

SHIRE OF
WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 16th July 2020

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 20th August 2020 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 16th July 2020.

.....
Cr Karin Day
Shire President

All attachment items referred to in these minutes are available for public perusal at the Shire Office



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The Shire of Westonia warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Westonia must obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Westonia in respect of the application.



SHIRE OF WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

PLAN

2018-2028

CORE DRIVERS

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community.
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny.

OUR VALUES

Respect – We value people and places and the contribution they make to the Shire.

Inclusiveness – Be receptive, proactive, and responsive.

Fairness and Equity – Provide services for a variety of ages and needs.

Communication – Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.

OUR VISION

A vibrant community lifestyle

MISSION

Provide leadership and direction for the community.

ECONOMIC



Support growth and progress, locally and regionally...

Efficient transport connectivity in and around our Shire.

- Continue to utilise our Road Management Plan, which incorporates a road hierarchy, minimum service levels and maintenance policy.
- RAV Ratings and Shire boundaries are consistent across local government boundaries.
- Lobby and build enduring partnerships with key Government Departments to improve Great Eastern Hwy.
- Actively participate in the Secondary Freight Network group.
- Develop and implement a Road Asset Plan highlighting key funder and strategic partnerships to support sustainability.
- Develop a Gravel Reserve Policy which identifies future gravel reserves and recognises cost to local government.
- Educate road users about road safety and driving on gravel roads.
- Optimal and safe use of our plants and equipment assets.
- Ensure that appropriate RAV vehicles traverse correct RAV routes.
- Maintain our airport with a view to improvements to meet commercial and recreational aviation needs.

Facilitate local business retention and growth.

- Council recognises the opportunity of partnering with Westonia Progress Association, works closely and supports them to help achieve their economic development projects and our strategic goals.
- Council continue to have a role in facilitating the presence of a Co-op in our community.
- Enhance local economic activity by supporting the growth of tourism in our Shire and region including applying for funding to improve tourist facilities.
- Improve our online tourism presence.
- We forward plan to improve the economic diversity in our community.
- In partnership with Council, the mine develops long term business plans for current mine assets.
- Investigate options for multipurpose accommodation if vacancies arise in mine accommodation.

SOCIAL



Provide community facilities and promote social Interaction...

Plan for community growth and changing demographics.

- Develop the Town Planning Scheme.
- Plan and develop residential and industrial land.
- Community safety and ease of access around town is a priority.
- Our lifestyle, facilities and sense of community is promoted.
- The CEACA project continues to expand the number of universally designed dwellings in our town.
- We support our emergency services.
- We enable visiting health professionals to our community.
- The Community Resource Centre receives external funding to provide preventative health and community development initiatives to the community.
- We facilitate healthy and active ageing in place
- Our cemetery is well presented.

Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

- We collaborate and encourage active engagement in local clubs and community initiatives that support a healthy lifestyle.
- Investigate motor sport opportunities around the Shire.
- Preserve and celebrate our local history.
- Support our volunteers and clubs to remain strong, dynamic, and inclusive.
- Encourage lifelong learning.
- Children and youth have active and social opportunities.
- Continue to provide high standard and accessible shire facilities.
- Retain and expand Westonia's unique tourism experience.

Natural spaces are preserved and bring us value.

- Sustainably manage our reserves and open spaces.
- Participate in best practice waste management.
- Work collaboratively to meet legislative compliance with managing weeds and pests as well as our environmental health standards.
- Investigate renewable energy generation technologies.

GOVERNANCE



Continually enhance the Shire's organisational capacity to service the needs of a growing community...

Be progressive and capture opportunities.

- Be open to local productivity/ best practice and cost saving opportunities locally and regionally.
- Investigate joint resourcing and tendering
- Advocate and develop strong partnerships to benefit our community.
- Be prepared by forward planning our resources and focusing on continuous improvement.
- Identify risks and opportunities after the life of the mine.

The community receives services in a timely manner.

- Meet our legislative and compliance requirements.
- Work towards optimal management of our assets.
- Work to develop Councillor and staff skills and experience to provide career and succession opportunities within the Shire.
- Inside and outside staff are multi skilled to understand the business of local government and provide a seamless service to the community.
- Communicate and engage with our community regularly.

Financial resources meet the ongoing needs of the community.

- Seek external funding for significant capital improvements that deliver upon our strategic objectives.
- Investigate ways to reduce reliance on operational grants given the current State and Federal Government priorities.

