

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Time: 9.00 am

Location: Council Chambers
82 Brisbane Street
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday, 13 March 2024
Minutes

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1 Opening of Meeting

The Mayor, Cr Greg Christensen, as Chair of the Meeting, declared the Meeting open and acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands of the Scenic Rim Regional Council area. The Mayor paid respect to their elders, past, present and future, and extended congratulations to them on their continued nurturing of their culture.

2 Attendance and the granting of leaves of absence

Cr G R Christensen, Mayor
Cr A J Hay
Cr J J S McConnell, Deputy Mayor
Cr V A West
Cr M J Enright
Cr M J Chalk
Cr D A McInnes OAM

Executive Officers

D Keenan, Chief Executive Officer
J Rutledge, Manager People and Strategy / Acting General Manager People and Strategy
M Lohmann, Manager Regional Development, Health and Biodiversity /
Acting General Manager Customer and Regional Prosperity
C Gray, General Manager Asset and Environmental Sustainability
O Pring, General Manager Council Sustainability

Staff

J Pukallus, Principal Specialist Governance and Assurance
S Keepence, Governance Officer
M Carter, GIS Officer, Information Services and Technology
J Schmidt, Principal Specialist Regional Prosperity / Acting Manager Regional Prosperity
and Communications (Item 11.1)

3 Apologies

Nil

4 Prayers

Fr Ken Spreadborough from St Thomas' Anglican Church attended to offer prayers

5 Public Question Time

Nil

6 Declarations of Prescribed or Declarable Conflict of Interest by Members

Nil

7 Announcements / Mayoral Minutes

Nil

8 Reception of Deputations by Appointment / Presentation of Petitions

Nil

9 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 February 2024, be adopted.

Moved: Cr Greg Christensen

Seconded: Cr Amanda Hay

Carried unanimously

10 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

10.1 Ordinary Meeting Minutes, 28 February 2024, Item 11.10 - Inappropriate Conduct Matter C-23-00238

Cr Greg Christensen:

"In accordance with a particular matter at Item 11.10, I admit to a single conduct breach in accordance with part 2 of resolution for Item 11.10 of Ordinary Meeting 28th of February 2024."

11 Consideration of Business of Meeting

Customer & Regional Prosperity

11.1 The Long Sunset 2024

Executive Officer: Manager Regional Development, Health and Biodiversity /
Acting General Manager Customer and Regional Prosperity

Attachments:

1. QMF Partnering Agreement - February 2024 - Confidential

Recommendation

That:

1. Council approve the Category 2 event sponsorship of \$150,000 with Queensland Music Festival to host The Long Sunset 2024 in accordance with the Regional Events Sponsorship Council Policy and Corporate Procedure, and
2. Council approve the Ancillary expenditure of \$20,000 to fund leveraging initiatives, including a destination led media campaign to raise the profile of the Scenic Rim to increase event visitation and length of stay.

Moved: Cr Jeff McConnell
Seconded: Cr Virginia West

Motion

That:

1. Council approve the Category 2 event sponsorship of \$150,000 with Queensland Music Festival to host The Long Sunset 2024 in accordance with the Regional Events Sponsorship Council Policy and Corporate Procedure, and
2. Council approve the Ancillary expenditure of \$20,000 to fund leveraging initiatives, including a destination led media campaign to raise the profile of the Scenic Rim to increase event visitation and length of stay.

Carried unanimously

Council Sustainability**11.2 Council Monthly Financial Report for February 2024**

Executive Officer: General Manager Council Sustainability

Attachments:

1. Monthly Financial Report February 2024 
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Recommendation

That Council note the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 29 February 2024 for the Financial Year 2023-2024.

Moved: Cr Michael Enright
Seconded: Cr Duncan McInnes

Motion

That Council note the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 29 February 2024 for the Financial Year 2023-2024.

Carried unanimously

12 Confidential Matters

Nil

13 General Business**13.1 Acknowledgement of Retiring Councillors - Division 3 and Division 4**

Cr Greg Christensen:

"Councillors,

... we have two Councillors who have advised that they aren't contesting this election ... I'd actually like to commence by acknowledging our longest serving Councillor, Councillor Virginia West, who we are farewelling today. She has well and truly served Division 3 and the wider community for the past 20 years.

