

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 28 May, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop (Virtually)
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters (Virtually)
Cr Simon Reid

Scribe C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

Administrative matters

Her Worship covered the following administrative matters:

- Two Councillors attending electronically
- Meeting being livestreamed
- Supplementary report Item 5.5.1 – supporting information to Item 5.5
- Extra ordinary business - Item 5.7 – COVID-19 Response – Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package requires council resolution to consider at today's meeting
- Declarations of Interest – Members were reminded to declare any interests.

1. Karakia/Prayer

Her Worship opened the meeting with a karakia/prayer.

Following the karakia Council observed a minutes silence in respect of the recent passing of kaumātua Hohepa Rudolph.

Extra ordinary business

The resolution to accept Item 5.7 – COVID19 Response – Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package as extra ordinary business was taken after the moments silence (refer Item 5.7 for resolution)

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 5.3 – 2020-21 Annual Operating Fund (Tranche 1)

Item 6.1 – Whangarei Art Museum request for change to funding model.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Whangarei District Council

4.1 Minutes Whangarei District Council Meeting held 14 May 2020

Moved By Cr Vince Cocurullo

Seconded By Cr Shelley Deeming

That the open minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 14 May 2020, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

5. Decision Reports

5.1 Drinking - Water Quality Policy

Moved By Cr Greg Martin

Seconded By Cr Anna Murphy

That Whangarei District Council approve and adopt the Drinking-Water Quality Policy.

Carried

5.2 Urban and Services Plan Change Package - Decision

Moved By Cr Greg Innes

Seconded By Cr Shelley Deeming

That the Council:

1. Adopt the report and recommendation of the Hearing Commissioners for The Urban and Services Plan Changes (PC82A & B, 88A – J, 109, 115, 136, 143, 144, 145, 147, and 148) in terms

of Clause 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

2. Approve the notification of Council's decision be given in terms of Clause 10 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Carried
Unanimous**

5.3 2020-21 Annual Operating Fund (Tranche 1)

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Tricia Cutforth

That the Council approves grants from the 2020-21 Annual Operating Fund for Tranche 1, as follows:

1. Approves general Annual Operating grants, totalling \$1,304,880 as follows:

a. Citizens Advice Bureau Whangarei	\$70,000
b. Creative Northland	\$208,000
c. Mangakahia Sports Ground Society Inc	\$28,600
d. Multicultural Whangarei	\$6,000
e. Northland Craft Trust	\$51,195
f. Sistema Whangarei	\$20,575
g. Tai Tokerau Emergency Housing Trust	\$15,000
h. Volunteering Northland	\$17,900
i. Whangarei Art Museum	\$398,970
j. Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust	\$434,210
k. Whangarei Quarry Gardens Trust	\$39,085
l. Whangarei Youth Space Trust	\$15,345.
2. Approves an inflation increase of 2.2% for all applicants totalling \$28,707 and allocates one-off additional grants totalling \$63,000 to:

i. Citizens Advice Bureau Whangarei for rent subsidy	\$8,000
ii. Northland Craft Trust for e-commerce implementation	\$15,000
Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust for ICT upgrade	\$40,000.
3. Approves indicative levels of funding for the 2021-22 Annual Operating Fund at current 2020-21 funding levels as per Recommendation 1.

Carried

Declarations of Interest:

Her Worship declared a conflict of interest, vacated the Chair and took no part in discussions or voting on Item 5.3.

Deputy Mayor Greg Innes chaired Item 5.3.

Cr Couper declared an interest as council's appointed representative on the Whangarei Art Museum.

Cr Peters declared an interest as council's appointed representative on Creative Northland.

Chief Executive Rob Forlong declared a conflict of interest due to a familial connection to the Northland Craft Trust. Mr Forlong left the room and was absent from the meeting for the duration of Item 5.3.

5.4 Establishment of City Core Inner City Living Working Party

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Greg Martin

That Council:

1. Agree to establishment of the City Core Inner-city Working Party, with the following membership:
 - Councillor Shelley Deeming (Chair)
 - Councillor Tricia Cutforth
 - Councillor Simon Reid.
2. Agree to the Terms of Reference for the City Core Inner-city Working Party.
3. Note the activities of the working party will be reported to Council through the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee.

Carried

5.5 Working Group recommendation for Māori participation in Decision Making

Subsequent to the agenda being circulated supplementary report 5.5.1 – Attachment 3 was distributed separately, within the timeframes specified in LGOIMA.

