

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, DAVEY STREET, FRANKSTON ON 24 JUNE 2024 at 7:02 PM

PRESENT Cr. Nathan Conroy (Mayor)

Cr. Glenn Aitken Cr. David Asker Cr. Sue Baker Cr. Kris Bolam Cr. Claire Harvey Cr. Brad Hill Cr. Suzette Tayler

APOLOGIES: Nil.

ABSENT: Cr. Liam Hughes (Deputy Mayor)

OFFICERS: Mr. Phil Cantillon, Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Kim Jaensch, Director Corporate and Commercial Services

Ms. Angela Hughes, Director Communities

Mr. Cam Arullanantham, Director Infrastructure and Operations Ms. Shweta Babbar, Director Customer Innovation and Arts

Ms. Brianna Alcock, Manager Governance

Mr. Tim Bearup, Manager Community Strengthening (via Zoom)

Ms. Claire Benzie, Manager Family Health Support Services (via Zoom)

Ms. Karen Wheeler, Coordinator Children's Services (via Zoom)

Mr. John McSwiney, Coordinator Governance Ms. Tenille Craig, Team Leader Governance

Mr. Connor Rose, Desktop Support and Project Officer

Mr. Glenn Parry, Supervising Technician Mr. Jeremy O'Rouke, Supervising Technician

EXTERNAL Nil.

REPRESENTATIVES:



COUNCILLOR STATEMENT

Councillor Harvey made the following statement:

"All members of this Council pledge to the City of Frankston community to consider every item listed on this evening's agenda:

- Based on the individual merits of each item;
- Without bias or prejudice by maintaining an open mind; and
- Disregarding Councillors' personal interests so as to avoid any conflict with our public duty.

Any Councillor having a conflict of interest in an item will make proper, prior disclosure to the meeting and will not participate or vote on the issue."

PRAYER

At the request of the Mayor, Councillor Harvey read the Opening Prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Councillor Harvey acknowledged the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation – the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we stand, and paid respect to Elders past, present and future. Respect was also extended to Elders of other communities who may have been present.

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1. APOLOGIES

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Liam Hughes, was noted as absent.

2. COUNCILLOR APPRECIATION AWARDS

2.1 Presentation to Tanya Thomas, Frankston & District Basketball Association

Cr Sue Baker presented a Councillor Appreciation Award to Tanya Thomas, Programs Support Officer from the Frankston & District Basketball Association for her contribution to inclusivity in basketball. Tanya championed initiatives, such as All Abilities Basketball, Walking Basketball, Wheelchair Basketball and, more recently, the innovative Vision Loss Basketball Program. Her dedicated drive, energy and commitment to basketball ensures everybody has a chance to have a go at playing, no matter what background they come from, of which has resulted in the FDBA winning the Inclusive Basketball Association of the Year Award for 2023.

Congratulations Tanya, and thank you for making Frankston City the inclusive and vibrant community it is, keep up the inspirational work.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Council Meeting No. CM7 held on 3 June 2024.

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Aitken Seconded: Councillor Baker

That the minutes of the Council Meeting No. CM7 held on 3 June 2024 copies of which had previously been circulated to all Councillors, be confirmed, approved and adopted.

Carried

For the Motion: Crs Aitken, Asker, Baker, Bolam, Conroy, Harvey, Hughes and

Tayler

Against the Motion: Cr Hill

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two (2) people submitted questions to Council with notice and one (1) person submitted questions without notice. Out of four (4) questions submitted with notice, one (1) dealt with a subject matter already answered and was disallowed under Rule 57.8 of the Council's Governance Rules. At the request of the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer read the remaining three (3) questions and provided the response to the gallery.

The Chief Executive Officer informed that responses to the questions without notice will be provided in writing following this Council Meeting.

The questions received with and without notice and their responses will be provided in the Minutes of the next Council Meeting.

6. HEARING OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Susan Reade made a submission to Council regarding Item 12.3: Draft Kindergarten Partnership Strategy 2024 - 2034; and

Amanda Youngs made a submission to Council regarding Item 12.2: Update on Councillor projects of interest and hot topics: Welcoming City Accreditation.

7. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

Nil

8. PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

Cr Claire Harvey congratulated the Peninsula Leisure Chief Executive Officer, Cath Thom, Peninsula Leisure staff and the Board for receiving two awards at the Aquatics and Recreation Victoria Industry Awards in two categories: Swim Teacher of the Year and Community Impact for their Activating Vulnerable Communities Project.

Peninsula Leisure is a Council owned entity and operates Peninsula Aquatic and Recreation Centre (PARC), Pines Pool and Frankston Skate Park.

9. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

10. DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

11. CONSIDERATION OF CITY PLANNING REPORTS

Nil

12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.1 Governance Matters Report for 24 June 2024

(BA Corporate and Commercial Services)

Motion

Moved: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Aitken

That Council:

Council Resolution Status Update

- 1. Receives the Council Resolution Status update, including:
 - a. Notice of Motion Cost Summary and Notice of Motion Report for 24 June 2024 and Open Urgent Business actions;
 - b. Notes there are no Notice of Motion actions reported as complete by officers;
 - c. Notes there is one report delayed in its presentation to Council:
 - Native Vegetation Offset Site progress update & Funding Outcomes, delayed to 22 July 2024;
 - d. Notes since the Council Meeting, held on 3 June 2024, eight (8) resolution actions have been completed, as listed in the body of the report;

Councillor Briefings Record

2. Receives the record of Councillor Briefing meetings held since the date of last Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024 as listed in the body of the report;

Council Meeting Dates

- 3. Notes the Election Period for the 2024 Council elections has been revised as a result of the successful passage of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024, from Tuesday 24 September 2024 to Tuesday 17 September 2024 and the results of the election will be declared on 13 November 2024;
- 4. Endorses the changes to the below Council Meeting dates:
 - a. Monday 2 September 2024 moved to Monday 9 September 2024
 - b. Monday 23 September 2024 moved to Monday 30 September 2024
 - c. Monday 18 November 2024 moved to Wednesday 20 November 2024
- 5. Notes the Council Meeting on 30 September 2024 will occur during Election Period and be limited to the legislative requirement of tabling the Annual Report;
- 6. Notes the new dates will be published on Council's website following this Council Meeting;

Formal naming of lakes at Ballam Park and Beauty Park

- 7. Endorses for community engagement to commence on Council's Place Naming webpage, for a period of four weeks on the below locations:
 - a. The lake at Ballam Park to be named "Ballam Lake";
 - b. The pond at Ballam Park to be named "Liardet Pond"; and
 - c. The lake at Beauty Park to be named "Beauty Lake";
- 8. Notes formal naming of the pond in Ballam Park with the proposed name "Liardet" is subject to relevant approvals, as outlined in the Naming Rules for Places in

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Victoria:

- 9. Notes formal naming of the lake in Beauty Park will require land owner consent from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action;
- 10. Endorses the proposed names, if no objections are received, to be registered with Geographic Names Victoria, in-line with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria;
- 11. Supports for signage with the registered names, once the names have been Gazetted, to be installed at the locations;
- 12. Notes the Governance Matters for the August 2024 Council Meeting will provide a further update on these naming projects;

Frankston Cemetery Trust Meeting

- Notes the Trust Meeting was held on 8 May 2024, with Mayor Cr Conroy, Cr Tayler and Cr Asker in attendance, Cr Bolam was an apology;
- 14. Notes the Cemetery Trust highlights which were attributed to the improvements in its operations of Frankston Memorial Park over the past four (4) years;
- 15. Receives and adopts the Minutes of the Trust Meeting held on 8 May 2024;

Audit and Risk Committee Minutes

- 16. Receives the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 3 May 2024;
- 17. Resolves Attachment E (Cemetery Meeting Trust Closed Minutes 8 May 2024) to remain confidential indefinitely on the grounds that it includes security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person (Local Government Act 2020, s.3(1)(b)) and
- 18. Resolves Attachment F to remain confidential indefinitely on the grounds that it includes confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a) (Local Government Act 2020, s.3(1)(h)).

The Mover and seconder withdrew their moving of the Motion

Motion

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- 11. Supports for signage with the registered names, once the names have been Gazetted, to be installed at the locations;
- 12. Notes the Governance Matters for the August 2024 Council Meeting will provide a further update on these naming projects;

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- 18. Resolves Attachment F to remain confidential indefinitely on the grounds that it includes confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a) (Local Government Act 2020, s.3(1)(h)).

