

# LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952

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## ORDINARY MEETING

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*N.B. This is the June 2020 meeting delayed due to a combination of COVID-19, medical travel constraints, and deaths in the community.*

### 9:40 AM

Held at the

**Council Chambers, Lockhart River. 14 Maathuy St Lockhart  
River**

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## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Cr Wayne Butcher (Mayor)  
Cr Dorothy Hobson (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Karen Koko  
Cr Norman Bally  
Cr Alistair Bowie

Mayor Butcher opened the meeting at 10:35 am

**Conflict of Interest:**

Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared. No new declarations were made.

**Issue: Minutes of the meeting of the 29th of May 2020**

Minutes for the meeting of both the 29<sup>th</sup> of May were tabled and discussed in detail.

**Resolution 1:** That the minutes for the meetings of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May be adopted as tabled.

**Moved:** Cr. W. Butcher  
All in favor

**Seconded:** Cr. D. Hobson  
motion passed

**Issue: Reggie – Director Building Services**

Council received an update from Reggie on Building Services activities and highlighted two matters that were effecting production and delivery.

- Covid restrictions are affecting finalizing some projects with vital trade skills reluctant to do the necessary isolation prior to delivery. Vinyl laying and Tiling shortfalls are preventing the installation of kitchens and bathrooms which is pushing out delivery times on many projects and therefore affecting cash flow budgetary assumptions.
- Problems continue with reliability of our local trainees and some trade staff. Kyjuan and Miley still need to take the next step and become more reliable. If they take this step Council is happy to consider signing them up for apprenticeships but they need to show they are keen.
- The push is on to deliver some projects due at the end of Financial Year. Playgrounds, car ports and sheds are high on the list along with the last of the new studio cabins at the airport.

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- Fencer about to be recruited along with two assistants. Regis provided Council with a briefing on Building Services operations.
  - Continued problems with Carpenter Chris Johnson attendance and Woodie Dean not being on site due to workers compensation activity. Chris not wanting to work in the trade anymore and Woodie waiting on medical clearance before recommencing work.
  - Woodie not being at work leaves our workforce without a Plumber to respond to emergency health related work and is an on-going issue.
  - Reggie will advertise for two trade assistants to help with the carpentry workload. He will also keep an eye out for potential new apprentices in the building trades.

Mayor thanked Reggie for his report and the work of his team delivering across our township.

**Issue: Basic Cards/Cashless Card**

Cr Koko asked for an update on the Basics Card/Cashless Card as she had been observing parents spending money the wrong way. Options are available but they are whole of community or nothing. The state government has moved away from the Family Responsibilities Commission option.

**Issue: Finance Report May 2020**

Council discussed the Finance Report for the month of May 2020

**Resolution 2:** That the Finance Report for the month of April 2020 be accepted as tabled.

**Moved:** Cr K. Koko  
All in favour

**Seconded:** Cr N. Bally  
Motion carried

**Issue: Social Club working group**

Council discussed the on-going issue of formation of the new Social Club committee. The possibility of tapping citizens on the shoulder rather than wait for voluntary participation was discussed. A shortlist of people to target was developed to start community discussion. Justice Group Coordinator, Ross Norman, will help take the idea to the broader community.

**Issue: Workplace incidents**

Abusive and threatening behavior has again been reported by some work areas by both members of the public and sometimes Council employees. Re-enforcement of Council policies and our obligations to all staff to provide a safe workplace were discussed and confirmed.

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**Issue: Insurance Mutual Fund membership**

The last couple of years has seen a narrowing in the insurance provider market to the extent that some asset classes will become uninsurable going forward. This is a result of global trends out of Council's control. This environment has seen the emergence of an LGAQ brokered Mutual Fund as a solution. Council will look closely at this alternative to manage its risks in future.

**Resolution 3:** That council resolve to review the LGAQ Mutual Fund proposal and give consideration to membership if alternative traditional insurance products are not available.

**Moved:** Cr K.Koko  
All in favor      **Seconded:** Cr D. Hobson  
Motion passed

**Issue: Business support services**

Council discussed the inability of government Indigenous business support products to meet the demands of our emerging business community. Council discussed the importance of day to day access to the right level of advice to allow the existing businesses to grow and emerging businesses to get off the ground. Whilst acknowledging that Council cannot support an advisory service long term, to leave our business community unsupported in the short to mid-term will only lead to an unacceptable accelerated failure rate. The Covid-19 forced redundancies of temporary and casual positions at all tertiary institutions has forced some additional business advisory talent onto the market. Good minds are available at reasonable rates. Jermaine Thomas, a person with connections to Lockhart, has been identified as a good fit for a self-funded short-term role.

**Resolution 4:** That Jermaine Thomas be offered a six (6) month contract in the new role as Business Support and Development Officer. A review after the first 6 months will guide further investment and provide feedback to Council on alternative funding sources.

**Moved:** Cr. N. Bally  
All in favor      **Seconded:** Cr K. Koko  
motion passed

**Meeting suspended at 2:30pm to reconvene on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

**Meeting reconvened at 10:15am 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – All Councilors present.**

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**Issue: Visitor Ross Norman – Justice Group Coordinator**

Ross briefed Council on the Justice Group budget which is currently carrying a \$90K surplus due to the long gap between Coordinators. He also advised there is a new grant to work on domestic violence coming of \$150K. The Justice Group will consider options for development and roll out of a targeted program. The CEO also advised of the development of a Community Safety Plan which will have strong overlap with this process and with the development of the Social Club policy platform and operating manual.

Mayor Butcher thanked Ross for his briefing.

**Issue:** Annual Financial Statements, Annual Operational Plan and Strategic Plan review will all be considered at our meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 2:45 pm