Councillor West was first elected to the Beaudesert Shire Council in 2004 and has been part of Scenic Rim Regional Council since its inception in 2008 and the decision making that has contributed to the growth of our region since then.

... She has been Scenic Rim's Portfolio Councillor for Active Transport - Roads, Bridges and Paths, Chair of the Scenic Valleys Regional Road Group and a member of the Local Government Association of Queensland Roads and Transport Advisory Group.

Councillor West served as Deputy Mayor from 2012 to 2016, and her roles as President of the Canungra Local Ambulance Committee, a member of the Beaudesert Hospital Consumer Partnership Committee and as a member of the Tamborine Mountain College Board are a testament to her commitment to the local community, and I do know she's had some other memberships that have been slightly more challenging that I can think of with a few community groups in my time, so Councillor well done.

She was recently made a life member of the Canungra Chamber of Commerce in recognition of her support since its establishment in 2011.

While Councillor West is retiring from local government she will no doubt continue to channel her energy and enthusiasm into volunteer roles and other opportunities in the community.

I am sure everyone here in the Chamber and throughout the Council organisation will join me in wishing Councillor West every success for her future endeavours as she begins her next chapter in life.

... I would just like to invite Councillor West to respond before I continue on."

Cr Virginia West:

"Thank you Mayor for those very kind words.

... As has been mentioned, after 20 years as an Elected Member for both Beaudesert Shire Council and the Scenic Rim Regional Council, draws to a close, I want to say what an honour and a privilege it has been to represent such amazing communities and to work alongside residents, so many residents, to achieve the best outcomes for their communities.

Just a little bit of history - In the Beaudesert Shire Council days, my then Division 2 did extend up to Mundoolun Estate, Cedar Creek, Collin's Creek and parts of Jimboomba, and these were all areas that were amalgamated into the Logan City Council in 2008.

Since the inception of the Scenic Rim Regional Council, I have represented not only the residents, all the residents of the Scenic Rim, but more especially the beautiful area surrounded by the Lamington National Park - Beechmont, Canungra, Biddaddaba, Kerry, Christmas Creek, and a portion of Beaudesert and for 10 years Rathdowney was included in Division 3 as well.

Thank you to for the privilege of being able to represent you all and to work together in the ever changing and at times challenging world of local government. This is now part of living in the highly desirable southeast Queensland , a rapidly growing area susceptible to severe weather events which we all know too well. I have been so proud of the way our communities have risen 'like a Phoenix' out of these frequent events.

Thank you also to the Council officers who, over the years, we have worked closely together to achieve positive outcomes for the community and the region - too many to mention but certainly some of them which are very worthy of mention have been new bridges, new playgrounds, upgrades to town centres, ... continued improvements to transport routes and footpath upgrades, a dedicated and firm focus on economic development, tourism, small businesses and agriculture, are just some and of course a sound financial position, which has come with a lot of challenges over the years to all our rate payers. I thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our residents and to the region.

I would like to wish my colleagues around this table, every success in the upcoming elections, knowing that you all have the very best intentions for this beautiful area that we have chosen to live, work and bring up our families in.

To my colleague, Councillor Michael Enright, who is also retiring from Council, I wish you and your family best wishes in your next chapter of life.

So thank you all and what a journey it has been and I can genuinely say that I have enjoyed it and I would recommend it to others who may have an interest in their communities and local government."

Cr Greg Christensen:

"Thank you Councillor. ... I would just now ask you all to join me in turning our attention to Councillor Michael Enright.

Councillor Enright was elected to Scenic Rim Regional Council in 2016 and has worked diligently in the past eight years representing Division 4 as well as the wider Scenic Rim community.

He served as Deputy Mayor for 12 months from May 2021 and as Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group Chair since 2020 until now, becoming the Scenic Rim's Community, Arts and Culture Portfolio Councillor in July 2023.

To support Scenic Rim community events and activities up to and during the Commonwealth Games in 2018, Councillor Enright chaired the Readiness Reference Group and has also served on Council's Regional Arts Development Fund Committee and Tourism Advisory Committee.

Councillor Enright has a long history of community service over some 40 years including the Beaudesert and District Health and Welfare Association and St Mary's Pastoral Council for four years, two as Chairman.

I know he has considered it a privilege to represent the community in which he has lived and raised a family with his wife, Jenny, and he has worked consistently to ensure the best opportunities and outcomes for communities across the Scenic Rim and helping to shape our region for current and future generations.