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19. Notes its intention not to reduce the current number of hours (10) offered at the Frankston library for the document signing station and that and other aspects will be confirmed in writing in the coming week.

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Aitken

That Council:

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- 15. Receives and adopts the Minutes of the Trust Meeting held on 8 May 2024;

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- 17. Resolves Attachment E (Cemetery Meeting Trust Closed Minutes 8 May 2024) to remain confidential indefinitely on the grounds that it includes security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person (Local Government Act 2020, s.3(1)(b)) and
- 18. Resolves Attachment F to remain confidential indefinitely on the grounds that it includes confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a) (Local Government Act 2020, s.3(1)(h)).
- 19. Notes its intention not to reduce the current number of hours (10) offered at the Frankston library for the document signing station and that, and other aspects, will be confirmed in writing in the coming week.

12.2 Update on Councillor projects of interest and hot topics

(KJ Corporate and Commercial Services)

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Bolam Seconded: Councillor Hill

That Council:

1. Notes this report to Council to provide confidence in the planning and delivery of emerging key hot topics including key councillor projects of interest, for greatest clarity in this final year of the Council's term;

Activation of upstairs restaurant - Frankston Yacht facility

2. Notes the update of the activation of the upstairs restaurant - Frankston Yacht facility in the body of this report and the confidential attachment;

Key Councillor Projects of Interest

- 3. Notes the progress being made on Councillor Capital Projects of Interest since the last Update on Councillor projects of interest and hot topics report on 22 April 2024:
- 4. Notes the status change of the projects as detailed in the body of the report, from the last report on 22 April 2024 Council meeting;

Public Arts

- 5. Notes the progress made on six key public art projects that are underway;
- 6. Notes the update on the development of the Programmable Lights Practice Note for improved programming of beautification lights across the municipality;

Transparency Hub

- 7. Notes the progress made on Councillor requested datasets on the Transparency Hub since the last report on 22 April 2024 Council meeting;
- 8. Notes that 18 of the 19 requested registers are now live on the Transparency Hub;

Nepean Boulevard Project

- Notes the Nepean Boulevard Project update which outlines achievements for April/May 2024, confirmed the early works have commenced and will continue through to mid-2025;
- Notes the draft Nepean Boulevard Master Plan commenced development in February 2024 and is anticipated to be presented to Council in August 2024, prior to the commencement of community engagement.

Urban Forest Action Plan

- 11. Recognises Council for its initiative and aspirational tree planting target, which is the largest known tree planting program within Victoria;
- 12. Commends Officers for their hard work and dedication in achieving the target to plant 20,000 trees during each year of 2022 and 2023;
- 13. Notes the sixty-five (65) percent completion of the 2024 planting season to date, which commenced in April 2024, comprising planting trees on nature strips, reserves and parks and open space locations throughout the municipality, is on target to achieve 20,000 trees planted in September 2024;
- 14. Notes a number of key issues identified with the current program, including significantly reduced planting locations available on council owned land, increased tree vandalism and ongoing maintenance costs;

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- 15. Supports a transition in Year 4 of the program (2025) by acknowledging that 20,000 trees will not be planted in this year, but the program will focus on replacing vandalised trees, verify survival rates and replacing trees that have not survived, conduct maintenance, species specific performance checks, formative pruning of trees planted under the program, undertaking a complete and thorough review of the outcomes of the initiative and focus on encouraging planting on private land (private land incentives) as detailed in the body of the report.
- 16. Notes the planting of appropriate tree species in nature strips is in keeping with the natural and native environment and should not drop gumnuts or reach overhead power lines at maturity.
- 17. Informs the community through social channels, the significance of the tree planting initiative and asks the community to not remove or damage any planted trees across the municipality.
- 18. Notes that a report will be presented to Council July 2024, which will include updated statistics on the Tree Canopy cover across the municipality and the next steps to transition the program to a community led project.

Landscape Compliance

- 19. Notes the initiatives underway to strengthen landscape outcomes in development proposals by:
 - a. Establishing a dedicated Landscape Compliance Officer to commence 1 July 2024.
 - b. Updating landscape planning conditions due for completion by 30 August 2024.
 - c. Landscape plan guidelines due for completion by 30 August 2024.