Moved By Cr Phil Halse

Seconded By Cr Ken Couper

1. That Council adopts the recommendation of the Māori Participation in Decision Making Working Group to:
 - a. Establish Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum from June 2020 - September 2020 in order to bed in a new way of working, and test Terms of Reference;

- b. Adopt Terms of Reference for creation of Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum (Attachment 1);
 - c. Endorse the proposed Charter (Attachment 2);
 - d. Allocate a \$150,000 budget (inclusive of any redeployment);
 - e. Note that Terms of Reference will be reviewed and reported back to Council along with the procedure for establishment of the Standing Committee in September 2020.
2. Notes that while \$100,000 of the allocated budget can be managed through existing budget and staff redeployment a further \$50,000 of savings will need to be made from other Council budgets.

Carried

Cr Cocurullo requested his vote against be recorded.

5.6 Local Government Funding Agency - Special General Meeting

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Shelley Deeming

That the Council:

1. Appoints Alan Adcock, GM Corporate/CFO as proxy to vote on behalf of the Council at the Local Government Funding Agency's Special General Meeting on 30 June 2020, with the Chair of the Local Government Funding Agency board as alternate;
2. Agrees that the proxy or alternate votes in favour of the Local Government Funding Agency's proposal as follows:
 - i. To increase the foundation policy financial covenant net debt / total revenue from the current 250% to 280% for local authorities with a long-term credit rating of 'A' equivalent or higher;
 - ii. That until 2025/26, local authorities with a long-term credit rating of 'A' equivalent or higher must comply with the "Alternative Net Debt / Total Revenue covenant" as below.

Alternative Net Debt / Total Revenue Covenant	
Financial Year (Test Date)	Net Debt / Total Revenue
30 June 2020	<250%
30 June 2021	<300%
30 June 2022	<300%
30 June 2023	<295%

30 June 2024	<290%
30 June 2025	<285%

3. Notes the amended foundation policy financial covenant of 380% will apply in the 2025/26 financial year and annually thereafter.
4. Notes that Council staff will update the Council on the Local Government Funding Agency's Shareholder Council's recommendations on the proposed shareholder resolution at the Council meeting.

Carried

Extra ordinary business

Item 5.7 – COVID-19 Response – Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package, not circulated within the timeframe specified in LGOIMA, requires a resolution for council to consider this matter at today's meeting.

Item 5.7 was not on the agenda because at the time of the agenda closure the funding agreement had not been received from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

Council are asked to consider this matter at today's meeting to enable the agreement to be signed in time to meet MBIE's deadline for signing.

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Greg Innes

That Council consider Item 5.7 COVID-19 Response – Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package at today's meeting.

Carried

5.7 COVID-19 Response - Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package

Moved By Cr Anna Murphy

Seconded By Cr Greg Innes

That the Council

1. Approve Council entering into an agreement with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment to receive \$9.32m of funding to be used for local worker redeployment.
2. Approve Council entering into agreements with the Northland Councils (Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council and

Northland Regional Council) and the New Zealand Transport Agency to ensure delivery of the agreement in item 1.

3. Delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the agreements in recommendations 1 and 2.

Carried

Cr Halse requested his vote against be recorded.

6. Information Report

6.1 Whangarei Art Museum - request for change to funding model

Moved By Cr Vince Cocurullo

Seconded By Cr Phil Halse

That Council notes the letter received from Whangarei Art Museum Trust and considers this request along with the Community Funding Review 2020 recommendations when the review is presented to Community Development Committee in due course.

Carried

Declaration of Interest:

Cr Couper declared an interest as council's appointed representative to the Whangarei Art Museum Trust.

7. Public Excluded Business

Moved By Cr Greg Martin

Seconded By Cr Greg Innes

That the public be excluded from the following parts of proceedings of this meeting. 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:

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 passing this resolution
1.1	Confidential Minutes Whangarei District Council 14 May 2020	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
1.2	Ground Lease Rent Relief Requests		

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, are as follows:		
Item	Grounds	Section
1.1	For the reasons as stated in the open minutes.	
1.2	<p>To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities</p> <p>To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p> <p>To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage</p>	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>Section 7(2)(j)</p>

Carried

A break was taken from 11.24am to 12 noon.

8. Closure of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 12.09pm.

Confirmed this 25th day of June 2020

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson)