
Minutes of the Council Meeting 19 April 2023

PRESENT

Councillors

Lisa Lake (Mayor)	Councillor
Suman Saha (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor
Steve Christou	Councillor
Diane Colman	Councillor
Greg Cummings	Councillor
Glenn Elmore	Councillor
Sabrin Farooqui	Councillor
Paul Garrard	Councillor
Ola Hamed	Councillor
Kun Huang	Councillor
Helen Hughes	Councillor
Mohamad Hussein	Councillor (arrived 6:43pm)
Joseph Rahme	Councillor (arrived 6:39pm)
Eddy Sarkis	Councillor (Via Audio-Visual Link – Joined 6:43pm)
Michael Zaiter	Councillor

Officers

Peter Fitzgerald	General Manager
Melissa Attia	Director Corporate Performance (Deputy General Manager)
Nicole Byrn	Director Community & Culture
Charlie Ayoub	Director Governance & Risk
Daniel Anderson	Acting Director Environment & Planning
Warrick Hay	Acting Director City Services
Carol Karaki	Manager Governance
Lyndall Thompson	Senior Governance & Civic Events Officer

The Mayor, Councillor Lake declared the meeting open at 6:30pm.

The Mayor, Councillor Lake advised that since the last Council meeting, the Merrylands community has suffered two shocking incidents, being the alleged murder of Erin Gilbert at her home on Easter Sunday and the death of Nour Marbany, a father of six young children in a motor vehicle accident last Saturday night. The Mayor, on behalf of Council acknowledged the deep sorrow that sudden and tragic loss of life brings to families and friends, and offered all those affected Council's deepest condolences.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was read by Sarah Al-Zoubi from the Auburn Islamic Community Centre.

C04/23-287 Investment Report - March 2023***Resolved by Exception***

That Council receive the March 2023 Investment Report.

C04/23-288 Draft Operational Plan, Budget and Fees and Charges 2023-24

This report was withdrawn by the General Manager.

Min. 412 C04/23-290 Property Committee - Minutes of Meeting held 04 April 2023**Motion (Rahme/Hamed)**

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Property Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023 be received and the recommendations contained therein, adopted.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Cummings, Elmore, Farooqui, Garrard, Hamed, Huang, Hughes, Hussein, Lake, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min. 413 C04/23-292 Notice of Motion - Australia Post Banking Services**Motion (Zaiter/Rahme)**

That Council:

1. Notes that:
 - a) Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services;
 - b) A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
 - c) For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local community post office;
 - d) Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions; and

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- e) With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition.
2. Calls on the Federal Government to support or introduce legislation that will establish a financial institution, fully guaranteed by the Federal Government, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services such as deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash.
3. Write to the federal Treasurer the Honourable Dr Jim Chalmers, the federal Minister of Finance the Honourable Senator Katy Gallagher and the State and Federal Members of Parliament that represent the Cumberland local government area to seek their support and representation in respect to the above.

ADJOURNMENT

8:45pm The Mayor, Councillor Lake adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes in accordance with Clause 15.13 of the *Code of Meeting Practice*.

9:00pm The Mayor Councillor Lake sought a Motion from Council to resume the meeting.

Motion (Rahme/Cummings)

That Council resume the meeting.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Cummings, Elmore, Farooqui, Garrard, Hamed, Huang, Hughes, Hussein, Lake, Rahme, Saha and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Sarkis.

Debate then resumed on the substantive Motion.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Cummings, Elmore, Farooqui, Garrard, Huang, Hughes, Hussein, Lake, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Colman and Hamed.

Councillor Hussein left the meeting at 8:22pm and returned at 8:24pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Christou left the meeting at 8:22pm and returned at 8:24pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Saha left the meeting at 8:24pm and returned at 8:27pm during the consideration of this item.