Sister Cities and Council's Accreditation

- 20. Notes the update on Sister Cities and Council's Accreditation projects; and
- 21. Resolves Attachment A, Other Councillor Projects of interest Frankston Yacht Facility May/June 2024, be retained confidential indefinitely, on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020 s3(1)(g) and would, if released, reduce Council's ability to properly perform its functions.

12.3 Draft Kindergarten Partnership Strategy 2024 - 2034

(CB Communities)

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Harvey

That Council:

- Notes that the State Government Best Start, Best Life Reform to increase kindergarten program hours for three and four year old children will have significant impact on Frankston City Council. Existing infrastructure is not adequate to accommodate the space required to meet the reform requirements;
- Notes the Building Blocks Partnership Agreement between Department of Education and Frankston City Council was announced in February 2024. This agreement is a commitment to work together to improve early planning and ensure there are more kindergarten places to better support children and their families;
- 3. Acknowledges and celebrates its success with the State Government in achieving funding at the following sites, under the Building Blocks Partnership. This has and will see improved infrastructure delivered, with greater capacity available in these areas of higher demand:
 - (a) Riviera Kindergarten in Seaford completed in December 2023, this \$3million modular project was delivered by the Victorian School Building Authority, with a majority of funding from the State Government;
 - (b) Baden Powell Kindergarten in Frankston South works began on 31 May 2024, this \$3million modular will be delivered by Victorian School Building Authority, with a majority of funding from State Government;
 - (c) Langwarrin Kindergarten in Langwarrin will be delivered as an extension to the existing Langwarrin Community Centre, with majority of funding (\$6.75 million) confirmed to be received from the State Government. This new kindergarten is scheduled to open in 2026, noting that building works have not yet commenced.
 - (d) Seaford Kindergarten in Railway Parade Seaford anticipated to receive \$4.5million for this custom building, which will replace the existing building. Officers will make a formal application for these funds by the end of June 2024.
- 4. Continue to utilise the Building Blocks Partnership to advocate for a higher funding allocation and/or alternative solutions to facilitate Councils ability to meet the Reform requirements (beyond those currently committed under the partnership). Noting that each new build increases the operational and maintenance costs which to date have not been funded by the State Government and need to be considered when negotiating future funding arrangements.
- 5. Advocates and plans for future custom buildings to be of excellent design, incorporating the needs of the local community and users of the building. Whilst meeting budget requirements, functionality and good design will be prioritised to enhance the local area in which the new kindergarten is located and create a playful and creative atmosphere, to inspire children who attend the site;
- 6. Seek opportunities to partner with Department of Education, not for profit and/or the private sector in relation to delivery of new buildings and their ongoing maintenance, and service delivery;
- 7. Notes community engagement to inform the draft Kindergarten Partnership

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- Strategy was undertaken from July to November of 2023 and feedback received has been incorporated into the Strategy;
- 8. Endorses the draft Kindergarten Partnership Strategy 2024 2034 for the purpose of information sharing and public exhibition for a period of 3 weeks, commencing June 2025; and
- 9. Seeks a report back to Council in August 2024 to consider the Kindergarten Partnership Strategy for adoption, following public exhibition.

Carried Unanimously

Chairperson's initials.....

12.4 Adoption of Fair Access to Sport Policy and Action Plan

(TB Communities)

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Aitken Seconded: Councillor Baker

That Council:

- 1. Notes from 1 July 2024, all Victorian Councils will need to have gender equitable sport access and use policies in place to be considered eligible to receive infrastructure funding from the Victorian State Government;
- 2. Notes that endorsement of this Policy aligns with Council's obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020;
- 3. Notes that the Draft Fair Access to Sport Policy and Action Plan was publicly exhibited for a period of four (4) weeks, with 35 written submissions received;
- 4. Notes the consultation findings following the exhibition of the Fair Access to Sport Policy and support the proposed changes to the Policy and Action Plan;
- 5. Notes that Frankston Council's sector-leading work associated with the development of the draft Fair Access to Sport Policy/Plan has been recognised by Sport and Recreation Victoria and has been used as an example for other Councils to follow:
- 6. Notes that the financial costs of committed actions can be accommodated within existing budgets and staff resources; and the delivery of any additional items would be subject to external funding opportunities that could further support implementation; and
- 7. Adopts the Fair Access to Sport Policy and Action Plan, noting officers will notify submitters of its decision accordingly.

