



City of **Perth**

Notes

Agenda Briefing Session
20 February 2024

Approved for release
Michelle Reynolds
Chief Executive Officer
23 February 2024

Information

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1. Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the Agenda Briefing Session for the City of Perth open at 5.00pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Country/Prayer

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.

3. Attendance

Members in Attendance

Lord Mayor

Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillors

Basil Zempilas

Clyde Bevan

Raj Doshi

Brent Fleeton

David Goncalves

Catherine Lezer

Bruce Reynolds

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Financial Officer

General Manager Community Development

General Manager Infrastructure and Operations

General Manager Commercial Services

General Manager Planning and Economic Development

General Manager Corporate Services

Executive Director Governance and Strategy

Alliance Manager Council Governance and Policy

Audit and Risk Manager

Governance Officer

Michelle Reynolds

Michael Kent

Kylie Johnson

Allan Mason

Steve Holden

Dale Page

Wendy Attenborough

Peta Mabbs

Charlie Clarke

Natasha Balderston

Anne-Marie Bartlett

Public Gallery

There were approximately 37 members of the public in the gallery.

3.1 Apologies

Councillor Viktor Ko

Councillor Liam Gobbert

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil.

3.3 Applications for Leave of Absence

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

4. Announcements by the Lord Mayor

4.1 Queens Gardens Carpark

The Lord Mayor stated that fiercely advocating for what is best for the City's ratepayers, business owners, operators and residents of the City of Perth has been his and the City's chief priority. He expressed that the City is proud of its record in this area.

The Lord Mayor advised that the Council is united in seeking a fair deal on behalf of its ratepayers for the Queens Gardens Carpark, valued at \$40M.

The Lord Mayor informed the meeting that State Government had proposed no financial compensation and no land swap. He stated that the Education Minister wrote to him on 21 November 2023 stating that "the State's offer is to purchase those two parcels of land at fair market valuation." The Lord Mayor advised that the valuation of \$40M was the State Government's, not the City's.

The Lord Mayor stated that the City is in favour of a primary school in East Perth and that it would benefit the community.

4.2 Safe Night Space for Women

The Lord Mayor advised that tonight the Council would consider the proposed Safe Night Space for Women and urged Council to approach the item in a measured and balanced way. He advised that what Council would be discussing is a planning decision and expressed that Council should take that into consideration.

The Lord Mayor reminded the meeting that when the City of Perth first identified that the Safe Night Space for Women, operated by RUAH at its location at the Rod Evans Centre, was likely to come to an end, the City went to great lengths to put that on people's radars early so that due consideration could be given to make suitable alternative arrangements.

The Lord Mayor outlined the timeline of events leading up to the closure of the Safe Nights Space at the Rod Evans Centre.

The Lord Mayor advised that he wrote to the Homelessness Minister John Carey on 5 September 2022. The letter stated, *“I’m writing to advise that the City of Perth Council has re-affirmed our commitment to address homelessness by endorsing the City of Perth Homelessness Action Plan 2022-24. A key action of the plan is continuing the Safe Night Space for Women until May 2023. The Safe Night Space has proven successful in keeping women experiencing homelessness safe throughout the night and providing temporary respite from the dangers of sleeping rough.”* He quoted some figures. *“On 3700 occasions support has been provided through the City of Perth Safe Night Space, which opened its doors in May 2021.”* The Lord Mayor quoted the final paragraph in his letter to the Homelessness Minister, *“I’m seeking an opportunity to discuss the future of this valuable service given Council’s funding commitment is only until May of 2023. Please contact my office to arrange a time to meet.”*

The Lord Mayor advised that Minister Carey responded, and that they met in November of 2022 at the City of Perth Committee meeting, with the Deputy Lord Mayor, CEO, Premier, Deputy Premier, Senior Ministers and Senior Staff. He advised that he asked the then Premier, Mark McGowan to consider the future funding of the Safe Night Space, given the City’s funding for the two year commitment was due to come to an end in the next May.

The Lord Mayor read from the briefing note that was presented to that meeting. He advised that it talked about the background of the Safe Night Space for Women and how the City had responded to the identified lack of inner city emergency accommodation for women, and the City of Perth initiated a Safe Night Space for women at the Rod Evans Centre in East Perth. He stated that Council had committed to a two-year trial for the Safe Night Space, included funding of \$3.2M, and engaged RUAH to run the service seven days a week.

The Lord Mayor then read, *“The Lord Mayor and the CEO met with Minister John Carey MLA on the 13th of October 2022 to discuss the future of the Safe Night Space for Women. The City has proposed that the operation of the Safe Night Space after May 2023 is funded by the State Government.”*

The Lord Mayor stated that he said in November 2022, to the Premier, Senior Ministers and Senior Staff in the room, *“With Council’s support, the City could provide State Government with the Rod Evans Centre for this purpose until Common Ground is built.”* He advised that this was the proposal that the City took forward in November 2022, and that they concluded with a recommendation, *“The City of Perth requests that State Government fund the future use of the Rod Evans Centre as a site for the Department for Communities to operate a Safe Night Space for Women experiencing homelessness when the current funding ceases in May of 2023. Pending Council’s support, the City of Perth proposes to provide the facility from May of 2023 up until the East Perth Common Ground facility is up and operational, currently estimated to be 2025.”*

The Lord Mayor advised that what was put to State Government at the time was rejected and some months later in 2023, the decision was taken as per what was always stated, that the two-year funded trial by the City of Perth Safe Night Space to close but with a six month extension to give everybody enough time to make suitable alternative arrangements.

