



## **Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Nelson City Council**

**Audio-Visual (Zoom) meeting on Thursday 9 April 2020,  
commencing at 9.00a.m.**

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Present: Her Worship the Mayor R Reese (Chairperson), Councillors Y Bowater, T Brand, M Courtney, J Edgar (Deputy Mayor), K Fulton, M Lawrey, R O'Neill-Stevens, B McGurk, G Noonan, P Rainey, R Sanson and T Skinner

In Attendance: Chief Executive (P Dougherty), Group Manager Infrastructure (A Louverdis), Group Manager Environmental Management (C Barton), Acting Group Manager Community Services (M Preston-Thomas), Group Manager Corporate Services (N Harrison), Group Manager Strategy and Communications (N McDonald), Team Leader Governance (R Byrne) and Governance Adviser (E Stephenson)

Apologies : Nil

### **Karakia Timatanga**

The karakia timatanga (opening prayer) was given by Whaea Jane de Feu.

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Confirmation of Order of Business**

There was no change to the order of business.

#### **3. Interests**

There were no updates to the Interests Register, and no interests with items on the agenda were declared.

#### **4. Public Forum**

There was no public forum.

## 5 Mayor's Report

Her Worship the Mayor presented her report (A2370921), which she tabled.

Resolved CL/2020/021

### ***That the Council***

#### ***1. Receives the Mayor's Report.***

Courtney/Edgar

Carried

#### **Attachments**

1 Mayor's Report - 9 April 2020 Extraordinary Council meeting

## 6. Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response

Document number R16944, agenda pages 7 - 30 refer.

Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged Chief Executive, Pat Dougherty's leadership and the response from the organisation during the COVID-19 emergency. The Chief Executive acknowledged Council's IT team, the CDEM Group Controller (Group Manager Community Services) Roger Ball and Acting Group Manager Community Services, Mark Preston-Thomas. He answered questions regarding the effect on staff levels and recruitment and acknowledged the positive staff response when discussing the subject of a pay freeze in the next financial year.

Group Manager Corporate Services, Nikki Harrison and Group Manager Strategy and Communications, Nicky McDonald presented the report.

The motion was taken in parts and all decisions were carried unanimously.

### 6.1 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Receipt of Report

Resolved CL/2020/022

### ***That the Council***

#### ***1. Receives the report Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response (R16944).***

Her Worship the Mayor/McGurk

Carried

## 6.2 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Rates Penalties

Ms Harrison and Ms McDonald answered questions regarding, social capital, criteria, the rates remission policy and payment plans.

Resolved CL/2020/023

### ***That the Council***

- 2. Notes that officers will remit rates penalties on the 2019/20 fourth rates instalment under the Rates Remission Policy using 'compassionate grounds' or where an agreed repayment programme is in place.***

Sanson/Edgar

Carried

## 6.3 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Annual Plan

Ms Harrison answered questions regarding the effect on future rates levels.

Discussion took place on the rating increase scenario to be reported back to the next Council meeting and the uncertainty in these extraordinary circumstances. It was noted the Long Term Plan process would be the time to review service levels and that community input would be required. This was not business as usual, it was about Council's response to supporting the community in this emergency.

Following discussion regarding the level of staff resources required to report on multiple scenarios, a further report on a zero percentage rating scenario was agreed and the recommendation was amended accordingly.

Resolved CL/2020/024

### ***That the Council***

- 3. Notes that officers will report back to the next Council meeting, on a rating scenario of 0% for 2020/21; and;***
- 4. Agrees that the consultation period for the 2020/21 Annual Plan be extended to 6 May 2020, to enable the public to provide feedback on an appropriate rates rise.***

Edgar/Noonan

Carried

The meeting was adjourned from 10.37a.m until 10.51a.m.

There was further discussion regarding rates and it was agreed that a new Rates Remissions Policy be developed and reported back to Council.

#### **6.4 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Inner City Parking**

Group Manager Infrastructure, Alec Louverdis, answered questions regarding inner city parking and the Parking and Vehicle Control Bylaw.

Resolved CL/2020/025

***That the Council***

- 5. Approves the suspension of charges for parking in the Central Business District until the end of June 2020; and***
- 6. Notes that steps may be required under the new Parking and Vehicle Control Bylaw, that comes into effect on 1 July 2020, to address the likely delay in installation of the new parking machines due to the COVID-19 shutdown***

McGurk/Courtney

Carried

#### **6.5 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Lease and Licence Income**

Ms Harrison answered questions regarding lease and licence income and payment plans. She confirmed that private tenants should have conversations with their landlords. Clause 8. of the recommendation was amended to clarify that this decision related only to Council tenants.