12.5 Destination Event Attraction Program 2024

(TR Customer Innovation and Arts)

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Tayler Seconded: Councillor Asker

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the recommended funding and in-kind support for the successful event/s in the 2024/2025 Round of the Destination Event Attraction Program, to a total value of \$230,000;
- 2. Authorises the public release of the business name/s only of the successful grant recipient/s at the conclusion of this Council Meeting; and
- 3. Resolves that Attachment A (Destination Event Attraction Program 2024-2025 recommendations Successful), Attachment B (Destination Event Attraction Program 2024-2025 recommendations Unsuccessful) and Attachment C (Destination Event Attraction Program Scorecard) remain confidential indefinitely, on the grounds that they include private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that (i) relates to trade secrets; or (ii) if released ,would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage (Local Government Act 2020, s3(1)(g)). These grounds apply because the information is commercial information and would, if released, compromise Council's ability to obtain similar detailed information from tender applicants in the future.

12.6 Award of Contract CN11461MAV - Recruitment Services

(NU Customer Innovation and Arts)

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Harvey

That Council:

- 1. Awards contract CN11461MAV Recruitment Services to Comensura Pty Ltd ABN 30 120 725 902 for an initial period of two (2) years, commencing 1 October 2024, with the provision for two (2) further two (2) year extension options, noting that this is a schedule of rates contract with a potential contract value of an estimated \$6,370,704 (exclusive of GST);
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the contract;
- 3. Delegates authority to the Director Customer Innovation and Arts to approve variations and extensions of the contract subject to the satisfactory performance of the contractor; and
- 4. Resolves Attachment A to this report be retained confidential on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020 s3(1)(g)*.

13. RESPONSE TO NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

Chairperson's initials.....

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 2024/NOM13 - Council Response to the Rising Cost of Living

(BA Corporate and Commercial Services)

General Motion

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Aitken Seconded: Councillor Hill

That Cr Harvey assume the Chair.

Carried

For the Motion: Crs Aitken, Baker, Bolam, Conroy, Harvey, Hill and Hughes

Against the Motion: Nil

Crs Asker and Tayler did not vote on the Motion

The Mayor, Cr Nathan Conroy vacated the Chair to move the Motion

- 1. Council acknowledges the difficult social and economic conditions resultant from the rising cost of living;
- 2. During the 2025-26 annual budget process, Council are briefed on the following matters for consideration:
 - a) The implementation of a rate freeze, without impacting essential community services or creating an infrastructure renewal backlog;
 - b) The suspension of interest on outstanding rates for up to six months;
 - c) The extension of instalment payments for rates;
 - d) The implementation of a fees and charges freeze that provides a positive impact on Frankston City Council residents and business owners i.e. resident permit applications, business permit applications, pet registration etc;
 - e) Explore the contestability of Council refusing to collect state based levies and charges on behalf of the State Government;
 - f) Advocacy and representation to the State Government seeking a meaningful reduction, or freeze, of the Victorian land tax and vehicle registration;
 - g) Council to resource external providers for a twelve month rollout of specific, free services to Frankston residents and business owners that could range from financial planning, accountancy services and financial literacy mentoring/seminars;
 - h) Reinforcing to both the State and Federal governments that any future infrastructure projects will be based on reciprocal funding where each tier of government will provide near equal funding portions. Where this cannot be achieved, to avoid Frankston ratepayers from being short-changed, Council will not enter into funding agreements for projects where funding is not equitable; and
 - i) Review of Council's Financial Hardship Policy and recommend refinements that reflect the current environment.

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Leave of Council

Moved: Councillor Conroy Seconded: Councillor Aitken

That the Mayor be granted leave of Council to amend 2024/NOM13 - Council Response to the Rising Cost of Living.