Shire of Westonia: -
A vibrant community lifestyle.



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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Day welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 3.32pm.

A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect for the following Ratepayer/residents who recently passed away:

- Cosimo DeMarte
- Phyllis Jones (nee Johnston)
- Brian Iburg

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr KM Day	President
Cr WJ Huxtable	Deputy President
Cr DL Geier	
Cr RS Corsini	
Cr JJ Jefferys	
Cr RA Della Bosca	

Staff:

Mr. JC Criddle	Chief Executive Officer	
Mr Bill Price	Manager of Works	(from 5.04pm)

Members of the Public: Nil

Apologies: Nil

Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.34PM – 3.49PM)

Nil

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18th June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier **Seconded:** Cr Corsini

01/07-20 That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18th June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED 6/0

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 25th June 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Corsini

Seconded: Cr Huxtable

02/07-20 That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 25th June 2020 be received.

CARRIED 6/0

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President, Cr Day advised having attended the following meetings:

- WALGA Great Eastern Zone Meeting in Merredin on Thursday 25th June 2020.
- WEROC Strategic Planning meeting in Merredin on Thursday 25th June 2020 with the CEO.
- Wheatbelt East Regional Road Group meeting via Zoom (Videoconference) on Thursday 9th July 2020 with the CEO.
- Official opening of the Boodarockin Road/Ramelius Resources project at Malcom Nicoletti's farm with Councillors and Staff.

Cr Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

- Local Emergency Management (LEMC) meeting in Southern Cross on Thursday 25th June 2020 with the CEO.

Cr Della Bosca advised having attended the following meetings:

- Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) meeting in Merredin

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Financial** interest were made at the Council meeting held on 16th July 2020.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Closely Association Person And Impartiality** interest were made at the Council meeting held on 16th July 2020.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	



In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Proximity** interest were made at the Council meeting held on 16th July 2020.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Manager of Corporate Services
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits may be obtained.

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of June 2020. The credit card statements currently show:
-

CEO **June 2020 \$ 892.33** associated with the purchase of Activ8inet Housing & Office, Fuel, Email Exchange Platform, Office 365.

Works Supervisor **June 2020 \$10.00** associated with the purchase of Coffee

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulations 12 & 13 requires the list of accounts to be presented to Council. Payments are made by staff under delegated authority from the CEO and Council.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to payment of accounts.

Strategic Implications

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2019/2020 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That June 2020 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal vouchers numbered from 3861 to 3869, and D/Debits from EFT4379 to EFT4431 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$301,374.96 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Corsini

Seconded:



Cr Della Bosca

03/07-20

That June 2020 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal vouchers numbered from 3861 to 3869, and D/Debits from EFT4379 to EFT4431 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$301,374.96 be passed for payment.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – JUNE 2020

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Manager of Corporate Services		
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity		
Signature:	Officer		CEO
			

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 30th June 2020 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

1. Summary of Bank Balances
2. Summary of Outstanding Debtors
3. Balance Sheet
4. Budget v Actuals Schedules

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2019/2020 Budget
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996
Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4

Policy Implications

Council is required annually to adopt a policy on what it considers to be material as far as variances that require to be reported for Council. Council policy is that the material variation be set at \$10,000 and 15%.

Strategic Implications

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council's activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication in relation to this matter.

Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2020 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.



RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Huxtable **Seconded:** Cr Jefferys

04/07-20 That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2020 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – JUNE 2020

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Manager of Corporate Services		
File Reference:	F1.4.4 Audit Report		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report		
Signature:	Officer	CEO	
			

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at 30th June 2020 is provided to Council on a monthly basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.

Comment

The GST Reconciliation Report is attached for Councillor consideration.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in regard to Goods and Services Tax.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council's current GST liability, which has an impact on Council's cash-flow.

Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the GST Reconciliation totaling \$3,204.00 for the period ending 30th June 2020 adopted.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Corsini

Seconded: Cr Della Bosca

05/07-20 That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$3,204.00 for the period ending 30th June 2020 adopted

CARRIED 6/0

WAGE & SALARIES INCREASE

Due to Covid-19 pressures and State Government requests:

- Senior Staff will NOT receive any pay increases during the 2020/21 financial year.
- All non-contract staff will receive a modest increase of 1.5% payable from the first pay period after 1 November 2020 as per the National Wage Case decision. The draft budget provides for this increase.

