

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

9 February 2021

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the City of Blue Mountains, held via remote technology on Tuesday, 9 February 2021, commencing at 7.30pm.

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There were present:

The Mayor (Councillor Greenhill) in the Chair, and Councillors Bowling, Brown, Christie, Fell, Foenander, Hoare, Hollywood, McGregor, Myles, Schreiber, Van der Kley.

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In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer; Director Strategy and Corporate Services; Director Environment and Planning Services; Director Cultural and Community Services; Director Economy Place and Infrastructure Services; Manager Property and Commercial Services; Manager Governance and Civic Services; Meeting & Councillor Support Officer.

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Prayer/Reflection:

The Prayer/Reflection was read by the Mayor, as was the acknowledgement of the traditional owners, the Darug and Gundungurra people.

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Apologies

Nil

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Declarations of Interest – Ordinary Meeting, 9 February 2021

Nil

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Mayoral Matter of Urgency

That the Council now considers a matter arising in relation to the Explorers Tree that has been ruled by the Mayor to be a matter of great urgency.

MINUTE NO. 32

Procedural - Matter of Urgency

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Greenhill and Van der Kley:

- 1. That the Council notes the current state of the Explorers Tree;**
- 2. That the Council notes the risk of failure attached to the current structure;**

3. That the Council notes the lengthy correspondence between Council and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on this matter over a long period of time;
4. That the Council notes TfNSW controls the highway corridor and that Council requires their approval to conduct any work within the corridor;
5. That the Council calls on TfNSW to take urgent action to ensure the safety of its road users from the potential failure of this asset;
6. That the Council notes that officers have developed and submitted a design for a retaining structure to TfNSW for their consideration and have requested permission to install this structure, which as yet hasn't been granted; and
7. That the Council writes to Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Roads, and Paul Toole, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to express the Council's concerns in this matter.

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was CARRIED, the vote being UNANIMOUS:

For	Against
Councillors	Councillors
Greenhill	
Christie	
Fell	
Myles	
Hollywood	
Van der Kley	
McGregor	
Bowling	
Brown	
Foenander	
Hoare	
Schreiber	

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Mayoral Matter of Urgency

That the Council now considers a matter arising in relation to the Blue Mountains Bushfire recovery project funding that has been ruled by the Mayor to be a matter of great urgency.

MINUTE NO. 33

Procedural - Matter of Urgency

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Greenhill and Foenander:

1. That the Council notes in mid-2020 the NSW Government asked local governments what they would spend bushfire grants on if there was money available;
2. That the Council notes the Blue Mountains City Council put together a prospectus of about 20 projects could assist our community if the Council had access to funding;
3. That the Council notes the list of projects was:

Blue Mountains City Council – project submissions for NSW Local Economic Recovery Fund	
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Project name:	Funding required:
Bell – post fire weed, erosion control and stormwater works	\$27,000
Blackheath Golf course retention dam – drainage improvement works	\$350,000
Popes Glen Creek and Govett’s Leap Brook sub catchments – post bushfire weed management, erosion control and stormwater treatment works	\$84,000
Pulpit Rock, Blackheath – Design concept for precinct upgrade	\$30,000
Blackheath Soldiers memorial park improvements – supporting community and economic recovery	\$450,000
Improving bushfire preparedness and safety	\$70,000
Blue Mountains business outreach officer – supporting local economy recovery	\$100,000
Blue Mountains carbon reduction projects	\$683,000
Commercial adventure tourism and ecotourism support package	\$25,000
City of Blue Mountains entry signage and Acknowledgement of Country	\$500,000
Supporting economic recovery – town and village centre improvement and activation program	\$290,000
City-wide tree asset database	\$265,000
Gloria park sports and play precinct upgrade	\$650,000
Bushfire affected towns – local link road strategy - Hazelbrook	\$400,000
Lapstone netball precinct upgrade	\$525,000
Mt Riverview rural fire service – toilet renovation	\$75,000
Mt Victoria – post fire weed, erosion control and stormwater treatment works	\$37,000
Mt Victoria volunteer garden creation – Rotunda park	\$12,000
Mt Wilson – post fire hazardous tree, weed and environmental management works	\$40,000
Mt York restoration project – improving infrastructure that supports visitation	\$60,000
Upper Blue Mountains lookouts – minor renewal works	\$55,000
Footpath renewal, station street Wentworth Falls (west side canton palace to Plantation Street)	\$150,000
Summerhayes sports precinct upgrade	\$465,000
Provision of additional toilets at Woodford rural fire service building at 2 Park Rd, Woodford NSW 2778.	\$110,000
Total of funding required:	\$5,453, 000