The Lord Mayor expressed that he felt that on behalf of the City of Perth, it’s important to reiterate those points because he felt that the issue of how much notice and how much detail was given had been lost in some of the conversations around the Safe Night Space.

The Lord Mayor stated that after the six month extension, the Safe Night Space closed in November of 2023 at the Rod Evans Centre. He stated that the reason for mentioning that closure is because the City had given an undertaking to return that facility to the community, as per the request of the community.

The Lord Mayor provided some details in the period prior to the closure of the Safe Night Space. He advised that from the 1st of October to the 30th of November, there were 24 incidents reported to the City of Perth and to Police; 1 assault, 1 damage, 11 disorderly reports or incidents, 5 that related to homelessness, 1 offender (unstipulated what the offence was), 1 requiring police action, 3 that were categorised as suspicious behaviour and 1 welfare check. He then stated that in the two months that followed the closure of the Safe Night Space, there was 1 incident reported, a burglary.

The Lord Mayor reiterated that when the City had decided to close the Safe Night Space for Women, it was doing that on behalf of the community, who had made it clear that that was what they wanted.

The Lord Mayor listed the groups that have booked the Rod Evans Centre since the closure of the Safe Night Space on 30 November 2023 and the reopening of the centre on Monday 5 February 2024:

- The Agua Dance Group
- The Balcatta and Salsa Dance Group
- The Lavibra Dance School
- Arts bookings from the Perth Improvised Theatre Group
- NAB Family Entertainment Theatre Group
- The Von Trapp Family Singers
- The West Australian Society of Magicians
- The City Baptist Church
- The East Perth Community Group
- The Voice of Hope
- The Australian Inclusion Group
- Laura Fields, local writer, conducting a workshop
- WA Foundation for Deaf Children
- Science, Technology Education and Maths, their STEM programs and team program
- Brainwaves Education, their school holidays program
- AGM for residents of 175 Hay Street
- The Rocky Horror Picture Show with movie and activities
- School disco booking
- Tax clinics being run by Curtin University

The Lord Mayor stated that when the City said that the Rod Evans Centre was going to be returned to community, to be used by community as per their request, that this was evidence that the City had done what it had said it was going to do.

5. Disclosures of Interests

Name	Councillor David Goncalves
Item number and title	11.1 247-249 James Street, Northbridge - Proposed Temporary Safe Night Space for Women ('Community Centre') (DA-2023/5406)
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'Elsie Blay, an employee of Ruah, is known to me through their prior advocacy work.'</i>

Name	Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan
Item number and title	11.3 Final Adoption of Amendment No. 51 to City Planning Scheme No. 2 (Additional Use)
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I was a tenant in the above property for 22½ years from 1997-2020.'</i>

Name	Councillor Brent Fleeton
Item number and title	11.3 Final Adoption of Amendment No. 51 to City Planning Scheme No. 2 (Additional Use)
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I have met Lachlan on several occasions to discuss property in Perth. Not a client relationship.'</i>

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	12.3 Review of Policy 2.11 - Heritage Rate Concession and Heritage Adaptive Reuse Grant Scheme and 12.4 Council Report - Heritage Conservation Grant Program 2023/24
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I am a Councillor on Heritage Council WA'</i>

Name	Councillor Bruce Reynolds
Item number and title	12.3 Review of Policy 2.11 - Heritage Rate Concession and Heritage Adaptive Reuse Grant Scheme and 12.4 Council Report - Heritage Conservation Grant Program 2023/24
Nature of interest	Direct Financial and Proximity
Interest description	<i>"Sole Director/Beneficiary of Pty Ltd company that owns Heritage Listed Property. Item before Council relates to a decision required around rate concession for heritage property within City.'</i>

Name	Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan
Item number and title	12.4 Council Report - Heritage Conservation Grant Program 2023/24
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I have known Mr Litis since 1998 when I purchased sound equipment from Jourich Hi-Fi in Murray Street, Perth.'</i>

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	12.4 Council Report - Heritage Conservation Grant Program 2023/24
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I am a Councillor on Heritage Council WA'</i>

Name	Councillor Brent Fleeton
Item number and title	12.4 Council Report - Heritage Conservation Grant Program 2023/24
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I have met the Strata Committee several times over my two terms to discuss various matters about the CBD – but not this application.'</i>

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	19.1 Appointment of an Independent consultant - CEO performance review 2023/24
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>'I am a Board Director of Strata Community Association WA, Anthony Quahe is a member of the association'</i>

6. Public Participation

6.1 Public Questions

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

6.2 Deputations

6.2.1 Pixie Elzen from SP 31353 who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.

6.2.2 Daniel Gleeson from 228 James Street who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.

5:50pm *The General Manager Planning and Economic Development left the meeting during Item 6.2.3, and returned at 5.52pm.*

5:54pm *The Audit and Risk Manager left the meeting during Item 6.2.3, and returned at 5.56pm.*

6:12pm *Councillor Brent Fleeton left the meeting during Item 6.2.3.*

- 6.2.3 Debra Zanella and Elsie Blay from RUAH who spoke FOR the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.

