



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

Held at the Swan Hill Town Hall
McCallum Street, Swan Hill
Commenced at 1pm

COUNCIL:

Cr B Moar – Mayor

Cr A Young
Cr LT McPhee
Cr J Benham
Cr C Jeffery
Cr L Johnson
Cr N McKay

Confirmed 21 July 2020

Chairperson.....

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SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Open**

Mayor, Councillor Bill Moar assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 1pm.

- **Acknowledgement of Country**

Mayor, Councillor Bill Moar read the Acknowledgement of Country.

- **Prayer**

Cr Nicole McKay read the prayer.

- **Apologies**

Nil

Recommendations

That the apologies be accepted.

- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Nil

SECTION B – REPORTS

B.20.41 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS TO PROPOSED 2020/21 BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: S15-06-11
Attachments: Nil

Declarations of Interest:

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider submissions for the Proposed 2020/21 Annual Budget.

Discussion

Council formally received and heard six submissions to the proposed 2020/21 Annual Budget at a Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 July 2020.

The officers responses to the issues raised in the submission is detailed below.

Response to Submission 1 – Nyah Pool Solar Heating

The project in the Proposed Budget is to undertake the investigation of options for heating the pool. Once the investigation has been completed a project will be developed for consideration if there is a viable solution.

Response to Submission 2 – Library books, Aerodrome works

The total replacement value of the Library's collection of books and other materials is approximately \$1.9 million. The proposed expenditure of \$150,000 represents an average useful life per item of 12.5 years. This length of time between replacing items in the collection is considered appropriate given the wear and tear on items that are borrowed many times over.

A draft scope of works at the Swan Hill Aerodrome is being prepared to enable consultation with Aerodrome users to occur. The main focus will be on replacing existing assets that are at the end of their useful lives and potentially providing some additional space to lease to private businesses.

The proposal for an international flight school is no longer relevant.

Response to Submission 3 – Yana Street, Parking

The Yana Street parking project was originally requested by the Specialist School as a way of improving safety for the students and their guardians during school times. It has no relation to the previously proposed flight school.

Council has already completed or budgeted to complete Bus Shelters across Swan Hill. The locations were determined in consultation with bus operators and Public Transport Victoria.

Councils Waste Management Program is operated on a full cost recovery basis which is consistent with good practice and State Government Policy.

Response to Submission 4 – Naretha Street, Swan Hill

It is intended to complete the Naretha Street, Swan Hill roadwork before the end of the calendar year. Where an adjustment to the height of the driveway is required Council will fund the works.

Response to Submission 5 – Roads and Rural Area Funding

The proposed 2020/21 Budget provides \$11.3 million for replacement of existing infrastructure, primarily roads (\$6.0 million). In addition proposed operational and maintenance expenditure on roads is \$3.5 million. The majority of roads expenditure is spent in rural areas.

Significant expenditure has been allocated for the operation or maintenance of other services and facilities outside of the major towns of Swan Hill and Robinvale. This includes community halls, recreation reserves, parks, pre-schools and kerbside collection services.

Through the Vibrant Villages project \$500,000 has been allocated specifically for streetscape upgrades in smaller towns.

Response to Submission 6 – Swan Hill Aerodrome Master Plan

Council manages the Swan Hill and Robinvale Aerodromes in accordance with Civil Aviation Authority (CASA) regulations.

Council has conducted workshops internally and with users of the Swan Hill Aerodrome with the intention of developing a master plan. The workshops identified the need to review and upgrade infrastructure and facilities to ensure the ongoing operation of the aerodrome including aeromedical services and to plan for future aerodrome usage. Further consultation is planned prior to finalising the scope of works to be completed as part of the 2020/21 Proposed Budget. The submission will be considered when finalizing the scope of works.

The Standards Australia Handbook supplied with the submission is not a “Standard” and does not propose an absolute value for when aircraft noise is unacceptable. The Handbook provides guidance a how to prepare information for public use on aircraft noise and it seeks to explain aircraft noise as it is perceived on the ground in an open air environment, not from overhead whilst planes are flying.

Council's aerodromes are located with Airport Environs and Development overlays within Victorian Planning Scheme provisions. This is to ensure that land use and development within the overlays are compatible with the operation of Councils aerodromes and to ensure that owners of properties within the overlays are aware of location and use of the aerodromes.

When speaking in support of the submission some additional points were raised. These points are responded to below:

- a. Model Budget – the Proposed Budget has been prepared in Model Budget format. The descriptions of Capital works are consistent with the Model Budget format and accurately summarize the intended works.
- b. The Budgeted funding ratios between Grants and Council funds were foreshadowed as a Year 2 in the 10 Year Major Projects Plan adopted for the 2019/20 Financial Year. The funding ratios were correct at the time of preparing the Proposed 2020/21 Budget. Since that time increases in the grant funding has been secured. Council regularly budgets for projects on one funding ratio and then is able to secure additional grant funds prior to commencing the particular project.
- c. Confirmed funding for the Aerodrome project is currently \$3,293,028. Council has applied for additional grant funding which may add to this amount.

Consultation

The submission process is part of the consultation process for the budget.

Financial Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct financial impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Social Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct social impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Economic Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct economic impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Environmental Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct environmental impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Risk Management Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct risk management impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Governance and leadership - Positive community engagement through appropriate and constructive consultation.

Options

After considering the submissions Council can choose to adopt or amend the 2020/21 Annual Budget.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Consider the issues raised in the submissions and the officer's response.**
- 2. Having considered the submissions, not make any changes to the Proposed 2020/21 Annual Budget.**
- 3. Write to each submitter thanking them for their submission and outlining Council's response.**

67/20 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council:

- 1. Consider the issues raised in the submissions and the officer's response.**
- 2. Having considered the submissions, not make any changes to the Proposed 2020/21 Annual Budget.**
- 3. Write to each submitter thanking them for their submission and outlining Councils response.**

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED

There being no further business the Mayor, Councillor Bill Moar closed the meeting at 1.06pm.