General Manager Key Performance Indicators January 2024 to August 2025

Reason – I am an employee of Griffith City Council and report directly to the General Manager.

Max Turner

CC02 General Manager Key Performance Indicators January 2024 to August 2025

Reason – I am an employee of Griffith City Council and report directly to the General Manager.

Carel Potgieter

CC02 General Manager Key Performance Indicators January 2024 to August 2025

Reason – I am an employee of Griffith City Council.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

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 Jenny Ellis

CL02 Community Gardens Large Scale Event Masterplan

Reason – I am a member of the Griffith Musicians Club.

6 PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor congratulated Councillors Simon Croce, Anne Napoli and Christine Stead on reaching 20 years' service in local government. Certificates issued by LG NSW will be presented later this year.

7 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CL01 DA 222/2023 - CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DWELLING AND TORRENS TITLE SUBDIVISION TO CREATE A DETACHED DUAL OCCUPANCY DEVELOPMENT

24/074

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

- (a) Council, as the consent authority pursuant to Section 4.16(1)(a) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 grant consent to the to permit the construction of a new dwelling to create a dual occupancy development with Torrens Title subdivision at 31 Polkinghorne Street Griffith subject to conditions, including those set out provided in Attachment A of the report.

- (b) Development Application 222/2023 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 Glen Andreazza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL02 COMMUNITY GARDENS LARGE SCALE EVENT MASTERPLAN

24/075

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Glen Andreazza that:

- (a) Council adopts the Community Gardens Large Scale Event Masterplan as exhibited.
- (b) Council finalise the estimated costing and implement permanent power supply to service food vans adjacent to Willandra Avenue, relocation of existing backstage storage container to be permanently located behind Stuart McWilliam Stage subject to existing budget allocation of \$50,000.
- (c) Council finalise a staged design of fencing for the Community Gardens site.

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andreazza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL03 STREET SCAPES SEATING PARKLETS RENTAL POLICY

24/076

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Council endorse the Street Scapes Seating Parklets Rental Policy and place on public exhibition for 28 days.
- (b) Should submissions be received a further report be submitted to Council.

- (c) Should no submissions be received the policy be adopted and the applicable fees and charges be included Councils current and future revenue policy.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

CL04 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

24/077

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Dino Zappacosta and Laurie Testoni that:

- (a) Council be represented at the 2024 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference to be held in Brisbane from 22 – 24 May 2024.
- (b) Councillor Zappacosta, the General Manager (or his delegate) attend the Conference.
- (c) Expenses to attend the Conference be paid by Council in accordance with the Councillors Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

CL05 DISCLOSURES BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS RETURNS - MARCH 2023

24/078

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Manjit Singh Lally that the Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Returns for Council's Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services and Animal Control & Parking Compliance Coordinator be noted.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer

Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared **PASSED** by 9 votes to 0.

10 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2024

24/079

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 6 March 2024 be adopted.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared **PASSED** by 9 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2024

24/080

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Pamela Kensett-Smith to address Council.

For

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared **PASSED** by 9 votes to 0.

24/081

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Simon Croce and Christine Stead that the meeting resume standing orders.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

24/082

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Simon Croce and Glen Andreazza that the meeting suspend standing orders to allow Mrs Kensett-Smith to address Council.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

24/083

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Manjit Singh Lally that the meeting resume standing orders.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared Passed by 9 votes to 0.

24/084

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Simon Croce and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the New Cemetery Masterplan Committee meeting held on 7 March 2024 be adopted, including the SMT Comment as printed below:

SMT Comment:

Should Council support the above recommendation it is proposed that Council should adopt the following in lieu of the recommendation above.

- a) Council invite Griffith Regional Funerals to submit a Development Application for assessment with respect to the installation and operation of a cremation service to be located at Lot 4 DP775986 Wakaden St, Griffith and that the owner of the property sign

the Development Application.

- b) Council appoint an external planner to assess the development application with the determination remaining with Griffith City Council. The assessment report of the development application to be determined by a meeting of Council.
- c) In the event that Griffith City Council approved the development application that a deed of agreement be drafted between Griffith City Council and Griffith Regional Funeral Services detailing the lease and conditions of use of the cremator. The documentation is to include reference to the owner of the property and their concurrence to the installation and use of the cremator. Further, that the owner concurs to the circumstances that the cremator may be removed from the property. Legal costs to prepare the above documentation are the responsibility of Griffith Regional Funeral Services.
- d) Subject to a, b and c above being completed, that Council proceed to acquire and install the cremator.
- e) Funding to be drawn from the long term financial plan 2025/26 approximately \$400,000 installed.
- f) The fees applicable to the lease of the cremator as detailed in confidential attachment A as previously reported to Council and the Committee will be included in Council's revenue policy and are subject to annual review.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE SCENIC HILL USER GROUP MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2024

24/085

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Jenny Ellis and Christine Stead that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Scenic Hill User Group meeting held on 4 March 2024 be adopted.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2024

The Mayor requested Council follow up if a Certificate of Currency has been received in relation to 3.1 Traffic Management – Vintage Festival 30 March 2024.