6.17pm *Councillor Brent Fleeton returned to the meeting during Item 6.2.4.*

- 6.2.4 Martin Flint from Flint Legal who spoke FOR the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.
- 6.2.5 Sasha Barac from Strata Company SP31353 who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.
- 6.2.6 Sarah Smith and Clarke Calvert who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.
- 6.2.7 Jackie McKay who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.
- 6.2.8 Cornel Levison from Panorama Luxury Apartments who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.

7.00pm *The General Manager Corporate Services left the meeting during Item 6.2.9.*

- 6.2.9 Neill Alexandre from Panorama Luxury Apartments who spoke AGAINST the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.1.

7.03pm *The General Manager Corporate Services returned to the meeting during Item 6.2.10.*

- 6.2.10 Peter Simpson and Derek Toh from PTS Town Planning Pty Ltd and Grand Hotel Management Pty Ltd who spoke FOR the Officer's Recommendation in Item 11.3.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

8. Questions by Members which due Notice has been Given

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

9. Correspondence

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

10. Petitions

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

Reports

A series of questions were raised by elected members which were responded to prior to the Agenda Briefing Session. A summary of the responses will be included under 'Further Information' located at the end of each report in the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

The audio recording of this Agenda Briefing Session is available on the City's website.

11. Planning and Economic Development Alliance Reports

Councillor David Goncalves disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 11.1.

7.26pm *The Chief Executive Officer left the meeting during Item 11.1, and returned at 7.28pm.*

7.32pm *The Chief Financial Officer left the meeting during Item 11.1, and returned at 7.35pm.*

11.1 247-249 James Street, Northbridge - Proposed Temporary Safe Night Space for Women ('Community Centre') (DA-2023/5406)

11.2 Final Adoption of Amendment No. 50 to City Planning Scheme No. 2 (New Special Control Area)

Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 11.3.

Councillor Brent Fleeton disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 11.3.

11.3 Final Adoption of Amendment No. 51 to City Planning Scheme No. 2 (Additional Use)

11.4 International Relationships - Potential New Relationship with India

12. Community Development Alliance Reports

12.1 Commemorative Works Proposal - CWA Centenary Plaque

12.2 Review of Council Policy 4.3 Outgoing Sponsorship and Grants

Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.3

7.48pm *Councillor Bruce Reynolds disclosed a Direct Financial and Proximity Interest in Item 12.3 and departed the meeting accordingly.*

12.3 Review of Policy 2.11 - Heritage Rate Concession and Heritage Adaptive Reuse Grant Scheme

Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.4.

Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.4

Councillor Brent Fleeton disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.4.

7.49pm *The General Manager Infrastructure and Operations left the meeting prior to Item 12.4.*

7.49pm *The General Manager Infrastructure and Operations returned to the meeting during Item 12.4.*

12.4 Council Report - Heritage Conservation Grant Program 2023/24

13. Infrastructure and Operations Alliance Reports

Nil.

14. Commercial Services Alliance Reports

Nil.

15. Corporate Services Reports

15.1 Monthly Financial Statements - November 2023

15.2 Schedule of Accounts Paid - November 2023

15.3 Monthly Financial Statements - December 2023

15.4 Schedule of Accounts Paid - December 2023

15.5 Mid-Year Statutory Budget Review

15.6 Special Budget Review - Reserves

15.7 Corporate Business Plan Quarterly Progress Report 2 - October-December 2023

16. Chief Executive Officer Reports

7.52pm *The General Manager Infrastructure and Operations left the meeting during Item 16.1, and returned at 7.52pm.*

7.55pm *Councillor Bruce Reynolds returned to the meeting during Item 16.1.*

16.1 Review of Council Policies relating to Elected Members

16.2 City of Perth Inquiry Recommendations - Quarterly Progress Update - Q2 2023/24 (1 October - 31 December 2023)

16.3 Appointment of an alternate member to attend the Mindarie Regional Council meeting on 29 February 2024

17. Committee Reports

17.1 Internal Audit Report - Compliance Audit Return 2023

17.2 Review of the Independent Committee Members Policy and Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference

17.3 Changes to CEOPR Committee meeting dates

18. Motions of which Previous Notice has been Given

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

19. Matters for which the meeting may be closed

In accordance with Section 5.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1995, the following Item and its attachments are confidential.

Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an Impartiality Interest in Item 19.1.

19.1 Appointment of an Independent consultant - CEO performance review 2023/24

20. Urgent Business

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

21. Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.