Motion

- 1. Council acknowledges the difficult social and economic conditions resultant from the rising cost of living;
- 2. During the 2025-26 annual budget process, Council are briefed on the following matters for consideration:
 - a) The implementation of a rate freeze, without impacting essential community services or creating an infrastructure renewal backlog;
 - b) The suspension of interest on outstanding rates for up to six months;
 - c) The extension of instalment payments for rates;
 - d) The implementation of a fees and charges freeze that provides a positive impact on Frankston City Council residents and business owners i.e. resident permit applications, business permit applications, pet registration etc:
 - e) Explore the contestability of Council refusing to collect state based levies and charges on behalf of the State Government, where it has the power to do so;
 - f) Advocacy and representation to the State Government seeking a meaningful reduction, or freeze, of the Victorian land tax and vehicle registration;
 - Gouncil to resource external providers for a twelve month rollout of specific, free services to Frankston residents and business owners that could range from financial planning, accountancy services and financial literacy mentoring/seminars;
 - h) Reinforcing to both the State and Federal governments that any future infrastructure projects will be based on reciprocal funding where each tier of government will provide near equal funding portions. Where this cannot be achieved, to avoid Frankston ratepayers from being short-changed, Council will not enter into funding agreements for projects where funding is not equitable; and
 - i) Review of Council's Financial Hardship Policy and recommend refinements that reflect the current environment.

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Conroy Seconded: Councillor Aitken

- 1. Council acknowledges the difficult social and economic conditions resultant from the rising cost of living;
- 2. During the 2025-26 annual budget process, Council are briefed on the following matters for consideration:
 - a) The implementation of a rate freeze, without impacting essential community services or creating an infrastructure renewal backlog;
 - b) The suspension of interest on outstanding rates for up to six months;
 - c) The extension of instalment payments for rates;
 - d) The implementation of a fees and charges freeze that provides a positive impact on Frankston City Council residents and business owners i.e. resident permit

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applications, business permit applications, pet registration etc;

- e) Explore the contestability of Council refusing to collect state based levies and charges on behalf of the State Government, where it has the power to do so;
- f) Advocacy and representation to the State Government seeking a meaningful reduction, or freeze, of the Victorian land tax and vehicle registration;
- g) Council to resource external providers for a twelve month rollout of specific, free services to Frankston residents and business owners that could range from financial planning, accountancy services and financial literacy mentoring/seminars;
- h) Reinforcing to both the State and Federal governments that any future infrastructure projects will be based on reciprocal funding where each tier of government will provide near equal funding portions. Where this cannot be achieved, to avoid Frankston ratepayers from being short-changed, Council will not enter into funding agreements for projects where funding is not equitable; and
- i) Review of Council's Financial Hardship Policy and recommend refinements that reflect the current environment.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8.05pm
The Meeting resumed at 8.10pm

Extension of Time

Moved: Councillor Conroy Seconded: Councillor Hill

That Cr Baker be granted an extension of time.

Carried

For the Motion: Crs Aitken, Asker, Baker, Conroy, Harvey, Hill and Hughes

Against the Motion: Crs Bolam and Tayler

The motion was

Carried

For the Motion: Crs Aitken, Asker, Bolam, Conroy, Harvey, Hughes and Tayler

Against the Motion: Cr Baker Abstained: Cr Hill

The Mayor resumed the Chair

14.2 2024/NOM14 - Wells Street Post Office

(SB Customer Innovation and Arts)

That Council:

- Notes Australia Post has undertaken a review of the Wells Street Frankston Post Office (also known as Frankston Central Post Shop) and as a result of this review, has subsequently made a decision to close this location, withdrawing all personal, business and retail postal services;
- 2. Notes that with future growth expected in Frankston's city centre, including major housing developments resulting in more people living, working, studying and visiting Frankston's city centre, an essential service such as Australia Post will remain a priority for the central business district;
- Notes community concern and objection with the closure of the Wells Street Post
 Office has been raised with Council, State and Federal representatives, with locals
 and businesses seeking to retain Australia Post services at the Wells Street location;
- 4. Urges the Federal Member for Dunkley, Ms Jodie Belyea MP, to proactively engage with Australia Post alongside Council to see a positive resolution for the community. Moreover, Council will directly:
 - Write to Australia Post Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mr Paul Graham, urging reconsideration of this decision and to work with Council and others in the identification of alternative options in an effort to retain all current services offered:
 - Write to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts seeking their support in retaining essential postage services; and
 - Communicate the concerns and seek support from the community through Council's communications channels such as Facebook.