CONSIDERATION OF TRUST AND RESERVE FUND 2020/2021 DRAFT BUDGET

The Draft Trust and Reserve Fund Budget for 2020/21 are included in the Draft 2020/2021 Budget and are for Council consideration.

There has been consideration for a maximum net transfer of \$229,500 from Municipal Funds to the following Reserves;

Leave Reserve	\$2,000
Plant Reserve	\$107,500
Building Reserve	\$55,500
Communication	\$1,000
Community Development	\$(140,000)
Waste Management	\$1,000
Swimming Pool	\$51,500
Roadworks	\$151,000
	<u>\$229,500</u>

 **Comment**

The budget contains the following provisions.

Zero Rate in the Dollar change due to Covid-19 request from State Government. Council also adopted a policy addressing Financial Hardship, particularly in light of COVID-19.

(Council resolutions 07/04-20, 10/04-20)

Valuations

GRV Residential/Commercial	\$638,061 – same as last year;
GRV Mining -	\$1,305,800 – same as last year;
UV Rural -	\$44,987,900 – increase of 0.13% from last year; and
UV Mining -	\$216,743 – same as last year.

Rating

GRV Residential -	7.2073 cents in the \$;	
GRV Comm/Industrial/Other-	7.2073 cents in the \$;	
GRV Mining -	20.4953 cents in the \$;	
UV Rural -	1.5922 cents in the \$; and	
UV Mining -	1.5922 cents in the \$.	
Minimum Rate	UV Mining	\$200.00
	All Other	\$355.00

Differential Rate Explanation

Objects and Reasons for GRV Mining Differential Rate

Land used for Mining is rated higher than the GRV-General rate to improve fairness and equity outcomes by:

- Ensuring mining rates payable are no less than the average rates payable, per property, in part to;
 - compensate for the different method and comparatively lower valuation level;
 - to recognise the often short term tenure of mining projects in the region; and
 - to maintain comparability with other commercial operations in the rural sector.
- Applying a percentage premium above the average rates payable, per property, at a level determined by the Council, to reflect the following:
 - the impacts of higher road infrastructure maintenance costs to Council as a result of frequent very heavy vehicle use over extensive lengths of roads throughout the year;
 - additional emergency service arrangements that have to be put in place;
 - the monitoring of environmental impacts of clearing, noise, dust and smell;
 - planning, building and health assessment cost; and
 - additional costs of amenities and services provided to cater for the employees of the mining operations, such as recreation, parking and law, order and public safety due to the increased population of the 160 man mining camp situated in the Westonia townsite which almost triples the population of the town and creates a massive burden on Council's resources.

Council advertised that it proposed to adopt the following rates in the dollar for the 2019/20 budget with submissions to close by the 22nd May 2019. No Objections were raised.

General GRV – 7.2073 cents,

Mining GRV – 20.4953 cents,

Minimum rate all categories - \$355 except UV Mining \$200.

There was no requirement to impose a differential rate on UV Mining as the amounts were negligible.

The Differential Rates advertised were the a zero rate increase.

Early Rate Payment Incentive Scheme

As in past years the Rates Officer, Stacey Geier, has been successful in obtaining several donated prizes for the early payment of rates incentive scheme.

"Issue Date" will be set at 31st July 2020.

For the payment of Rates in full, by the due date of 7th September 2020 ratepayers will go into the draw for these prizes.

Due Dates for Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act provides that ratepayers have the right to pay rates by one or four installments or by some other installment plan that is set forth in the local government's budget.

In recent years the Shire of Westonia has included in its annual budget the option for rates to be also paid by a two installment plan.

The attached budget includes the three payment options however the due dates of installments for the two payments option have been restructured.

The proposed due dates of installments are as follows:-

Based on an "Issue Date" of 31st July 2020:

One payment option - due date of 7th September 2020;

Two installments option - due dates of 7th September 2020 and 11th January 2021.

Four installments option - due dates of 7th September 2020, 9th November 2020, 11th January 2021 and 15th March 2021.

Interest Charges on Overdue rates

The attached budget contains a reduction of interest charged on overdue rates from 11% to 5%.

Charges on Rate Installment Plans

The attached budget contains a reduction of interest charged on Installment plans from 5.5% to 5%.

In addition, the administration charge of \$12 on each installment payment is to be reduced to zero.

Refuse Collection Charges

This is to remain at \$165 per 240 litre bin to cover increasing refuse site charges.