4. That the Council notes that this was submitted in July 2020;
5. That the Council notes the Editorial in the Sydney Morning Herald of 1 February 2021 which said, inter alia, “(The Premier) even personally visited the Blue Mountains in December 2019 to show her sympathy in front of the television cameras. It was on a trip to the Central Coast on January 9 last year that she formally announced the bushfire recovery fund and both areas missed out.”;
6. That the Council notes the Blue Mountains Gazette of 1 February 2021, where it states: “An investigation by Michael West Media revealed last week that all but \$2.5 million of the fund went to coalition-held electorates.”;

7. That the Council notes these grants amounted to \$177M;
8. That the Council notes the Black Summer Fires impacted the homes of Blue Mountains residents;
9. That the Council notes the Black Summer Fires impacted over 70 percent of the World Heritage Area, killed domestic and wild animals in vast numbers and impacted species of many kinds;
10. That the Council notes the trauma and stress the Black Summer Fires caused residents, Emergency Services personnel and their families;
11. That the Council notes the massive impact the Black Summer Fires had on local businesses, jobs and our economy;
12. That the Council expresses its deep disappointment that none of the \$177M went to support our community;
13. That the Council calls on the NSW Government to rectify this outcome with the next round of funding; and
14. That the Council signifies its preparedness to continue to work with the NSW Government.

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was CARRIED, the vote being UNANIMOUS:

For	Against
Councillors	Councillors
Greenhill	
Christie	
Fell	
Myles	
Hollywood	
Van der Kley	
McGregor	
Bowling	
Brown	
Foenander	
Hoare	
Schreiber	

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Mayoral Matter of Urgency

That the Council now considers a matter arising in relation Knapsack Oval Glenbrook that has been ruled by the Mayor to be a matter of great urgency.

MINUTE NO. 34

Procedural - Matter of Urgency

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Greenhill and Christie:

1. That the Council notes the impending commencement of the soccer season;
2. That the Council notes the commitment to the Blue Mountains Football Club that the carpark at Knapsack Oval will be in place for the commencement of the season; and

3. That the Council urges staff to ensure this timeline is met.

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was CARRIED, the vote being UNANIMOUS:

For		Against
Councillors	Greenhill Christie Fell Myles Hollywood Van der Kley McGregor Bowling Brown Foenander Hoare Schreiber	Councillors

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MINUTE NO. 35

1. 21/21872. Former Katoomba Golf Clubhouse Site - Classification

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors McGregor and Van der Kley:

- 1. That the Council classifies the former Katoomba Golf Clubhouse site, being Lot 4 in DP 1026915, at 33-39 Acacia Street, Katoomba as Operational Land in accordance with section 31 of the Local Government Act, 1993; and**
- 2. That the Council writes to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and the local resident in relation to their submissions regarding the public notification process for the proposed classification of the former Katoomba Golf Clubhouse site, advising them of Council's decision accordingly.**

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was CARRIED, the vote being UNANIMOUS:

For		Against
Councillors	Greenhill Christie Fell Myles Hollywood Van der Kley McGregor Bowling Brown Foenander Hoare Schreiber	Councillors

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Matter of Urgency

That the Council now considers a matter arising in regards to grant application writer that has been ruled by the Mayor to be a matter of great urgency.

MINUTE NO. 36

Procedural - Matter of Urgency

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Brown and Schreiber:

1. That the Council notes that:

- i. application-writing for 'shovel-ready' projects require time and professional expertise and is therefore a significant call on council staff time and resources.**
- ii. community groups have researched and prepared detailed grant applications for large 'shovel ready' projects on council assets including the upgrade of Blackheath Community Centre as a carbon neutral neighbourhood safer place, and the power-undergrounding, tree planting and whole-of-precinct refurbishment of Lurline Street, Katoomba.**

2. That the Council establish a 12-month contract for an experienced grant application writer to work with council directors, managers and, where approved, community groups, to assist in identifying grants, understanding grant conditions and preparing effective applications to advance Council projects and priorities.

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was LOST, the vote being:

For	Against
Councillors Brown Schreiber	Councillors Greenhill Fell Myles Hollywood Van der Kley McGregor Bowling Foemaker Hoare

With Councillor Christie out of the meeting.

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MINUTE NO. 37

Procedural – Question that Meeting Close

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Van der Kley and Hollywood:

That as there was no further business before the Ordinary Meeting of Tuesday, 9 February 2021, the meeting closed at 8:49pm.

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was CARRIED, the vote being UNANIMOUS:

For		Against
Councillors	Greenhill	Councillors
	Christie	
	Fell	
	Myles	
	Hollywood	
	Van der Kley	
	McGregor	
	Bowling	
	Brown	
	Foenander	
	Hoare	
	Schreiber	

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I confirm that these minutes, consisting of this page 8 and the previous 7 pages, were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 23 February 2021.

Chairman: Mayor Mark Greenhill..... Date.....