



## **POST ELECTION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**16 APRIL 2020**

**COMMENCING AT 9:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Cr B Manning (Chairperson)  
Cr R Coghlan  
Cr A Eden  
Cr T James  
Cr B Moller  
Cr M O'Halloran  
Cr B Olds  
Cr R Pyne  
Cr K Vallely  
Cr C Zeiger

#### OFFICERS:

J Andrejic	Chief Executive Officer
R Holmes	Manager Marketing & Communications
P Rogato	Media Coordinator
S Godkin	Minute Secretary

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**DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND CR MANNING ADDRESS**

Cr Manning took the declaration of office.

Today is a significant moment in the life of this city and its people.

On behalf of the team of councillors who sit before me, I acknowledge and accept the enormous trust the community has given us and on behalf of this elected group, I make a commitment to the community that we will not let you down.

Today's meeting signals the beginning of a new phase. While many councillors have been re-elected, we welcome four new faces – Rob Pyne, Amy Eden, Kristy Vallely and Rhonda Coghlan – who will make up one team focussed on the betterment of our entire community. There is no alternative.

I believe the local government election result has sent a clear message that our residents are supportive of the approach we have taken in relation to our financial management over the past eight years, and want a Council that will get on with the job of delivering to the community.

Each of us who have been elected has an overriding responsibility to serve this Council to the very best of our ability – placing that responsibility before any personal or other interest. There is no alternative. This concept is fundamental to everything we do and the manner in which we act.

If we are true to this fundamental principal, then we will have done our best for this region and its people, and we will look back over this term of Council with a great sense of achievement and satisfaction.

If we do anything less than we will have betrayed the trust that has been placed in us by the people. There is no alternative

As we take the oath of office today, the weight of the current crisis is upon us all.

Our community is feeling broken and uncertain about what the future holds and when their lives might return to some sort of normalcy.

This is a solemn time for many who have lost their jobs, witnessed their businesses crumple and who now face an uncertain future for themselves and their families maybe for the rest of their lives. No longer can they take for granted that which was only a couple of months ago assured.

But we can take pride in the way our community has truly surrendered, for the time being, so many of our dearly valued liberties and recreational activities to stop the spread of this dreaded virus.

As the level of government most closely connected to the community and responsible for delivering core services, it is incumbent upon us as the Council to be aware of what is happening from a social and human perspective, and from an economic perspective.

Several weeks ago, we put in place two sub-committees to focus on these areas which will report to a newly-formed Local Leadership Committee – made up of myself, Member

for Cairns Michael Healy and Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch – to ensure that no one is left behind and that we are getting the information we need to appropriately respond.

We must first focus on helping our community to negotiate this jumble, and then we must be ready to respond when the recovery phase begins.

This is not a work site that we can abandon, that we can walk away from, that we can exploit.

Families, young children, the aged, look to us to do our bit and a bit more.

My ask of you, and my promise to you, is that we, together, will not let our city and its people down. There is no alternative.

Few people are given the chance to serve as we have been given during this grave time. Whilst this is a function of time, let none of us be found wanting as we go forward from here.

Having said that, we must turn our attention towards how we will recover well before that time comes and as a Council, we must re-adjust our thinking so we can deliver what this community needs balanced within our financial capacity. There is no alternative.

For the past two terms of Council I have led as Mayor, we have had a largely unified team who have always made decisions based on the betterment of the entire community and for the next four years, this again must be how we go forward.

It is even more critical now that we act as one, provide the community with the confidence they need in their local Council, and co-operate with other levels of government to facilitate the responses and assistance that will be required to turn this around. There is no alternative.

We have proven ourselves to be sound financial managers and over the past eight years, our organisation has demonstrated its ability for fiscal discipline and to think outside the square to get the best outcome for each ratepayer dollar we spend.

This modus operandi will be essential to have the capacity to lead the city out of this virus abyss and support businesses and residents in the recovery phase.

We have always been a resilient bunch in the Far North – we help each other in times of adversity and when the disaster is over, we find a way to get back on our feet again, stronger and more determined.

None of us have ever experienced anything like this in our lifetime, save for some of our older citizens who have likened it to the days of World War 2.