Additional Note:

- **Upon request, a waiver of interest on outstanding rates for those business/individuals directly affected by the Commonwealth/State Government's decision to close various businesses between 23 March and 31 July 2020;**
- **Upon request, a waiver of interest on outstanding rates for those businesses/individuals directly affected by the State Governments decision to close Western Australia's borders, between 23 March and 31 July 2020;**

Elected Member Entitlements

These remain at:-

- President's Annual Attendance Fee \$4,589;
- President's Annual Entertainment Allowance \$1,000; and
- Councillor's Annual Attendance Fee \$3,589.

Fees and Charges

The fees and charges for the various services that the Shire provides are listed in pages 40 and 42 in the budget. They will remain at the same rates as last year.

Projects

The main capital projects included for the year are:-

- 7 x Standpipes Controllers;
- Museum Display Expansion
- Solar Panels at 2 residences;
- Solar Panels at Community Resource Centre;
- Toilet/infrastructure enhancements to Baladjie/Elachbutting Rocks;
- Caravan Park expansion/Redevelopment;
- Scheelite/Pyrite Subdivisions;

- Over \$1,698,500 worth of road works;
- New footpaths and repairs to existing footpaths;
- Changeover of a Semi Trailer/Dolly and light vehicles;
- Transfer of \$229,500 net to various Reserves.

TENDERS FOR PLANT, VEHICLES, BITUMEN, GOODS & SERVICES

Management seeks authorisation from Council to commence calling tenders for material items over \$150,000. Purchases required under this amount are now dealt with in accordance with Councils Purchasing Policy.

Council will be required to review the Draft Budget and offer recommendations prior to its finalisation.



Statutory Environment

Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year the local government is to prepare and adopt a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Division 5 and 6 of Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 1995* refers to the setting of budgets and raising of rates and charges. The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2019/20 Budget as presented is considered to meet the statutory requirements.

Local governments are encouraged to adopt a financial hardship policy. This will address the manner in which the local government will deal with financial hardship that may be suffered by ratepayers and other persons who are required to make payments to the local government. Local governments with such a policy in place will be able to charge a maximum of 5.5% for instalment interest as they are formally recognising and providing for other groups that are in hardship. This recognises that the 5.5% will apply to those who wish to pay by instalments but are not in hardship.

If a local government does not have in place a financial hardship policy, the interest rate that can be charged for payment by instalments will be capped at 3%.

Interest rates that can be charged for late payments are being capped at 8%, which aligns with the interest rate charged by the Australian Taxation Office.

Other measures will directly assist local governments through removing red tape and compliance requirements which are not considered to be necessary while local governments and the community deal with the pandemic. This includes a number of measures that are designed to assist local governments that resolve to not increase the rate in the dollar from those applied last year.

Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020 SL 2020/57

7. Section 6.2 modified (local government to prepare annual budget)

(1) Section 6.2(2) is modified as set out in this clause in relation to the preparation of the 2020/21 annual budget of a local government.

(2) The reference to the contents of the plan for the future of the district made in accordance with section 5.56 is replaced with a reference to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Section 6.13 modified (interest on money owing to local governments)

(1) Section 6.13 is modified as set out in this clause in relation to a resolution of a local government under section 6.13(1) that is to be included in its 2020/21 annual budget.

(2) The resolution —

(a) cannot require a person who is considered by the local government to be suffering financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic to pay interest; and

(b) is to specify that the requirement to pay interest does not apply to a person who is considered by the local government to be suffering financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(3) The rate of interest that may be set by the local government under section 6.13 in its 2020/21 annual budget is not to exceed 8%.

(4) Subclause (3) applies despite the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 regulation 19A.

9. Section 6.33 modified (differential general rates)

(1) In this clause —

relevant rate, of a local government, means a proposed differential general rate of the local government that under section 6.33(3) cannot be imposed without the approval of the Minister.

(2) Section 6.33(3) is modified as set out in this clause in relation to a relevant rate of a local government if —

(a) as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government resolves (whether before or after commencement day) that no proposed differential general rate of the local government will exceed the corresponding differential general rate that was imposed by the local government in the 2019/20 financial year; and

(b) the local government obtained the Minister's approval under section 6.33(3) to impose in the 2019/20 financial year a differential general rate corresponding to the relevant rate.

(3) The local government is not required to obtain the approval of the Minister under section 6.33(3) to impose the relevant rate.