Councillor Manjit Singh Lally stated his concerns about the Traffic Management Plan and Traffic Control Plan for the 2024 Shaheedi Tournament Sikh Games and requested further consideration. The Mayor advised this was to be TAKEN ON NOTICE.

24/086

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Manjit Singh Lally that the recommendations as detailed in the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 12 March 2024 be adopted.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

11 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 BUSINESS WITH NOTICE – OTHER MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE STEAD

MOVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that Griffith City Council to support the Multicultural Council for a period of six months rental at the Griffith Community Centre for a rental space at \$7,700 (inclusive of GST), which they are currently unable to fund. Securing this accommodation would significantly enhance the services offered by the Multicultural Council and provide a basis for further funding opportunities for much needed service to the community.

Councillor Laurie Testoni MOVED that the motion LAY ON THE TABLE to be discussed at a future Council Workshop.

For

Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared LOST by 2 votes to 7.

The Motion to LAY THE REPORT on the table was declared LOST.

Councillor Dino Zappacosta foreshadowed a motion that Council support the Multicultural Council for a period of 12 months rental at the Griffith Community Centre for a rental space

at \$15,400 (inclusive of GST).

The original Motion was PUT.

24/087

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Shari Blumer that Griffith City Council to support The Multicultural Council for a period of six months rental at the Griffith Community Centre for a rental space at \$7,700 (inclusive of GST), which they are currently unable to fund. Securing this accommodation would significantly enhance the services offered by the Multicultural Council and provide a basis for further funding opportunities for much needed service to the community.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni

Against

Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 2.

13 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

24/088

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Christine Stead that the report be noted.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 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.**

24/089

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Christine Stead and Jenny Ellis 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.**

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 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 APPLICATIONS FOR THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Reason: Personnel Matters 10A(2)(a)

CC02 GENERAL MANAGER - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - JANUARY 2024 TO AUGUST 2025

Reason: Personnel Matters 10A(2)(a)

CC03 POWERING TOMORROW: REGIONAL COUNCILS NSW POWER PURCHASING AGREEMENT (PPA)

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

Council closed its meeting at 8:08 pm.

The public and media left the Chamber.

Livestream was disconnected.

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

24/090

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

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

Against

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Open Council resumed at 8:22 pm.

Livestream was reconnected.

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

MATTERS DEALT WITH IN CLOSED COUNCIL

CC01 APPLICATIONS FOR THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

24/091

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Shari Blumer and Glen Andreazza that Council endorse Dorian Radue and Helen Brill as new members for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

For

Councillor Doug Curran
Councillor Glen Andreazza
Councillor Shari Blumer

Against

Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Graham Gordon, Max Turner, Phil King and Carel Potgieter, having declared Pecuniary Interests, left the meeting. Shireen Donaldson remained in the meeting for minute taking purposes.

CC02 GENERAL MANAGER - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - JANUARY 2024 TO AUGUST 2025

24/092

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Laurie Testoni and Jenny Ellis that Council adopt the Key Performance Indicators for the General Manager in relation to the period January 2024 to August 2025 in accordance with the report.

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andreazza	
Councillor Shari Blumer	
Councillor Simon Croce	
Councillor Jenny Ellis	
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	
Councillor Christine Stead	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	
Councillor Dino Zappacosta	

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

Graham Gordon, Max Turner and Phil King returned to the meeting.

CC03 POWERING TOMORROW: REGIONAL COUNCILS NSW POWER PURCHASING AGREEMENT (PPA)

24/093

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Glen Andreazza and Christine Stead that:

- (a) Subject to a successful tendering process by the Hunter Joint Organisation, if per annum costs are less than the current overall cost of negotiable components, the General Manager shall have delegation to enter into a contract for the supply of electricity to Council's large sites and streetlights and present a further report to a future meeting of Council on completion of the process for Council's information; and
- (b) Council contribute a minimum of 21% of Council's electricity load to a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement.
- (c) Council advise Hunter Joint Organisation of Council's decision to delegate authority to execute contracts.

For	Against
Councillor Doug Curran	
Councillor Glen Andreazza	

Councillor Shari Blumer
Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Jenny Ellis
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally
Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Laurie Testoni
Councillor Dino Zappacosta

The division was declared PASSED by 9 votes to 0.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8:26 pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON