



City of **Perth**

Minutes

Electors General Meeting

30 January 2024

Approved for release

Michelle Reynolds

Chief Executive Officer

2 February 2024

Minutes to be confirmed at the next Electors General Meeting

These minutes are hereby certified as confirmed.

Presiding member's signature _____

Date _____

Electors' General Meeting Procedure

In accordance with clause 5.30 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Lord Mayor is to preside at an Electors' General Meeting.

Regulation 18 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* states that the procedure to be followed at an Electors' General Meeting is to be determined by the person presiding at the meeting.

The following procedure is provided for guidance only and the final procedure will be determined by the Lord Mayor at the meeting.

1. All present are required to sign the attendance register upon entry to the Council Chamber, including name and address.
2. Speakers must be electors of the City of Perth.
3. The proceedings will be recorded for the purpose of production of minutes, and speakers are requested to use the lectern microphone when speaking.
4. No other audio-visual recordings are to be undertaken without permission from the Lord Mayor.
5. The order of proceedings will firstly be reference to these rules by the Lord Mayor followed by:
 - a. Declaration of opening and welcome
 - b. Apologies and members on leave of absence
 - c. Lord Mayor's message
 - d. 2022-23 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
 - e. General business
 - f. Closure
6. During general business, questions, motions or statements may only relate to the matters that affect the local government and will be accepted at the discretion of the Lord Mayor.

Electors proposing motions to the meeting

7. Proposed motions must be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Forms are available on the City's website <https://perth.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings>
8. Motions from the floor may be ruled out of order at the discretion of the Lord Mayor.
9. The Lord Mayor will call for a mover and seconder for a motion.
10. No motion is open to debate until it has been seconded. Only one motion shall be received at a time.
11. Upon a motion being proposed, the Lord Mayor will call for speakers to address the meeting.
12. When addressing the meeting, a speaker is to:
 - a. Move to the lectern (unless able to do so due to sickness or a disability)
 - b. State their name and address
 - c. Address the meeting through the Lord Mayor
 - d. Limit the question/ statement to fact, not opinion or supposition
13. The mover of a motion has the right of reply and closes the debate.

Voting at the meeting

14. Once a motion has been moved and seconded, the Lord Mayor will ask for a vote on the motion from the electors.
15. Each elector has one vote. An elector is not required to vote.
16. Voting is determined by a show of hands.
17. A simple majority carries the vote.

Decisions made at the meeting

18. The decisions of this meeting are not binding on the City of Perth Council. All decisions made at the meeting will be presented to Council for its consideration at its next practicable meeting.
19. Minutes of this meeting will be available on the City's website as soon as practicable after the meeting and before the next Ordinary Council meeting.

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1. Declaration of Opening, Acknowledgement of Country/Prayer and Welcome

The Presiding Member declared the Electors General Meeting for the City of Perth open at 5.00pm.

The Presiding Member gave an Acknowledgement of Country:

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people of Western Australia, and pay my respects to Elders past and present. It is a privilege to be standing on Whadjuk Nyoongar country.

The Chief Executive Officer recited a prayer:

Almighty God, under whose providence we hold responsibility for this City grant us wisdom to understand its present needs, foresight to anticipate its future growth, and grace to serve our fellow citizens with integrity and selfless devotion. And to Thee, be all blessing and glory forever. Amen.

2. Attendance

Elected Members in Attendance

Lord Mayor	Basil Zempilas
Deputy Lord Mayor	Clyde Bevan
Councillors	Brent Fleeton
	Liam Gobbert
	Viktor Ko
	Catherine Lezer
	Raj Doshi
	David Goncalves
	Bruce Reynolds

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	Michelle Reynolds
General Manager Infrastructure and Operations	Allan Mason
General Manager Community Development	Kylie Johnson
General Manager Commercial Services	Steve Holden
General Manager Planning and Economic Development	Dale Page
General Manager Corporate Services	Wendy Attenborough
Chief Financial Officer	Michael Kent
Executive Director Governance and Strategy	Peta Mabbs
Alliance Manager Council Governance and Policy	Charlie Clarke
Governance Officer	Anne-Marie Bartlett

Public Gallery

There were approximately 12 members of the public and two members of the Media in the gallery.

2.1 Apologies

Nil.

2.2 Leave of Absence

Nil.

3. Lord Mayor's Message

The Lord Mayor highlighted the City's achievements in 2022/23.

"Our Annual Report stands as a testament to what our dedicated team achieved on behalf of our community.

Through considered consultation and careful decision making, we worked hard to deliver for the residents who call the city home, for the businesses and workers who collaborate and connect here, and for the visitors who come to our streets to explore and enjoy all that our magnificent City of Light has to offer. We also set the groundwork for a successful and prosperous 2023/2024.

The City delivered one of the lowest rate-rises in the metropolitan area and made every cent of our \$261.9 million budget count. We improved on our numerous 'business as usual' services, while also funding critical capital works and a year-round events and sponsorship program that boosted vibrancy, showcased our unique cultural scene, and brought people into the city across the seasons.

We also retained a focus on sustainability initiatives, including on promoting and preserving our precious trees. During the year we held an inaugural Tree Month where we facilitated the planting of more than 300 trees at multiple community events. In 2023, we planted more than 1000 trees, doubling the amount planted in previous years.

This year saw business continue to prosper in Perth, with our city maintaining the highest office occupancy of all states.

We also maintained our focus on strong governance and closed out nearly all actions in response to the recommendations of the Inquiry, with only five actions remaining and nearing completion.

The City has entered a new era of excellence in performance as we reflect, refine and renew the way we deliver on the community's aspirations to be one of the most liveable, sustainable and prosperous cities in the world.

Although our December and January periods are not captured in the 12 months that we deal with tonight, I think everybody is well aware of the record breaking numbers that we delivered in the month of December. It is a sign of the great progress of our City, and also the great number of development applications that have been processed by our team is a significant sign that the renewal of Perth is happening and happening now before our eyes.

So as you've heard, 2022/23: incredibly productive, effective, and impactful 12 months in our City, and the future is looking even brighter for our City of Light, and so for the elected members who encompass that period and certainly me as Lord Mayor, it has been our great privilege and pleasure to continue to serve our ratepayers."

4. Annual Report, Financial Statement and Auditor’s Report

4.1 2022/23 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditors Report

The Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation on the City’s financial achievements in 2022/23. The presentation is available on the City’s website [here](#).

Resolution

Mover: Anna Vanderbom

Secunder: John Morrison

That the 2022/23 Annual Report, inclusive of Financial Statements and Auditors Report, for the City of Perth be ACCEPTED.

CARRIED

5. General Business

5.1 Public Questions

	Robert John – Crawley (Confirmed Elector)
Q1	The residents in The Avenue Crawley are unhappy with the traffic flow on The Avenue, between Hackett Dve and Broadway due to excessive speed, loud vehicles and some danger when vehicles pass due to street parking. We are not asking that street parking be banned but for the City to liaise with Nedlands Council with the object of reducing speed limit on THE AVENUE to 40 KPH.
A1	Provided by the General Manager Planning and Economic Development Speed reduction ultimately needs approval from Main Roads WA (MRWA). The City has initiated discussions with MRWA and will involve the City of Nedlands in this process. The City hopes to have an update on this matter by early March 2024.
	John Morrison – East Perth (Confirmed Elector)
Q1	Has the Council and the City of Perth done a cost benefit analysis of utilising the count back provisions under Local Government Law to backfill vacancies prospectively caused by the Lord Mayor and councillors announcing their intention to contest State of Federal Government seats?
A1	Provided by the Executive Director Governance and Strategy No, the City has not completed a cost benefit analysis as the backfill provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 are only applicable in the case that an Elected Member position becomes vacant within 12 months of their election. No Elected Member has advised of an intention to vacate their position within 12 months of their election.

	<p>(It should be noted that the introduction of optional preferential voting as part of the <i>Local Government Amendment Act 2023</i> means that vacant positions can now be filled based on the results of an election that has taken place within the previous 12 months.</p> <p>Schedule 4.1A and 4.1B of the Act provides for the filling of vacancies using backfilling provisions.)</p>
Q2	How does the cost of appointing the next ranked candidates compare with that of having by-elections?
A2	<p>Provided by the Executive Director Governance and Strategy</p> <p>The ability to appoint the next ranked candidate would remove the need to hold an extraordinary election.</p> <p>An estimated cost to hold an extraordinary election for the City of Perth would be in the range of \$100,000 – \$130,000.</p> <p>If the circumstances were to change, the City would recommend that council request that the Electoral Commissioner postpone the election required to fill the vacant position and consolidate it with the Ordinary Election already scheduled to be held in October 2025 (section 4.16(4) <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>).</p>
Q3	What will be the cost to ratepayers of managing conflict of interest over the next 18 months or so given that any public appearance or utterance of the Lord Mayor will be seen to be seeking to maximise his chances of being elected to State Parliament?
A3	<p>Provided by the Executive Director Governance and Strategy</p> <p>It is the responsibility of each Elected Member to ensure that they manage their conflicts of interest in accordance with the requirements of the role and are governed by the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>.</p>
Q4	Does the training referred to in the annual report on record keeping practices extend to councillors - ie in relation to Councillors correctly keeping, maintaining, and, where applicable, disposing of official government records?
A4	<p>Provided by the General Manager Corporate Services</p> <p>Yes.</p>
Q5	After two years experience with the Community Insurance Grant Scheme it is noted that it is a convoluted process that is difficult for each Neighbourhood group to access - especially the requirement for two quotes. Would it be more cost effective for the City to take out an umbrella or overarching policy to cover insurance for all those City of Perth neighbourhood groups that have been well established?
A5	<p>Provided by the General Manager Community Development</p> <p>At its Ordinary Meeting on 21 December 2021, Council considered options for the establishment of a community group insurance program. S:\OCM 21 December 2021 - Community Group Insurance Support Program.pdf For reasons outlined in the report the reimbursement option was adopted by Council as the preferred method for supporting community groups who met the eligibility criteria.</p>

	<p>Council decided that community groups source at least two quotes so value for money can be shown in use of ratepayer funds.</p>
	<p>Anna Vanderbom – Nedlands (Confirmed Elector)</p>
<p>Q1</p>	<p>Now that the Lord Mayor, Basil Zempilas, has chosen to become a political candidate, our residents are concerned about the likely change of focus which can undermine the neutral role expected of a Lord Mayor. How can the Lord Mayor properly represent the City and its ratepayers over the coming year, given the major distraction of a political campaign which will compromise his role and is likely to involve antagonism rather than cooperation with the state government, as well as fundraising, political advertising and campaigning to attract Churchlands voters?</p>
<p>A1</p>	<p>Provided by Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas</p> <p><i>“I do not accept that it will compromise my role and that it is likely to involve antagonism, I’m not able to accept that. But also, I’m in the very fortunate position of having some very recent role models who have trod down this path that I am treading. I think of people such as Mayor John Carey, who was the Mayor of Vincent when he became the Labor candidate when there was a Liberal Government and stayed in his role as the Mayor of Vincent until such time that the election was called. Also very recent, Mayor Brad Pettitt of Fremantle, he was the Greens candidate contesting against a Labor Government, and he too stayed in the role of Mayor of Fremantle until such time as the election was called. And very recently at our last Federal Election, Mayor Tracey Roberts was the Labor candidate for the Federal Election, at the time a Liberal Federal Government. She was also interestingly the WALGA President and the ALGA (Australian Local Government Association) Vice President, yet managed to fulfil her commitments in all of these roles.</i></p> <p><i>It is of course mine, and everybody else’s democratic right to run for office. Indeed it is something that we promote in our community. Unfortunately I don’t have the financial capabilities of resigning from all of my roles. If I did, perhaps I’d be setting an example for some other people to follow in that path and do it that way. But as Mayor John Carey did, Mayor Brad Pettit did and Mayor Tracey Roberts in recent times have done, and indicated can work, they stayed as Mayors and managed their responsibilities as best they could, and I’m very comfortable that I will be able to do the same.</i></p> <p><i>The last thing I’ll say is I’ve made absolutely no secret over the three and a half years that I have been the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, that my first obligation is for fierce advocacy on behalf of the City of Perth and its ratepayers. That was put to the test at our most recent election and I was absolutely thrilled and delighted to be returned with double the votes that I recorded when first elected as Lord Mayor. I took that to mean that the ratepayers of the City of Perth were very pleased with my advocacy on their behalf. It will continue until the election in March of 2025. If I am unsuccessful in pre-selection, in two months all of this could be over. If I am successful in March of 2025, I may or may not be elected. If I am not elected, I will continue on as Lord Mayor of the City of Perth and it will be my great privilege and pleasure to do so.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for the question, but I am very comfortable that I will be able to continue to fulfill my role as the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, and the Lord Mayor that our ratepayers have become accustomed to.”</i></p>

Q2	How much will it cost the City of Perth and hence the ratepayers to stage a Mayoral bi-election if one needs to be held
A2	Provided by the Executive Director Governance and Strategy
	In this scenario, It is likely that Council, in order to avoid the cost to ratepayers of an extraordinary election and given the proximity of the Ordinary Election scheduled to be held within 7 months, would request that the Electoral Commissioner postpone the election required to fill the vacant position and consolidate it with the Ordinary Election already scheduled to be held in October 2025 (section 4.16(4) <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>).

Anna Vanderbom asked the following question on behalf of James Williams, who could not be in attendance.

	James Williams – Nedlands (Confirmed Elector)
Q1	Does the City of Perth envisage any changes to the City of Subiaco Town Planning Scheme no. 4 when incorporating it into the City of Perth’s planning scheme? In particular, does the City of Perth envisage any changes to the current R code designations?
A1	Provided by the General Manager Planning and Economic Development
	The City will not be proposing changes through the new Local Planning Scheme No. 3 that is currently being prepared.
	Any changes to the current Subiaco scheme will be identified through the process of preparing the UWA – QEII Precinct Plan for the area.
	The City of Perth, with the City of Nedlands and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage are currently preparing the UWA QEII Precinct Plan. Preparation of this plan is a requirement of the Western Australian Planning Commission, who identify the area as a Specialised Centre. Specialised Centres focus on regionally significant economic and institutional activities, such as knowledge-based health and tertiary education precincts.
	The Precinct Plan will identify appropriate land uses and development intensity of the land, including the appropriate residential densities and design guidelines for the precinct.
	There will be community engagement as part of the preparation of the Precinct Plan and once a draft has been prepared this will be released for community comment.
	David Lim – Crawley (Confirmed Elector)
Q1	Would the City consider exploring the possibility of streamlining the process and saving costs by taking out blanket public liability insurance to cover the needs of all of its neighbourhood groups?
A1	Provided by the General Manager Community Development
	At its Ordinary Meeting on 21 December 2021, Council considered options for establishment of a community group insurance program. Administering insurance on behalf of neighbourhood groups was not recommended for a range of reasons outlined in the report, and the chosen model was City funded through reimbursement of eligible costs, rather than the City determining and providing insurance. This enables groups to assess their own insurance coverage needs and administer claims directly.

6. Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:41pm.