10. Section 6.34 modified (limit on revenue or income from general rates)

(1) Section 6.34(b) is modified as set out in this clause in relation to the 2020/21 annual budget of a local government.

(2) The reference to 90% is replaced with a reference to 80%.

11. Section 6.35 modified (minimum payment)

(1) In this clause —

relevant minimum payment, of a local government, means a proposed minimum payment of the local government that under section 6.35(5) cannot be imposed without the approval of the Minister.

(2) Section 6.35(5) is modified as set out in this clause in relation to a relevant minimum payment of a local government if —

(a) as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government resolves (whether before or after commencement day) that —

(i) no proposed differential general rate of the local government will exceed the corresponding differential general rate that was imposed by the local government in the 2019/20 financial year; and

(ii) no proposed minimum payment of the local government will exceed the corresponding minimum payment that was imposed by the local government in the 2019/20 financial year;

and

(b) the local government obtained the Minister's approval under section 6.35(5) to impose in the 2019/20 financial year a minimum payment corresponding to the relevant minimum payment.

(3) The local government is not required to obtain the approval of the Minister under section 6.35(5) to impose the relevant minimum payment.

12. Section 6.36 modified (local government to give notice of certain rates)

(1) Section 6.36 is modified as set out in this clause in relation to a local government if, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government resolves (whether before or after commencement day) that —

(a) no proposed differential general rate of the local government will exceed the corresponding differential general rate that was imposed by the local government in the 2019/20 financial year; and

(b) no proposed minimum payment of the local government of the kind referred to in section 6.36(1) will exceed the corresponding minimum payment that was imposed by the local government in the 2019/20 financial year.

(2) The requirements in section 6.36(1) to (4) do not apply to the local government and are replaced with the requirements in subclauses (3) and (4).

(3) The local government must publish on the local government's official website details of each proposed differential general rate and each proposed minimum payment of the local government.

(4) The details referred to in subclause (3) must be published by the local government within 10 days after the later of the following —

(a) the day on which the local government makes the resolution referred to in subclause (1);

(b) commencement day.

13. Section 6.45 modified (options for payment of rates or service charges)

(1) In this clause —

financial hardship policy, in relation to a local government, means a policy addressing the manner in which the local government will deal with financial hardship that may be suffered by ratepayers and other persons who are required to make payments to the local government.

(2) Section 6.45 is modified as set out in this clause in relation to payment by instalments of a rate or service charge imposed by a local government in the 2020/21 financial year.

(3) The local government cannot impose an additional charge (including an amount by way of interest) under section 6.45(3) in respect of payment by instalments made by an excluded person.

(4) If the local government has not adopted a financial hardship policy, the maximum rate of interest that may be imposed by the local government under section 6.45(3) is 3%.

(5) Subclause (4) applies despite the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 regulation 68.

14. Section 6.51 modified (accrual of interest on overdue rates or service charges)

(1) Section 6.51 is modified as set out in this clause in relation to a resolution made under section 6.51(1) by a local government at the time of imposing a rate or service charge for the 2020/21 financial year.

(2) The resolution —

(a) cannot impose interest in respect of a rate or service charge payable by an excluded person; and

(b) is to specify that the imposition of interest does not apply in respect of a rate or service charge payable by an excluded person.

(3) The rate of interest that may be set by the local government under section 6.51 is not to exceed 8%.

(4) Subclause (3) applies despite the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 regulation 70.

15. Section 9.51 modified (giving documents to local government)

(1) Section 9.51 is modified as set out in this clause.

(2) In addition to the methods in section 9.51(a) and (b), a document may be given to a local government by sending it by email to the local government at its email address.



Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this item.



Strategic Implications

The draft 2020/21 Budget has been compiled on the principles contained in the Strategic Resource Plan.



Financial Implications

Budget of financial income and expenditure for 2020/2021 financial year.

The overall objective of the proposed rates in the 2020/21 Budget is to provide for the net funding requirements of the Shire's services, activities, financing costs and the current and future capital requirements of the Shire.

Council has determined its required rates yield after taking into account all revenue sources, expenditure and efficiency measures as part of budget deliberations. The Council was satisfied that it has, on an ongoing basis, reviewed its expenditure, and this is supported by the fact that it has not increased its full time employee numbers since 2012. In support of its measures to continue to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness within its operational costs, and in recognition of the slow growth in the economy, especially with regard to the mining sector, the Council requested that the 2020-21 rates be set at the minimum levels set out in the Strategic Community Plan & LTFP .

In Reviewing its expenditure and considered efficiency measures as part of its budget deliberations, the following actions have been undertaken:

Efficiency Measures:

- reviewed the need for and remuneration of each position as vacancies arise;
- expanded the provision of road building services to other local governments on a fee for service basis;
- conducted several internal audits of governance and legislative compliance;
- reduced some facility opening hours in line with service review findings regarding usage patterns;
- review staff housing policy;
- disposed of surplus staff housing stock.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolves by absolute majority the adoption of:-

1. the 2020/21 budget as shown in the attachment following this report;
2. taking in consideration the Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020 SL 2020/57, the rating levels of:

GRV Residential -	7.2073 cents in the \$;
GRV Comm/Industrial/Other-	7.2073 cents in the \$;
GRV Mining -	20.4953 cents in the \$;
UV Rural -	1.5922 cents in the \$; and
UV Mining -	1.5922 cents in the \$.
Minimum rate all categories -	\$355 except UV Mining \$200.

Differential Rate Explanation

The Differential Rates raised in the 2020/21 Annual Budget requires reporting on as per the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020 SL 2020/57.

3. the total valuations as supplied by the Valuer General being GRV - \$1,949,477 and UV - \$45,143,830;
4. the early rates payment incentive scheme be offered consisting of eligibility to be in the draw for the prizes for full payment of rates and arrears by 7th September 2020.
5. the due dates for payment of rates be set at, based on the Issue Date of 31st July 2020:

One payment option - due date of 7th September 2020;

Two installments option - due dates of 7th September 2020 and 11th January 2021.

Four installments option - due dates of 5th September 2019, 9th November 2020, 11th January 2021 and 15th March 2021.

6. the interest charge on overdue rates and other monies be 5% per annum;
7. the administration charge to apply to installment plans be \$zero per installment;
8. the interest charge on installment plans be 5.0% to apply after the first instalment;
9. That Trust and Reserve Fund Budgets for 2020/2021 be adopted;
10. a \$165 per 240 litre bin fee for collection and disposal of refuse;
11. the fees and charges as shown at pages 40 to 42;
12. the elected member entitlements for 2019/20 be set at:
 - President's Annual Attendance Fee \$4,589;
 - President's Annual Entertainment Allowance \$1,000; and
 - Councillor's Annual Attendance Fee \$3,589.
13. the % of variance used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with Finance Regulation 34(5) be set at \$10,000 or 15% to be applied.
14. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to call tenders, as per the requirements and provisions of the Local Government Act 1995, for the provision of goods and services as approved within the 2020/2021 Budget.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Huxtable **Seconded:** Cr Della Bosca

06/07-20

That Council makes the following changes to the Draft Budget prior to adoption:

1. **Capital Purchases be altered to include the purchase of 2 x side tipper trailers with a tandem axle Dolly funded via the Plant Reserve (\$260,000 less \$28,000 trade)**
2. **Transfer to Swimming Pool Reserve of \$50,000 be changed to transfer to Community Development Reserve.**

CARRIED 6/0 BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Corsini **Seconded:** Cr Della Bosca

07/07-20

That Council resolves by absolute majority the adoption of:-

1. **the 2020/21 budget as shown in the attachment following this report;**
2. **taking in consideration the Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020 SL 2020/57, the rating levels of:**
 - GRV Residential - 7.2073 cents in the \$;**
 - GRV Comm/Industrial/Other- 7.2073 cents in the \$;**
 - GRV Mining - 20.4953 cents in the \$;**
 - UV Rural - 1.5922 cents in the \$; and**
 - UV Mining - 1.5922 cents in the \$.**
 - Minimum rate all categories - \$355 except UV Mining \$200.**

Differential Rate Explanation

The Differential Rates raised in the 2020/21 Annual Budget requires reporting on as per the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020 SL 2020/57.

3. **the total valuations as supplied by the Valuer General being GRV - \$1,949,477 and UV - \$45,143,830;**

4. the early rates payment incentive scheme be offered consisting of eligibility to be in the draw for the prizes for full payment of rates and arrears by 7th September 2020.

5. the due dates for payment of rates be set at, based on the Issue Date of 31st July 2020:

One payment option - due date of 7th September 2020;

Two installments option - due dates of 7th September 2020 and 11th January 2021.

Four installments option - due dates of 5th September 2019, 9th November 2020, 11th January 2021 and 15th March 2021.

