

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL**Held in Council Chambers, 105 Tainui Street, Greymouth****on Tuesday 9 April 2024 commencing at 2.00pm**

PRESENT: Mayor Tania Gibson (Chair)
Councillor Allan Gibson (Deputy Mayor), Councillor John Canning, Councillor Peter Davy, Councillor Rex MacDonald, Councillor Robert Mallinson, Councillor Jack O'Connor, Kaiwhakahaere Francois Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Pretorius (Acting Chief Executive), Aaron Haymes (Group Manager Operations), Gerhard Roux (Group Manager Support), Neil Englebrecht (Finance Manager), Gemma Trezise (People & capabilities Business Partner), Kurtis Perrin-Smith (Utilities Infrastructure Manager), Emma Topp (Business & Contracts Manager), Paddy Blanchfield (Transport & Infrastructure Manager), Shannon Beynon (Communication & Engagement Manager), Trish Jellyman (Democracy Advisor)

1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION **SCM 24/04/038**

Moved: **Mayor Tania Gibson**

Seconded: **Cr Allan Gibson**

That the apology received from Cr Tim Mora be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Carried Unanimously

Her Worship stated that as there are commercially sensitive items that affect the decision on the Proposed Annual Plan therefore the meeting will move into Committee first and will then move back into open. She advised those watching the meeting online that the live stream will resume in around an hour's time.

RESOLUTION **SCM 24/04/039**

Moved: **Mayor Tania Gibson**

Seconded: **Cr Allan Gibson**

That the public is excluded from this part of the meeting in relation to item 5.1.

Carried Unanimously

1.2 UPDATES TO THE INTERESTS REGISTER

There were no updates to the Interest Register.

1.3 IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS IN THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

2 LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

3 AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting moved back into public at 3.10pm

NEW LIBRARY: COUNCIL COMMITMENT

Her Worship stated that while Council was In Committee a decision was made on the new library which contains sensitive commercial information which now needs to be ratified in public and the outcome of that decision publicly released.

Her Worship stated that the new library is an intergenerational facility and is a project that Council has been working on for some time to provide better services to the already popular library service. She stated that it will be done as a joint venture with DWC, who have made this possible, with commercial rental spaces and land from DWC contributing to the project. She acknowledged that this is a huge project for Council to take on but stated that the rating impact will be minimal. Her Worship acknowledged the previous public consultation through the LTP on the new library project. She stated that libraries are not what they used to be and the new library will be a community social hub and will retain the same services. There will be further consultation on the new library governance model.

The GMS explained the rating impact and advised that the building of the new library will be done with a loan that Council will be taking up in stages from the end of this financial year. This will result in an asset for Council of which the loans are contributing to and are included in the enhanced Annual Plan. He confirmed that there is no negligible rating impact and this will form part of the new LTP.

RESOLUTION SCM 24/04/040

Moved: Mayor Tania Gibson

Seconded: Cr Allan Gibson

That.

- Council confirms its decision as signalled in the Long Term Plan to construct a new Library,
- Council will do so in partnership with Development West Coast with the building to be constructed also providing for commercial floor space. Council's contribution to the project will be maximum \$11.0 M. Full public consultation on the Joint Venture model outlining the GDC/DWC partnership will be taking place soon. The outcome of such consultation may change the make-up of the legal entity to be created to own and manage the proposed new building.

Carried Unanimously

3.1 ANNUAL PLAN 2024/25

Refer page 7 of the agenda.

The Acting CE spoke to this report and advised that the Annual Plan (AP) process started six weeks late and that he had been very concerned that Council would not meet the deadline of 30 June. He stated that all staff present at the meeting contributed hugely to the AP, and thanked all involved. He made special mention of the FM, and stated that this is a major achievement with a quality document now in place. He apologised that this lateness also transferred to Council and that there for instance was no time to workshop this matter with Councillors. He stated that there is more information in the AP than what Council is used to albeit some of it was distributed to Council late. The Acting CE stated that he is immensely proud of the staff effort.

Her Worship concurred with this and stated that the Acting CE and staff have worked very hard. She thanked all staff for their hard work.

Her Worship noted that Councils around the country have had a tough time with media reports about rate increases. She stated that this is not sustainable in the future as rate rises around the country are averaging at least 15% with some rate rises are over 25%. She pointed to significant cost increases across the board and stated that tough decisions will need to be made in future plans. She stated that a rate increase of 13.65% has not been done before and she is also struggling with this, and stated that this is not an easy time for everyone.

Cr Gibson thanked staff and stated that he is worried about people on the street as some of the rate rises are \$300 - \$400 a year. Her Worship stated that there are still some exciting opportunities coming to the West Coast but these will come with costs. She spoke of the need to continue to work with the government on economic development issues. Cr Kennedy stated she is pleased to see a focus on the reducing the use of consultants. She feels after reading through the AP, this is money well spent.

Cr Mallinson also expressed his thanks to key staff and is fully confident that any report parameter issues will be resolved. Cr O'Connor agreed and spoke of the pressure staff have been under. He noted that constituents are going to face hard times but Council has now gone back to its bread and butter.

Her Worship spoke of the initial indications of a 22% rate increase for roading alone, and in order to keep current service levels in place and to incorporate everything including roading down to 13.5 % is a good result even though there has been cuts in a lot of areas.

RESOLUTION SCM 24/04/041

Moved: Mayor Tania Gibson

Seconded: Cr John Canning

That Council:

1. Receives the report noting that important aspects are still to be completed.
2. Notes the absolute urgency involved based on the project timeline.
3. Approves and adopts for consultation the proposed Plan and associated information in this report including:
 - (1) 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan
 - (2) Fees and Charges
4. Approves and adopts for consultation the Draft 2024/25 Consultation Document as per attachment 3.
5. Authorises the Group Manager Support and Acting Chief Executive to make any non-material changes to the report and summary Annual Plan for the purposes of consultation.
6. Confirms the proposed consultation approach for the Draft Annual Plan 2024/25

Carried Unanimously

4 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Nil.

5 IN COMMITTEE ITEMS

That the public is excluded from this part of the meeting in relation to:

Agenda item(s) 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

RESOLUTION SCM 24/04/042

Moved: Mayor Tania Gibson

Seconded: Cr Allan Gibson

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
5.1 - NEW LIBRARY: COUNCIL COMMITMENT	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
5.2 - LIBRARY PROJECT: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER A JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT AS A PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP TRIGGERING THE COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION PROVISIONS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
5.3 - LIBRARY: USE OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS IN CONSTRUCTING A NEW LIBRARY	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

Carried Unanimously

6 COUNCIL RESUMES IN OPEN MEETING

CLOSURE OR RATIFICATION OF DECISIONS IN OPEN MEETING.

The meeting concluded at 3.24 pm.

Confirmed

T Gibson

Chairperson

_____/_____/_____

Date