Leave of Council

Moved: Councillor Harvey Seconded: Councillor Baker

That Cr Aitken be granted leave of Council to amend 2024/NOM14 - Wells Street Post Office.

Carried Unanimously

Motion

That Council:

- 1. Notes Australia Post has undertaken a review of the Wells Street Frankston Post Office (also known as Frankston Central Post Shop) and as a result of this review, has subsequently made a decision to close this location, withdrawing all personal, business and retail postal services;
- 2. Notes Frankston's Metropolitan Activity Centre (FMAC) will create more development and activation in the city centre, including a large increase in housing, it is therefore essential there is a centrally located post office to support the activities of city residents and a developed businesses area is retained;
- 3. Notes the State Government's announcement on 16 June 2024, which set a target of 36,000 new dwellings in Frankston City by 2051, significantly exceeding initial estimates. Due to limited availability of land for development, this housing growth will need to be concentrated on development and major housing projects in the Frankston city centre. This population increase will heighten the demand for essential services, such as a central

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post office in the city centre;

- 4. Notes and provides support to the Frankston Business Collective's (FBC) online Change.org petition launched on 12 June 2024, highlighting the closure of the Frankston Central Post Office and the negative effect that decision will have on Frankston's city centre. The petition information will be distributed in community spaces such as libraries, PARC and community centres;
- 5. Notes community concerns and sentiment expressed online, which highlight key factors such as location accessibility for those without a vehicle, wheelchair accessibility, the strain this will place on remaining post office branches, and the difficulties this will create for city centre businesses utilising post office services;
- 6. Acknowledges the upcoming meeting occurring with Australia Post and involving the Federal Member for Dunkley, Ms Jodie Belyea MP, the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer with the intention to seek a positive resolution for the community. Following this meeting Council will write to Australia Post Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mr Paul Graham, alongside the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, seeking their formal support in retaining essential postage services;
- 7. Communicates the FBC online petition regarding the closure of the Frankston Central Post Office and shares community concerns through Council's communications channels, including Facebook; and
- 8. Encourages the community to attend a forthcoming rally planned outside the Wells Street Post Office to show the depth of its support for retention of the post office in Frankston.

Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Aitken Seconded: Councillor Harvey

That Council:

- Notes Australia Post has undertaken a review of the Wells Street Frankston Post Office (also known as Frankston Central Post Shop) and as a result of this review, has subsequently made a decision to close this location, withdrawing all personal, business and retail postal services;
- 2. Notes Frankston's Metropolitan Activity Centre (FMAC) will create more development and activation in the city centre, including a large increase in housing, it is therefore essential there is a centrally located post office to support the activities of city residents and a developed businesses area is retained;
- 3. Notes the State Government's announcement on 16 June 2024, which set a target of 36,000 new dwellings in Frankston City by 2051, significantly exceeding initial estimates. Due to limited availability of land for development, this housing growth will need to be concentrated on development and major housing projects in the Frankston city centre. This population increase will heighten the demand for essential services, such as a central post office in the city centre;
- 4. Notes and provides support to the Frankston Business Collective's (FBC) online Change.org petition launched on 12 June 2024, highlighting the closure of the Frankston Central Post Office and the negative effect that decision will have on Frankston's city centre. The petition information will be distributed in community spaces such as libraries, PARC and community centres:
- 5. Notes community concerns and sentiment expressed online, which highlight key factors such as location accessibility for those without a vehicle, wheelchair accessibility, the strain this will place on remaining post office branches, and the difficulties this will create for city centre businesses utilising post office services;
- 6. Acknowledges the upcoming meeting occurring with Australia Post and involving the Federal Member for Dunkley, Ms Jodie Belyea MP, the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer with the intention to seek a positive resolution for the community. Following this meeting Council will write to Australia Post Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mr Paul Graham, alongside the Minister for Finance and the Minister for

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Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, seeking their formal support in retaining essential postage services;

- 7. Communicates the FBC online petition regarding the closure of the Frankston Central Post Office and shares community concerns through Council's communications channels, including Facebook; and
- 8. Encourages the community to attend a forthcoming rally planned outside the Wells Street Post Office to show the depth of its support for retention of the post office in Frankston.