6. the interest charge on overdue rates and other monies be 5% per annum;

7. the administration charge to apply to installment plans be \$zero per installment;

8. the interest charge on installment plans be 5.0% to apply after the first instalment;

9. That Trust and Reserve Fund Budgets for 2020/2021 be adopted;

10. a \$165 per 240 litre bin fee for collection and disposal of refuse;

11. the fees and charges as shown at pages 40 to 42;

12. the elected member entitlements for 2019/20 be set at:

President's Annual Attendance Fee \$4,589;

President's Annual Entertainment Allowance \$1,000; and

Councillor's Annual Attendance Fee \$3,589.


13. the % of variance used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with Finance Regulation 34(5) be set at \$10,000 or 15% to be applied.

14. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to call tenders, as per the requirements and provisions of the Local Government Act 1995, for the provision of goods and services as approved within the 2020/2021 Budget.

CARRIED 6/0 BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

9.1.5 SALE OF LAND – USE OF COMMON SEAL

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	T.1.1.3	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Background

Bill Price recently met with Ross & Linley Winzer to look into the possibility of purchasing a vacant block in the Westonia townsite. The Winzers were keen on lot 342 Pyrite Street, Westonia and have subsequently purchased the block and are ready to put a transportable on site.



Lot 342 Pyrites St Volume 2561, Folio 565.

Comment

The CEO and the President are now required to sign the Transfer of Land form and affixed the Common Seal. Council now needs to endorse the actions of the CEO and the President to use the common seal.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

 **Strategic Implications**

Nil

 **Financial Implications**

Nil.

 **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council endorse the actions of the CEO and President in affixing the common seal on the Transfer of Land Ownership form between Council and Ross & Linley Winzer for the purchase of Lot 342 Pyrite Street, Westonia.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier **Seconded:** Cr Jefferys


08/07-20 That Council endorse the actions of the CEO and President in affixing the common seal on the Transfer of Land Ownership form between Council and Ross & Linley Winzer for the purchase of Lot 342 Pyrite Street, Westonia.

CARRIED 6/0

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATORY SERVICE

9.2.1 RESUMPTION OF MINING – PRINCESS ROYAL

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	F1.2.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Attachment	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Andrea Reid, Environmental Consultant with Native Vegetation Solutions has corresponded with Council on behalf of Jalmah Investments to seek approval from Council to conduct mining related activities/disturbance on a paper reserve (5797) known as Battle Road.

Background

In order to obtain DMIRS approval, they require that contact be made with the Shire of Westonia Shire in regard to a 'paper reserve' that lies over Jalmah Investments mining lease M77/718 within Westonia Shire. Jalmah Investments are the holders of M77/718 and wish to seek approval from DMIRS to conduct mining related activities/disturbance on this lease and some of the disturbance occurs on Road Reserve 5797 which is shown on the attached image. The Proponents are required to get consent from the responsible party of the road reserve before DMIRS will accept our mining application.



Comment

Back in 2015, Mr. Steve Norregaard, then owner of Jalmah Investments requested permission to commence mining operations on the old Princess Royal (Mining Lease M77/718).

The Princess Royal is a historic gold mining area and the resurrection of this type of activity in the area is not considered to be incompatible notwithstanding that it is on the town common.

Resolution

07-02/15 Moved Cr Hermon, seconded Cr Jefferys that Council resolve to advise Mr Norregaard as follows:-

1. That the Shire of Westonia agrees in general with the intent of re-activating mining activity as identified in Mr Norregaard's letter subject to him obtaining the appropriate mining and environmental approvals;
2. That Mr Norregaard will need to pay for traffic safety signage to be installed by the Shire on Stoneman Road either side of the access track into the Princess Royal;
3. That the existing track into the Princess Royal be the only permitted access to the site;
4. That the provision of one only standard domestic water service to the site is supported; and
5. The feasibility and cost of the water service be determined between Mr Norregaard and the Water Corporation.
6. That Council only allow vehicle's up to a RAV 4 rating are allowed to traverse this route (from the Princess Royal site, along Stoneman Road, along Boundary and Warrachuppin roads to the Edna May Mine entrance).
7. That Council commence proceedings to de-gazette the road reserve known as "Battler Road" on crown reserve 14983 which bisects M77/718 and advised the Department of Minerals and Energy of this decision with all costs to be incurred by Jalmah Investments Pty Ltd.

