



City of **Perth**

Minutes

Annual General Meeting of Electors'

9 February 2021

Approved for release

Michelle Reynolds

Chief Executive Officer

12 February 2021

Minutes to be confirmed at the next Ordinary Council Meeting

These minutes are hereby certified as confirmed.

Presiding member's signature _____

Date _____

Electors' General Meeting procedure

Regulation 18 states that the procedure to be followed at a general meeting of electors' is to be determined by the Presiding Person at the meeting. In accordance with clause 5.30 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Act), the Lord Mayor is to preside at the electors' meetings, and has determined the procedure to be followed as below:

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 audiovisual 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. 2019-20 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 www.cityofperth.wa.gov.au
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.

Order of Business

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

The Lord Mayor declared the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Electors' for the City of Perth open at 5:00pm.

Acknowledgement of Country

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Whadjuk (Whad-juk) 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.

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.

Attendance

Elected Members

Lord Mayor	Basil Zempilas (Presiding Member)
Deputy Lord Mayor	Sandy Anghie
Councillors	Di Bain
	Clyde Bevan
	Liam Gobbert
	Viktor Ko
	Catherine Lezer

Officers in attendance

Chief Executive Officer	Michelle Reynolds
General Manager Corporate Services	Bill Parker
General Manager Planning and Economic Development	Jayson Miragliotta
General Manager Community Development	Anne Banks-McAllister
Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Operations	Mike Foley
Project Director Strategic Finance (CFO)	Michael Kent
Alliance Manager Governance	Danielle Uniza
Governance Coordinator	Mieke Wevers
Governance Officer	Sarah Hingston

Public

There were eight members of the public in attendance.

2. Lord Mayor's Message

To our guests, thank you for attending our AGM. Please note you can find a copy of the City's 2019-20 on the website and I invite you all to read it.

As you know this meeting reports on the 2019-20 financial year, when the City was under the management of Commissioners. I would like to take this moment to thank the Commissioners for their commitment to the City of Perth during this time.

Tonight, will involve a few formalities including the receipt of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, followed by General Business, where members of the public are invited to ask questions from the floor, move motions or provide comments on the activities of the City.

The procedure for this meeting, including procedures on asking questions, moving motions and voting, is as outlined within the agenda.

For the City of Perth, the 2019-20 financial year has been a year of transformation.

The City of Perth started out focussing on service delivery and restoring the City as a benchmark for local government, then it rapidly responded in an unprecedented way to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A three-year plan focussed on significant organisational recovery was adopted early in the financial year to return good governance to the City of Perth.

Then in the wake of a pandemic, the Relief and Rebound Plan adopted by the Commissioners responded to the changing needs of the community with initiatives like free and discounted parking, expanded outreach services and SafeCity patrols, accelerated capital works projects and the launch of the City of Perth Community Careline.

At the final Council Meeting of the financial year, Commissioners adopted the Economic Rebound Strategy – a 12-month, \$18 million package to provide immediate and long-term support for businesses, residents and the wider community.

The 2019-20 financial year was also the year the City of Perth Inquiry concluded with the final hearing on June 30. The City is now focussed on implementing those Inquiry recommendations.

Of course, we now have a new team of elected members — including myself — and a new CEO. All are enthusiastic and already actively leading the City of Perth through this current financial year.

3. 2019/20 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditor's Report

Michelle Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer

The City of Perth demonstrated strong community leadership in the last financial year, showing it to be responsive, supportive and professional. This annual report reflects on a period when we had Commissioners. We now have Elected Members, including of course the Lord Mayor, and myself as the CEO.

The 2019-20 financial year include the adoption of the Economic Rebound Strategy, the Corporate Business Plan, the Strategic Community Plan and the appointment of an entirely new Executive Leadership Team. The City continued to lead with strong projects and initiatives focused on responding to homelessness within the City's boundaries, including the launch of the Accreditation of Homeless Services in the Public Realm as a 12-month trial. Various temporary parking trials took place in the 2019-20 financial year to offer greater flexibility and encourage shoppers and visitors to high street areas – some of you may have enjoyed the free parking carried over to the recent long weekend and public holiday last month.

In 2019, the Commissioners approved an additional \$1.435 million towards an expanded Christmas and New Year Retail Activation Campaign. This resulted in 4.3 million people visiting the CBD — up 2.5 million from 2018 — with an estimated \$81.3 million economic impact and 63 per cent of traders indicating an improvement in business.

Throughout 2019-20, the City continued to improve access, information and awareness of the needs of people with disability and their families. The City's Reconciliation Action Plan continued to see close relationship with the City of Perth Elders Advisory Group, which culminated in an exhibition of Elders portraits to express the City's gratitude for their valuable insight into the RAP. Of course, the City continued to offer a suite of grants and sponsorship programs to help deliver on the community's aspirations as outlined in the Strategic Community Plan.

Many were affected due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and events that were approved for funding but cancelled or postponed as a result of COVID-19 have been noted in this Annual Report.

It was a challenging year but a year that saw the City of Perth responding to the needs of the community whether it be through City's increased cleaning regimes and SafeCity patrols or business support and activations.

Mike Kent, Project Director Strategic Finance

The City received an unqualified Audit Report for 2019-20. The 2019-20 Annual Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report. 2019-20 was a very challenging financial year for the City with the March to June period heavily impacted by COVID-19.