Extension of Time

Moved: Councillor Harvey Seconded: Councillor Baker

That the Mayor, Cr Conroy, be granted an extension of time.

Carried Unanimously

The Motion was Carried Unanimously 15. LATE REPORTS

Nil

16. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil Reports

QUESTION TIME

Questions received with and without Notice

The following questions were received for the Council Meeting 2024/CM07 – 3 June 2024. In accordance with the *Public Submissions and Question Time Policy*, the questions and responses are published below:

Gwendoline Holmes

As all three questions received from Gwendoline Holmes related to the same subject matter, a single response was provided for the three questions.

Question 1

In what years has Council included costs for activities other than those associated with kerbside waste and recycling in the determination of the annual waste charge?

Question 2

What have been the activities included in the waste charge in each of these years?

Question 3

What amounts were included for each activity in each of these years?

Response

Councils approach to what has been included in the cost recovery waste charge has not changed over the past ten years. Council has not moved any costs that have been previously paid for by way of the Council rates charge into the waste charge.

The activities that have been included in the waste charge are published on Councils transparency hub.

Peter Anscombe

Question

Will Council provide a detailed public explanation as to how the technical issue in Council's GIS system error occurred and whether this or other system errors have been identified which affect the integrity of the Council's property and rating systems in particular?

Response

On or about 6 May, Council discovered that approximately 270 properties that should have been notified of Amendment C160 were not notified. (A similar issue arose with Amendment C161.). As soon as the issue was discovered, Council officers advised Planning Panels Victoria of the issue and identified what Council proposed to do to address the issue. Council subsequently provided each of the relevant owners with notice of Amendment C160 (and C161) and ensured that those people had adequate additional time in which to make a submission if they wished to.

Council has ascertained that the technical issue that caused the error in notification was isolated to the export property mail merge query in Council's GIS system (a software program called "Intramaps"). All the data required for the correct mail merge was and is present, but was being incorrectly filtered in the IntraMaps software due to a software issue. It in no way affects the completeness of Council's property/rates data. The only processes that are affected by the software issue are those that rely on data extracted from IntraMaps. For example, it did not affect Statutory Planning's processes in relation to planning permit applications as they extract their data from another program other than IntraMaps.

Question 2

Will Council provide a report and assessment of all subsequently received submissions to C160 in the same form as the initial submissions were previously considered at meeting 18th March, to the Council meeting on 24th June?

Response

Council proposes through the relevant officer acting under delegation to consider each of the further submissions (if any) which are received and will then refer each of those submissions directly to the Planning Panel for its consideration. While each of the submissions will be considered, it is not proposed that a public report and detailed assessment of any additional submissions will be prepared. Council's written submission to the Planning Panel (comprising a Part A and Part B submission) will address all of the issues raised in submissions irrespective of when the submissions were received. If further submissions are received, an email will be sent to all parties to the hearing to Amendment C160fran letting them know how many further submissions have been received and confirming that they have been referred to Panel.

Question 3

Will Council ask Panels Victoria to adjourn the C160 Panel hearing to allow all parties to consider their position as a result of new information, bearing in mind that some of the submitters, including the Council, have already instructed other parties including expert witnesses and are required to meet timelines already set by the Panel, some of which are before the Council meeting on 24th June.

Response

It is not proposed to seek an adjournment of the C160 Panel Hearing. If any party that makes a submission thinks that they have been materially affected by the timing of the notification, they may explain to the Planning Panel their concerns and the Planning Panel will consider those concerns. All submitters are expected to be afforded a fair and reasonable opportunity to prepare and make a submission. All submissions referred to the Planning Panel, including any submissions from the secondary notification process, will be considered by the Planning Panel and additional time will be made available if necessary for a submitter that wishes to be heard by the Planning Panel.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.47 pm

CONFIRMED THIS	DAY OF	2024
	CHAIRPERSON	
AUTHORITY TO STAMP INI	TIALS ON MINUTES	
electronic stamp of my initial	irperson – Council Meeting hereby au ls to initial each page of these Minutes 24, confirmed on Monday, 22 July 2024.	of the Council Meeting
(Cr. Nathan Conroy, Chairper	rson – Council Meeting)	
Dated this	day of	2024