Resolved CL/2020/026

***That the Council***

- 7. Notes the decision by the Chief Executive to grant a three month waiver starting 1 April 2020 of:***
  - a. Rental and outgoings for tourism and hospitality tenants/licensees holding Council leases and licences; and***
  - b. Rental for community tenants holding leases and licences; and***
- 8. Notes that the Chief Executive will consider any requests from other Council tenants/licence holders, including taking into account financial hardship.***

Her Worship the Mayor/Rainey

Carried

## 6.6 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Events Funding

Acting Group Manager Community Services, Mark Preston-Thomas answered questions regarding events funding and future events.

Resolved CL/2020/027

### ***That the Council***

9. ***Agrees that officers will discuss timing of the Fringe Festival with the organisers; and***
10. ***Notes that the Light Nelson Festival will be considered as part of the Annual Plan deliberations; and***
11. ***Notes that the 2020 Nelson Arts Festival is cancelled; and***
12. ***Agrees to invite a proposal from the Arts Festival Trust to replace the cancelled Arts Festival with local events involving regional partners; and***
13. ***Notes that the April 2020 Heritage Festival has been cancelled; and***
14. ***Notes that the Annual Plan deliberations report will include recommendations for the Events Fund and Venue Hire Fund; and***
15. ***Notes that Council-delivered events will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary during the COVID-19 recovery period.***

O'Neill-Stevens/Bowater

Carried

## 6.7 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Support for Community Organisations

The Chief Executive answered questions regarding the proposed amount of funding. He noted that this was crisis funding to help keep community groups going, but that Council did not have enough money to help everyone and groups would need to apply for any available government funding.

It was agreed that funding criteria be reported to the next Council meeting and the recommendation was amended accordingly.

Resolved CL/2020/028

***That the Council***

- 16. Approves an Emergency Fund of \$200,000 to support community organisations impacted by COVID-19; and***
- 17. Delegates the setting of criteria and distribution of funds to support community organisations from the Emergency Fund to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chair of the Community Services Committee, with the criteria to be reported to the next Council meeting; and***
- 18. Notes that the criteria for granting funds from the Emergency Fund will include that the organisation has applied for any applicable Central Government support, for example wage subsidies.***

Sanson/Noonan

Carried

**6.8 Update on the impact of COVID-19 and Council's response - Community Investment Fund**

A correction was made to change 2021/22 to 2020/21 in the recommendations.

Mr Mark Preston-Thomas answered questions regarding the risk of over subscription for the fund.

Resolved CL/2020/029

***That the Council***

- 19. Agrees to remove the \$5000 cap on Community Investment Fund applications in 2020/21; and***
- 20. Agrees to modify the criteria for Community Investment Fund applications in 2020/21 to prioritise projects that reduce the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on vulnerable communities; and***
- 21. Notes that existing allocation processes utilising the independent panel will be used to make Community Investment Fund allocations.***

Edgar/Rainey

Carried

As an addendum to the Mayor’s Report, Her Worship the Mayor advised the meeting that she had written to the Chair of the Remuneration Authority to say that her view was that it was appropriate to freeze Elected Members’ remuneration as she believed that it was important to show leadership on this issue. She noted that she had received an appreciative response advising that her suggestion would be taken into consideration.

**6.9 Vote of Thanks**

Resolved CL/2020/030

***That the Council***

- 1. Acknowledges the work of the Nelson Regional Development Agency, the Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, in relation to the support, assurity and knowledge they have provided.***

Her Worship the Mayor/Edgar

Carried

**7. Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved CL/2020/031

***That the Council***

- 1. Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.***
- 2. 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:***

Her Worship the Mayor/McGurk

Carried

<b>Item</b>	<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Particular interests protected (where applicable)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Confidential Update on COVID-19 and its impact</b>	Section 48(1)(a) The public conduct of this matter would be	The withholding of the information is necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 7(2)(b)(ii)</li> </ul>

Item	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interests protected (where applicable)
	<b>on Council contracts</b>	likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason exists under section 7	To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 7(2)(h) To enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</li> </ul>

The meeting went into confidential session at 12.29p.m. and resumed in public session at 2.07p.m.

**Karakia Whakamutunga**

The karakia whakamutunga (closing prayer) was given by Whaea Jane de Feu.

**RESTATEMENTS**

It was resolved while the public was excluded:

	<b>PUBLIC EXCLUDED: Confidential Update on COVID-19 and its impact on Council contracts</b>
	<p><i>That the Council</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. <u>Receives</u> the report Confidential Update on COVID-19 and its impact on Council contracts, leases and licences (R16952); and</b></li> <li><b>2. <u>Agrees</u> that the report Confidential Update on COVID-19 and its impact on Council contracts, leases and licences (R16952) remain confidential at this time.</b></li> </ol>

The only other business transacted in confidential session was to readmit the public. In accordance with the Local Government Official



Information Meetings Act, no reason for withholding this information from the public exists therefore this business has been recorded in the open minutes.

**8. Re-admittance of the Public**

Resolved CL/2020/033

***That the Council***

- 1. Re-admits the public to the meeting.***

Bowater/Rainey

Carried

There being no further business the meeting ended at 2.17p.m.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date