

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 6 June, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes (Teams)
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

Scribe C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

1. Karakia/Prayer

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with a karakia/prayer.

2. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga

No interests were declared.

3. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai

There were no apologies.

4. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata

4.1 Annual Plan 2023-24 and Concurrent Consultations Deliberations Report

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Jayne Golightly

That the Council:

1. Approves increasing general rates by 7.9% for 2023-24, allocating the first 2.5% of the general rate increase to roading.
2. Approves the proposed Fees and Charges 2023-24 without change.
3. Approves the preparation of the final 2023-24 Annual Plan and 2023-2024 Fees and Charges scheduled for presentation to the June 2023 meeting of Council, for adoption.
4. Notes the following increases to targeted rates for 2023-24 as per the Financial Strategy of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan:
 - a. wastewater rates of 7.9% (Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) average + 2%);
 - b. water rates of 5.9% (LGCI average);
 - c. flood protection rates of 5.9% (LGCI average).
5. Notes that growth will be allowed for in expected revenue from rates in accordance with the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. This budget assumption is to account for growth in new rateable properties and allows for an additional 1% for general rates, and 0.8% for wastewater and water.
6. Notes and considers the 801 formal submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2023-24 and concurrent consultations.

Amendment

Moved By Cr Nicholas Connop

Seconded By Cr Marie Olsen

That the Council:

1. Approves increasing general rates by 10.9% for 2023-24, allocating the first 3% of the general rate increase to roading.
2. Approves the proposed Fees and Charges 2023-24 without change.
3. Approves the preparation of the final 2023-24 Annual Plan and 2023-2024 Fees and Charges scheduled for presentation to the June 2023 meeting of Council, for adoption.
4. Notes the following increases to targeted rates for 2023-24 as per the Financial Strategy of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan:
 - a. wastewater rates of 7.9% (Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) average + 2%);
 - b. water rates of 5.9% (LGCI average);
 - c. flood protection rates of 5.9% (LGCI average).

5. Notes that growth will be allowed for in expected revenue from rates in accordance with the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. This budget assumption is to account for growth in new rateable properties and allows for an additional 1% for general rates, and 0.8% for wastewater and water.
6. Notes and considers the 801 formal submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2023-24 and concurrent consultations.

On the amendment being put Cr Benney called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes		X	
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka		X	
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	5	9	0

The amendment was Lost (5 to 9)

On the motion being put Cr Reid called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		

Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding		X	
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie		X	
Cr Marie Olsen	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	11	3	0

The motion was Carried (11 to 3)

4.2 Annual Plan 23-24 Capital Programme

The motion was taken in parts.

Moved By Cr Scott McKenzie

Seconded By Cr Gavin Benney

That the Council

1. Approves the adoption of the Recommended Capital Programme as part of the 2023/24 Annual Plan subject to the changes agreed in items 3 and 4.
2. Approves deferral of the following projects - in addition to the deferral of circa \$54m of budget proposed in the Annual Plan - resulting in a further reduction of \$16.2m to the 2023-24 programme:
 - a. Pohe Island - Marine Hub & Car Park
 - b. Whananaki Wharf
 - c. One Tree Point Boat Ramp upgrade
 - d. Cameron Street to Waiarohia/Okara (except crossing of Reyburn Street/Port Road)
 - e. Construction of the Port Road section of the Lower Waiarohia Loop (Design and purchase to continue. Herekino section to continue to construction together with crossing of Reyburn Street).
 - f. Whangarei WWTP Administration building (noting that this was included in the Draft Capital Programme)

g. Stadium and Event Centre Roof - \$10m.

On recommendations 1, 2(a)-(g) being put Cr Couper called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	14		0
		Carried (14 to 0)	
		Unanimous	

3. Agrees that funding for Sportsfields and Skateparks **are not** deferred.

On recommendation 3 being put Cr Couper called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		

Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	12	2	0

Carried (12 to 2)

4. Agrees that funding for the Waipu Village, Waipu Cove and Dave Culham raised crossings (part of the Low Cost Low Risk Safety Programme) **are not** deferred.

On recommendation 4 being put Cr Couper called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka		X	
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	8	6	0

Carried (8 to 6)

5. Notes that the 'Recommended Capital Programme' for the Annual Plan includes:

- a. predicted carry over of \$60m from the current year – based on April 2023 forecast
- b. a deferral of \$54m that was signalled in the Draft Capital Programme
- c. further \$16.2m deferral of projects to increase the deliverability of the programme and reduce budget pressures where possible
- d. increased renewal budget of \$610k to accommodate projects required in the 2023-24 financial year.

On recommendation 5 being put Cr Couper called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	14		0
		Carried (14 to 0)	
		Unanimous	

5. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata

There was no business conducted in public excluded.

6. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

His Worship the Mayor concluded the meeting at 10.54am with a karakia/prayer.

Confirmed this 22nd day of June 2023

His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo (Chairperson)