So it's uncharted territory for all of us but it's a journey we will all take together. There is no alternative.

I want to reassure the community and our staff that we will do everything in our power to maintain services and that we have a sound plan for the future.

Council will continue to drive a strong capital works program which will inject money into the local economy and create jobs and we will carry our share of the load, as we all must in such circumstances.

We will get through this challenge we will come out stronger as a community on the other side, and we will get back to business as soon as we can. That is the Australian way.

Personally, I am very proud to be a member of this council with you.

Today should be a happier day for us all; a happier day for this city and its people.

In the immediate future, we must concentrate our efforts on a “reset” and re-establish our targets for the balance of this term and that is a promise to the people of Cairns. There is no alternative.

### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR MOLLER**

Cr Moller took the declaration of office.

Good morning Councillors, staff I hope for all of us and in particular with the new Councillors you really enjoy today. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I would first like to acknowledge and thank the residents of Division 1, for their continued support and trust in re-electing me as their local Divisional Councillor. That support is greatly appreciated and it is an honour and a privilege to serve them and all of the residents of the Cairns Regional Council.

You cannot undertake this role without the love and support of your family and having them be resilient and patient. To my wife Beth and daughters Eden and Keelin, a huge thank you and hugs for all that you do for me in enabling me to put my hand up for public office to serve as a local Councillor. I promise not to be such a ‘cranky bear’ as my teenage daughters sometimes describe me, and rightly so, in this journey we are on together.

I would also like to acknowledge the support I have received from Deirdre and Colin Ford, Dennis and Robyn Quick, the mentoring by former Division 1 Councillors Paul Gregory and Angle Mustafa and the support of their wives Gill and Irene. Deidre Paul and Angle collectively have served many years in local government and their wisdom and insights are invaluable.

Through the campaign and the arduous wait of Qld Electoral Commission, to all members and supporters of the Cairns Unity Team, a big thank you, particularly to Dan McCarthy for his great contribution in time spent and effort. Congratulations to my Unity team mates on your election and to all other Councillors on your election as well. We all now have a job at hand to work together for the greater good to serve the residents of this city and its communities. To all others who have supported me, thank you.

Now more than ever, collaboration and a collegiate approach to decision making by this Council is required in the face of the challenges that present us. Robust and passionate debate and meaningful discussions, lead to informed decisions making good outcomes.

We must respect that process and the democratic decisions that are made and collectively support the outcomes. That is the democratic process.

All my life I have dealt in and respect the trust that I have earned. As a husband and father, as a lawyer with my clients and as a Councillor with the residents I serve and the other Councillors and Council staff and officers that I work with. The respect for this trust and the relationship I have and value with all is what will guide me in delivering to the best of my ability improved outcomes for our city and its residents in the next 4 year term and beyond.

Mr Mayor I am a person that takes people at face value and I take them at their word. When their word is broken, then trust is broken and I have learnt a life lesson. But as I walk away with that life lesson I act with dignity and I behave respectfully. I think that is important.

In my Councillor Facebook page I make a statement in my video:-

With the right to represent people comes responsibility and with responsibility comes accountability. Accountability is an important local government principle. We will all be held accountable as Councillors, as we should.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

#### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR PYNE**

Cr Pyne took the declaration of office.

I would like to acknowledge the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people who are the traditional owners of the area I represent on Council and the traditional owners of the wider Cairns Region as well and pay respects to their elders both past and present. I would like to congratulate the Mayor Bob Manning on his election as Mayor and all the Councillors on their election as well.

My great grandfather James Pyne served on the first ever Cairns Council which was known as the Cairns Division Award and my father was Mayor for many years and the first Mayor of the Cairns Regional Council as it is now based and this is my second stint on Council. So it is an honour to be back here and see so many familiar faces.

In terms of thanks I would like to thank my wife Jenny, my mother Marian, sister Joanne, daughter Catherine and all my supporters who have supported me and continue to support me. It is greatly appreciated and most importantly I would like to thank the electors of Division 2 for putting their confidence in me to represent them on Council and thanks to the electors of Cairns Region as a whole for electing this Council that is being sworn in today. Thank you very much.

#### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR ZEIGER**

Cr Zeiger took the declaration of office.

First off obviously I would like to welcome the Mayor back in and it is wonderful to serve under you again and congratulations to all my Councillors I have worked with and I look

forward to working with everybody. It is an amazing job and I love it dearly.

First off I would like to acknowledge and thank God because without Him I am cannot do what I do.

Whilst that is my personal statement of faith and belief, I acknowledge that we are in unprecedented times where the need to find strength in our personal beliefs, in our family, in our friends is more important than ever.

And speaking of friends I would like to thank all the residents of Division3 those who put their vote of confidence in me, it is incredibly humbling and I feel very very honoured.

For all the phone calls, Facebook posts of encouragement and congratulations to my family and friends, I am incredibly grateful.

Well what can I say, Division 3 is the place to be people, alright a place full of residents of great character and desire for the betterment of their community.

Working with these residents and others, and also groups within our beautiful multi-cultural community is my absolute privilege and joy.

Now as we move forward as a new Council we must focus, we need to be focused we need to look at sustainability and understanding for our community, who are struggling under the conditions imposed upon them by this COVID-19 pandemic.

As the Mayor said, North Queenslanders are tough and resilient; we are going to work through this and get through to the other side and we are going to do it together.

#### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR JAMES**

Cr James took the declaration of office.

Councillors this is a proud moment for me 18 years as a Councillor now. This is the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> year coming up so I see myself as the old boy on the block. It is an honour to be able to represent our City particularly a City in which I was born.

I would also like to particularly thank my family who have put up with me over these years. It has been tough some times.

It is a big job and it is a great challenge to be in this job. So I welcome the new Councillors. I hope you enjoy the job as I do. I would particularly like to thank the residents of Division 4, thank the people of the city who voted for me. It is challenging times as everyone has said and there is a big job in front of us and I think with the new Council, fresh faces I think we have the people in this room to do this task. Thank you very much.

#### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR EDEN**

Cr Eden took the declaration of office.

I would like to acknowledge the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji people who have been here for tens of thousands of years. I acknowledge their cultural heritage, their contribution to our city and their relationship to country

I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and welcome any Elders with us today.

I would like to congratulate Mayor Manning for returning to office and say congratulations to all my fellow councillors. I look forward to working with you.

I am honoured and just a little bit excited to be sitting here today as an elected councillor of this diverse and vibrant city.

It is a privilege with an immense responsibility, and I sincerely thank the constituents of Division 5 for placing their trust and hope in me.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to my fellow Unity Team mates for their support experience and friendship. It has been greatly appreciated. And to my family, friends, supporters and community – it was an absolute team effort and we did it and I am so thankful. Thank you!

Winston Churchill was quoted as saying “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”.

And how that phrase resonates with me, and with Churchill's words in mind, I sincerely declare to commit myself to serving and giving to the people of Division 5 with energy, pride and integrity.

When Mayor Manning asked me to consider running for Council I felt compelled to seize the opportunity; that is, the opportunity to extend my value of 'working with community in community' for the greater betterment.

I'd also like to briefly acknowledge the current challenge that the COVID-9 epidemic has placed on us here in Cairns and in cities everywhere.

It is imperative in these uncertain times that Council provides a foundation of hope and certainty.

Hope through inclusive leadership that enhances our city's wellbeing and supports meaningful community engagement. And certainty through the continuation of essential services, the good working order of our city and response to and recovery from COVID-19.

And all while we maintain and understand that our decisions today must serve us for tomorrow, and that we must at the same time and all together look forward.

Friends, small potential is the limited success we achieve alone, big potential, big potential is the unlimited success we achieve when we work together.

Teamwork really does make the dream work and I believe that Council is best placed when we actively partner with the community and I very much look forward to working with you. Thank you.

**DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR VALLELY**

Cr Vallely took the declaration of office.

What a moment in time.

I feel incredibly humbled to be given the opportunity to serve the people of Division 6.

It's a very important work and it sits close to my heart. Rest assured, the scale of this responsibility, particularly during this time, is not lost on me.

A couple of weeks ago I received this message that I'd like to share with you all today, partly because it sums up the economic climate that we are currently in, but also because it describes how I plan to undertake my role.

The message reads:

"My husband and I voted for you yesterday. Unfortunately this week we had to temporarily close our business.

"With so much sadness, financial stress and anxiety in the community at the moment, I really feel that kind, empathetic and intelligent leadership is key.

"We know you will lead and represent Cairns in this light."

Those three pillars – of kindness, empathy and intelligent leadership – are precisely what I will measure myself on and against over the next four years.

Somebody who I think embodies these qualities is our Mayor, Bob Manning.

I couldn't think of a better leader to serve under and I'm incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to learn from your experience.

I know, that under your direction, our city is in great hands.

I want to congratulate all of my fellow Councillors because I know how hard you have all worked to be here today.

I want to thank my wonderful family, my beautiful husband Ben, my wonderful kids and my amazing family that will be sitting at home watching this live stream. I know they were very upset not to be here.

I've received a great deal of support from them who really put in the hard yards to bring this in along with so many amazing other family members, and friends and the incredible community of Division 6 that voted me in. I can't thank you enough

I would like to acknowledge my predecessor, Linda Cooper. Thank you for your support and encouragement. I am determined to do you proud. I know that I have extremely big shoes to fill as everyone have told me every time I knocked on their door. I know that and I will make sure I do Division 6 proud and mostly Linda.

For those that voted for me, thank you for your belief in me.

I can promise you, I will work hard for you and will do my absolute best to serve you in every way I can.

### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR O'HALLORAN**

Cr O'Halloran took the declaration of office.

Firstly I like everybody would like to pay my respects to the traditional owners and also to my Division 7. To all the people having faith in supporting me again for my 3<sup>rd</sup> term. It is an absolute honour to represent them and this city. To get to these places you need a lot of good friends to support you. It is a big job and I think a lot a people when they put their hands up put up a few signs up. They think it is all over and done with. It has only just begun. To good friends that have supported me over the eight years previously have been Marshall and Vivien Betzel who have been absolutely solid to the base to get me there and push me. This year I had Max's angels, when you are an old fossil you go for the youth and good looking girls to get you over the line. To Lucette, Kate and Ruth I can't thank you enough. Modern technology and that to push you. At times Lucette I felt like hanging up on you, but she drove me that bloody hard – I thought I am not even married to her. But I thank you from the bottom of my heart to three very very classy and smart ladies with modern technology which we have to expand on and utilise to the max.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. That I think will be out motto here at the Council in these unrepresented times. We are going to have to take a big breath get back to the basics and get ready to come again. We have to be prepared, we have to be nimble, we have to be quick on our feet. We have some enormous assets to protect and as John once said to me, just to wake up in this region, turn the tap on, flush the toilet first thing in the morning – they have all got to work. So we have some big responsibilities to keep the grass and those things down.

To all the new Councillors I hope you have read your manuals, know the rules because this is a different way of doing business and if you get the CEO sneaking up behind you and tapping you on the shoulder, you know you are in trouble. Cr Max can I see you for a minute.

To John, the Executive Team I can't thank you enough and I remember speaking on the John McKenzie show one day and explaining to him that we are such a lucky city to have the intellectual knowledge that's in this building, in our depots, and the pride that our staff go about their job every day. With pride they put on a uniform. You never see any rubbish trucks or anything driving around the city that we don't care for our staff or anything. They are in good vehicles. I think the safety program we went through a couple years ago has been a wonderful asset to us and the dedication of our staff, and their pride as they go about our business. I am sure the days of bludgers leaning on the shovels is well and truly gone past and it's a joy every week to come to this building, drive into the yard and see the pride and that of this building and what the workers do to make us look good and we have the privilege of leading. But John your staff, you are the doers you are the people who put the rubber on the road and it a beautiful privilege to be doing it again for the next four years. Thank you very much.

## **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR COGLAN**

Cr Coghlan took the declaration of office.

Firstly, I wish to congratulate Mayor Manning on his overwhelming majority of the vote which was a reflection of his strong leadership and confidence the community and we have in him.

I would also like to congratulate each and every councillor here today, elected by your constituents and I wish them all the very best.

I am both very very proud and very humbled to accept the honour bestowed on me today.

There are clearly many new challenges confronting us right now. The responsibility we share is immense.

I am confident the new Council will work together to meet these challenges with vigour, integrity and ethic.

We will not only survive, but we thrive.

The strong performance of the previous Council sets us a great benchmark as we navigate these new waters.

Politics is divisive; there is no way around that however we are all united in our dedication and commitment to this community.

This has been a long hard journey for myself, very importantly my family and from the bottom of the heart thank you and I love you.

To the community of Division 8, I can't thank you enough for the faith and trust you have shown in me.

I assure you I do not take this responsibility lightly and I will continue to listen to your ideas and your feedback so that I can better serve you.

Again thank you.

## **DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ADDRESS BY CR OLDS**

Cr Olds took the declaration of office

I really love being the Division 9 Councillor. I live up there in paradise with a whole bunch of good things but one of the drawbacks to being the Division 9 Councillor is that you are sitting at this end of the table and after a whole day of everyone doing their speeches and everything else by the time you get here half the people have probably switched off or fallen asleep and the other ones still sticking it out have a severe case of numb bum. So I apologise for that and I will try and be brief.

I think four years ago Councillor Moller and myself were the only two new additions to a well performing Council, thanks to you Mayor Manning and by the way congratulations to all the Councillors and we were pretty blessed to get in and be taken under the wings of our colleagues at the time. Because of that we hit the ground running and I hope that Councillor Moller and myself and the others can do that for the newbies this time around.

It is not just the 10 of us like Councillor Max said you have got about 1200 employees here and they all keep thinking about Cairns and making sure you succeed. Anytime you need any help you have got all of us – all 1200 of us and I mean that because everyone did that for me and I think for Councillor Moller too.

But four years ago I think the people of Division 9 took a risk they took a punt on me I was an unknown quantity and then the election this time I got a previous score mark I think. Hopefully I have rewarded them and I plan to keep doing the same working my butt off and listening and being accessible to the public.

I told my kids this morning I was coming in here to start work, the election was weeks ago months ago in their minds they have got like dog years it was years ago, but they said what you are not working yet? I said no I get sworn in today. They said you go to work to get sworn at? No I said today I am going to work to get sworn in and then for the next four years I will get sworn at.

I am really looking forward to the next four years and like I said you can expect to see more of the same out of me.

**1. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR ..... 3**  
A Agius | 65/4/1-03 | #6322691

MOLLER / O’HALLORAN

**Cr Moller nominated Cr James for the position of Deputy Mayor.**

**Cr James was appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor unopposed.**

*carried unanimously*

**2. DAY AND TIME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS ..... 4**  
A Agius | 65/4/1-03 | #6322702

OLDS / O’HALLORAN

**That Council:**

- 1 Hold its first Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 22 April 2020 in Council Chambers at Spence Street commencing at 9am;**
- 2. Schedule two Ordinary Meetings per month thereafter for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month to be held in Council Chambers at Spence Street commencing at 9am unless otherwise determined; and**
- 3. The public be notified accordingly of the new meeting dates and venues.**

*carried unanimously*

**3. COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE..... 6**  
A Agius | 65/4/1-03 | #6345080

OLDS / ZEIGER

That Council dissolves all Standing Committees and rescinds the Terms of Reference of those Committees.

*carried unanimously*

**4. COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO THE LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP..... 18**  
C Posgate | 65/4/1-03 | #6342985

O'HALLORAN / OLDS

That Council makes the following appointments to the Local Disaster Management Committee until otherwise determined:

Chair: Cr Terry James  
Deputy Chair: Mayor Bob Manning

*carried unanimously*

**5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND EXECUTIVE NOMINATION..... 19**  
A Agius | 65/4/1-03 | #6322711

ZEIGER / OLDS

That Council nominates Mayor Manning for election as District Representative on the Local Government Association of Queensland Executive.

*carried unanimously*

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:04 AM**

**CONFIRMED THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2020**

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.....  
**MAYOR**



.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**