Carried 6/0

The previous agenda in February 2015 stated Mr Norregaard request:

Mr Norregaard is also pre-empting possible setbacks imposed by the Department of Minerals and energy (DMP) in relation to the gazetted (Battler Road) crown reserve 14983 which bisects M77/718. As the road doesn't it is requested that the Shire considers "de-gazetting of this road" as the DMP will want to know why they are mining through a road reserve?

The process will be similar to the one performed on the disused road reserves north of Lake Deborah Road ie public comment, State department comment etc.

Note 7 of the February 2015 motion reads:

7. That Council commence proceedings to de-gazette the road reserve known as "Battler Road" on crown reserve 14983 which bisects M77/718 and advised the Department of Minerals and Energy of this decision with all costs to be incurred by Jalmah Investments Pty Ltd.

Technically this request has already been granted, albeit 5 five years ago, Council will just need to confirm the request and add the additional request to conduct mining related activities/disturbance on this lease and some of the disturbance occurs on Road Reserve 5797 which is shown on the attached image.



Statutory Environment

The Mining Act prevails in this matter



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolve to advise Andrea Reid, Environmental Consultant with Native Vegetation Solutions on behalf of Jalmah Investments as follows:-

1. That the Shire of Westonia agrees in general with the intent of re-activating mining activity including the ability to conduct mining related activities/disturbance on a paper reserve (5797) known as Battle Road as identified in Ms Reid's request subject to them obtaining the appropriate mining and environmental approvals;
2. That Council continue to pursue proceedings to de-gazette the road reserve known as "Battler Road" on crown reserve 14983 which bisects M77/718 and advised the Department of Minerals and Energy of this decision.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jefferys

Seconded: CrGeier

09/07-20

That Council resolve to advise Andrea Reid, Environmental Consultant with Native Vegetation Solutions on behalf of Jalmah Investments as follows:-


- 1. That the Shire of Westonia agrees in general with the intent of re-activating mining activity including the ability to conduct mining related activities/disturbance on a paper reserve (5797) known as Battle Road as identified in Ms Reid's request subject to them obtaining the appropriate mining and environmental approvals;**
- 2. That Council continue to pursue proceedings to de-gazette the road reserve known as "Battler Road" on crown reserve 14983 which bisects M77/718 and advised the Department of Minerals and Energy of this decision.**

CARRIED 6/0

9.3 WORKS AND SERVICE

9.3.1 REGIONAL ROAD GROUP – 5 YEAR PROGRAM & 20/21 PROJECT MCA'S

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	T.1.1.3	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

As part of the the Regional Road Group Funding Arrangements, Council are required to review its 5-year road program and provide updated MCA's for the 20/21 financial year.

Comment

Council Roads currently eligible under the Regional Road Group program are;

- Warralakin Road
- Koorda Bullfinch Road (M040)
- Leach Road
- Rabbit Proof Fence Road (sealed section only)
- Westonia/Carrabin Road
- Stoneman Road

Periodically Council are required to review its 5 year program to ensure that it is relevant with the its current priorities and reflects the current and proposed status of the road projects.

Attached is the draft 5 Year Road Program 20/21 to 24/25 financial years for Councillors discussion and perusal.

As per the plan Council has already submitted its MCA's applications for funding in the 20/21 financial year which incorporates the following projects

1. Koorda Bullfinch Road (M040) – reconstruct 2.5km including 2 coat seal \$ 285,000
2. Warralakin Road – reconstruct 1.5km including 2 coat seal \$195,000

Attached is the summary cover sheet for both projects for Councillor information.

Council, at its recent Regional Road Group meeting requested to alter its 20/21 program by commencing the Warralakin Road project at the other end (southern end SLK 15.10 – 16.60 instead of the northern end SLK 37.50 – 39.00)

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

\$320,000 Regional Road Group Funding for the 20/21 financial year.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council review and endorse the following for submission to the Regional Road Group:-

- 5 Year Road Program 20/21 to 24/25 financial years; and
- 20/21 MCA submissions as presented.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Jefferys

Seconded:

Cr Della Bosca

10/07-20

That Council review and endorse the following for submission to the Regional Road Group:-

- 5 Year Road Program 20/21 to 24/25 financial years; and
- 20/21 MCA submissions as presented.
- Include Boodarockin Road on the 2035 Regional Road Groups list of significant roads.

CARRIED 6/0

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

NIL

13 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the President, Cr Day declared the meeting closed at 5.56pm