

MINUTES

Finance and Governance Committee

Monday, 12 February 2024

6:00 PM

Waratah Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville



PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor Christina Jamieson (Chairperson), Councillor Elise Borg, Councillor Veronica Ficarra, Councillor Nick Katris, Councillor Peter Mahoney and Councillor Colleen Symington.

COUNCIL STAFF

Director Business and Corporate Services - Danielle Parker, Chief Finance Officer – Scott Henwood, Chief Audit Executive – Steven Baker, Head of Strategic Property - Bernard Morabito, Senior Property Officer – Kristen O’Grady, Executive Services Officer – Marisa Severino, Executive Assistant – Nickie Paras, IMT Administration Officer – Garima Jasoria (Minutes), Acting Team Leader Technology Business Support – Earl Santos.

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Jamieson, opened the meeting at 6.05pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Jamieson acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

There were no requests to attend via Audio Visual Link.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Jamieson advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council’s website, in accordance with section 5 of Council’s Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council’s Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council’s Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

FIN001-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2023
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ficarra

That the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2023, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIN002-24 Investment Report as at 30 November 2023
(Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

That the Investment Report as at 30 November 2023 be received and noted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN003-24 Investment Report as at 31 December 2023
(Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ficarra

That the Investment Report as at 31 December 2023 be received and noted by Council.

FIN004-24 Quarterly Budget Review Report for Period Ending 31 December 2023
(Report by Senior Business Performance Accountant)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Symington, Councillor Katris

- (a) That Council receives and notes the contents of this report in relation to the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 31 December 2023.
- (b) That Council adopt the proposed amendments to the 2023/24 Budget as outlined in Attachment 1.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN005-24 Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee

(Report by Chief Audit Executive)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mahoney, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

- (a) That Council appoint Mr Hamish McNulty as an independent member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in accordance with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference, for a four (4) year period from 22 March 2024 to 22 March 2028.
- (b) That Council thank Mr Michael Seery for his valuable contribution to good governance and his provision of independent advice to Georges River Council as an independent member of ARIC since joining in 2021.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN006-24 Quarterly Commercial Property Portfolio Report for Period Ending 31 December 2023

(Report by Senior Property Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Ficarra, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

That Council receives and notes the contents of this report in relation to the Quarterly Commercial Property Portfolio for the period ending 31 December 2023.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (CLOSED SESSION)**

Councillor Jamieson asked the **Director of Assets and Infrastructure** if any representations had been received from the public that the item should not be discussed in closed session.

The Director replied that no representations had been received to the item in closed session.

Councillor Jamieson asked if there were any members of the public gallery who would like to speak on the reasons Council proposes to consider the items in closed session. There were none.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

That in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the following matters be considered in closed meeting at which the press and public are excluded.

FIN001A-24 Property Matter - 6 Dora Street, Hurstville - Lease

(Report by Senior Property Officer)

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (c) it is considered the matter information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

THAT in accordance with Section 10D it is considered that if the matter were discussed in an open Council Meeting, it would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) of the Act, the reports and correspondence relating to these matters be withheld from the press and public.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FIN001A-24 Property Matter - 6 Dora Street, Hurstville - Lease
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

Note: Meeting went into closed session at 6.18pm

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Symington, Councillor Ficarra

- (a) That the General Manager be authorised to enter, negotiate and/or amend lease terms for the property at 6 Dora Street, Hurstville as detailed in this report.
- (b) That Council take the opportunity to thank Project Youth for the valuable work that is undertaken throughout the Georges River Local Government Area.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ficarra

That the meeting revert to Open Session, the time being 6.28pm.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

OPEN SESSION

CONFIRMATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Councillor Symington, Councillor Mahoney

That the recommendations from the Closed Session be confirmed as recommendations of the Committee.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 6.37pm.

Chairperson