As Councillor Enright plans to retire and devote more time to his family and travelling with his wife, I wish him all the best for the future and thank him for his contribution to this Chamber."

Cr Michael Enright:

"Thank you Mayor.

It has been an absolute privilege to represent my community, where I grew up, where my wife and I raised our family, and where my previous careers have led me to this most challenging but rewarding role.

My time as Councillor over the last eight years has (mostly) been a wonderful journey. There are too many highlights to cover this morning, however I would like to reflect on a few aspects.

My only motivation as a Councillor has been to provide the best opportunities and outcomes for our communities and the region, and to help shape the future for the benefits of today's and tomorrow's residents.

Some of these outcomes are - Our investment in community infrastructure, through the leveraging of Queensland and Australian Government grant funding to provide improved infrastructure and facilities for our region, at a much-reduced cost to our ratepayers.

This includes the Beaudesert Town Centre Revitalisation Project – the most significant and much needed community infrastructure project for Beaudesert in recent history. This five-stage project will be transformational for our town when the final three stages are completed in the next 12-18 months.

Our ability to handle Disaster Recovery – Perhaps an area that I wish we weren't so experienced in.

Our partnering of our agriculture and tourism industries, our businesses, our Indigenous groups and our community groups – in the tough times as well as the good.

I am continually amazed with the selfless efforts of our community-based organisations, who contribute so much to the social fabric of our community, especially the hundreds of community leaders who give of their time and talents to make our communities a better place.

As I reflect over these two terms, I am very proud of what has been achieved for the division and the region, and honoured to have had the opportunity to witness so many amazing, professional and dedicated Council employees, who have made these achievements possible.

While the Mayor and Councillors set the direction of our Council, it is the Council employees who are charged with the responsibility of delivering the hundreds of projects and programs each year. These Council Officers and staff are the heroes of the organisation. Each day our dedicated workforce, through all levels of the organisation, bring their passion, skills and commitment to deliver amazing outcomes for our community. Thank you!

I would like to especially thank our Councillor Support Officers – Linda, Leah, Dee and Sharyn (in a previous role). Your support, assistance and professionalism have made my role a much easier one. Thank you and it's lovely that you're here!

I would also like to thank our Governance team led by John P. Your guidance and assistance during this term has been above and beyond. Thank you!

Over these two terms I have worked with nine Councillors and one Mayor. I thank all Councillors for their passion and commitment to the region and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

I would like to recognise the leadership of our Mayor Greg Christensen. Under his leadership the region has grown economically, culturally and socially. He has also guided this region through all the declared natural disaster events in the last eight years. Most people would also not be aware of the enormous effort and commitment by the Mayor at the Southeast Queensland, Queensland, Australian and international forums, exploring all opportunities for the benefit of our region. Your energy is amazing!

There is one Councillor who epitomises the role of a Councillor and this of course is Councillor Virginia West. It has been a privilege to work alongside you for part of your 20-year journey. Thank you Virginia and best wishes for your next chapter.

In my very first speech in 2016 following the Declaration of Office, I stated that as we had just acknowledged our First Nations People as custodians of this land, similarly my role as Councillor was a custodian of this division. 'Elders' have gone before me in this role as Councillor and emerging elders will follow in this role. It is time for me to step aside as a 'custodian' and allow the next elder to represent this division.

Thank you to my family and friends who supported me during the 2016 and 2020 elections and over the time in Council.

There are two people in this gallery this morning, that I would like to recognise. My sister Barb who has always looked out for me for our almost 64 years. Thank you Barb!

And my wife Jen, who has been my constant through these eight years (and many more before). Thank you Dear! It's time to begin a new journey and enjoy the time ahead.

Thank you!"

Motion

Cr Greg Christensen proposed a motion of thanks and appreciation for Cr Virginia West and Cr Michael Enright, for their diligent and courageous service to the region.

Moved: Cr Greg Christensen

Seconded: Cr Jeff McConnell

Carried unanimously

On behalf of Council, Cr Greg Christensen presented awards to Cr Virginia West and Cr Michael Enright in recognition of their service.

The Ordinary Meeting ended at 10.01 am.

To be confirmed at a later date, to be advised.

Cr Greg Christensen

Mayor