- Revenue for the year was \$191.3M - down 7.7% from the budget of \$207.3M.
- The financial impact of COVID-19 on the City was \$15.3M - of which \$13.8M was lost parking revenue.
- Operating expenses were \$194.0M against a budget \$203.5M. This was a direct result of reducing staff numbers to a more sustainable level. Details of the operating costs are shown over the page.

- There were 19,486 rateable properties in the City generating \$98.2M in rates.
- \$28M of capital works projects were completed in 2019/20.
- The City has \$1.2 Billion in total assets.
- Liabilities are \$48.4M of which \$12.5M are provisions for employee leave, \$21M are trade creditors and \$4.5M are borrowings.
- Cash Reserves were \$100M at year end, but these will be drawn down in 2020-21 to support post COVID-19 economic rebound and planned major capital projects.
- Net cash decreased by \$8.7M over the year. This result reflects good financial stewardship given the significant impact of COVID-19.
- Net Assets (what our community assets are worth minus what we owe) remain steady at \$1.2M.
- The key financial ratios either meet or exceed industry benchmarks except for the operating surplus ratio which was adversely impacted by the COVID-19 impact on revenues and the asset sustainability ratio. The asset sustainability ratio has been experiencing a downward trend and this matter has been raised with the City by the auditors and Office of the Auditor General as requiring remedial action by the City.

Overall, the City finished the year in sound financial condition given the challenging economic climate.

4. General Business

4.1 Public Questions

Brian Langenberg

Q Given the potential sale of much of the "A Class" Subi East Reserve by the State Government to property developers, what would the policy and response of City of Perth be to UWA, property developers or the State Government of a proposal to build further structures along Matilda Bay, given this is also "A Class" reserve and an area set aside solely for public recreation?

A The General Manager Planning and Economic Development advised that the City recognises the importance of the Matilda Bay foreshore to the community as a place to relax, recreate and enjoy. The expectation is that the land will continue to be used for this purpose into the future.

Melissa Northcott

Q1 Will the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) look at providing an allocation of funds to disability service organisations to distribute to customers/clients/families that were affected by the recent fires or allow carers of people with disability to apply for funds? This regardless of if people with disability are participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

A1 The General Manager Community Development advised that 100 per cent of all donations received from Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire 2021 Appeal will go directly to individuals who have lost their homes and other property as a result of the fires.

Criteria and categories will be developed in consultation with the affected local government authorities and the State Recovery Coordinator.

It is important to acknowledge in some areas damage assessments have not been completed and impact assessments are still pending.

Q2 Given the City of Perth's investment into homelessness and the attraction of using existing buildings for transformation for homelessness, will there be a location that will be fully Disability and aged friendly/ mobility accessible for any homeless that are aged, disability, mobility restricted, mental health disability?

I see in media, using the former St John ambulance heritage listed/YMCA building in Wellington Street as an option. Hence, accessibility features and needs, for all/ any locations chosen or developed for homeless accommodation.

A2 The General Manager Community Development advised that all buildings will be compliant to meet the needs of people with disability. The proposed use of the old YHA building on Wellington Street is a proposed project of the State Government, but they would be required to ensure any building meets the needs of people with a disability.

Q3 Are you as a new Elected Member body and CEO aware that alongside the City of Perth Disability Access Inclusion Plan, aware of or had an opportunity to read the State Disability Strategy 2020-30 (State Government document and action plan) for reading as an informative document to understand and assist with decision making for when doing/ reviewing (and listing as a reference document) the City's Strategic Community Plan/ Long Term Financial Plan?

A3 The General Manager Community Development advised that the City responds to community needs and expectations and delivers on its role as a local government as directed by Federal and State Government Strategies.

A function of all local governments is to develop and implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs), which is a legislative requirement of the *Disability Services Act 1993 WA*. The DAIPs developed and implemented by a local government identify barriers to access for people with disability in the local community, and include strategies and activities aimed at ensuring their communities are accessible and inclusive for people with disability. Our DAIP responds to the State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and expectations of local governments.

John Boxall

Q What progress, if any, has been made regarding the issue of parking in our own driveway? This issue has been raised at the AGMs in 2019 and 2020.

A The Acting General Manager, Infrastructure and Operations took the question on notice

Councillor Fleeton advised that the City is reviewing the Policy in relation to parking, and if Council agrees, it will allow the Local Law amendment.

Councillor Bain advised that she concurred with Councillor Fleeton and added that it was a topical item during the election campaign and is being addressed.

The CEO advised that the review is in its deliberative stages, then will go to the Policy Committee and finally be presented to Council for endorsement.

Brian Langenberg

Q In relation to the City's Parking Policy, will there be any community consultation undertaken as part of the review?

A The CEO responded that if the matter through the Policy process results in a Local Law change, there would be community consultation.

Ashley Chan

Q The parking issue been around since 2015-16, will there be community input before going to Council?

A The CEO responded that through referencing back to comments from Elected Members, your voice is represented through the Council Members and put through to Council meetings. She advised talking Elected Members separate to this meeting to ensure your voice is heard.

Councillor Bain advised that the review of the City of Perth Local Law in relation to parking is being communicated through Facebook and public submissions are due by 19 February 2021.

Resolution

Moved: Brian Langenberg

Seconded: Ashley Chan

That the 2019/20 Annual Report for the City of Perth be ACCEPTED.

CARRIED (4/0)

5. Closure

There being no further business, the Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:31pm.