



Council Minutes



Campaspe
Shire Council

Date: 14 November 2023

Time: 5:36 pm

Venue: Echuca Civic Centre

Photo Left to Right: Cr Tony Marwood, Cr Colleen Gates (Deputy Mayor), Cr Paul Jarman, Cr Daniel Mackrell, Cr Rob Amos (Mayor), Cr Leanne Pentreath, Cr Chrissy Weller, Cr Adrian Weston and Cr John Zobec.

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Minutes of the open section of the Campaspe Shire Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 November 2023, commencing at 5:36 pm at the Council Chambers, Echuca Civic Centre.

Present

Councillors

Cr Robert Amos – Mayor
Cr Colleen Gates
Cr Paul Jarman
Cr Daniel Mackrell
Cr Anthony Marwood
Cr Chrissy Weller
Cr Adrian Weston
Cr John Zobec

In Attendance

Officers

Pauline Gordon - Chief Executive Officer
Matthew McPherson- Director Corporate
Jo Bradshaw Director Communities
Kate Lemon - Director Infrastructure
Shannon Maynard - Director Community Safety and Recovery
Michael Sharp – Director Sustainability
Rebecca Jones – Office of the CEO Support Officer
Doreen Stringer – Executive Assistant

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies

Cr Pentreath

Moved by Cr Mackrell

Seconded by Cr Jarman

That the apology be accepted.

CARRIED

1.2 Leave of Absence

Moved by Cr Marwood

Seconded by Cr Gates

That a Leave of Absence submitted by Cr Pentreath for a period of three months be accepted.

CARRIED

2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

In accordance with Section 130(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose any conflict of interest in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council meeting.

Nil declared.

3 Acknowledgements

Councillor Service Awards 2023

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) recognises Councillors for their long service to communities by hosting the annual Councillor Service Awards.

Councillor Gates and Councillor Weston were each recently recognised for 10 years of service in 2023.

Councillor Colleen Gates, Kyabram Deakin Ward, served as Councillor at Hobsons Bay City Council from November 2012 to October 2020. During this time Cr Gates served as Mayor from November 2014 to November 2015 and October 2019 to October 2020. Cr Gates was elected to Campaspe Shire Council in October 2020 and serves as Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Adrian Weston, Waranga Ward, was elected to Campaspe Shire Council in October 2012 and served as Mayor from November 2016 to October 2020.

4 The year that was

Mayor Amos reflected on the last 12 months, the year that was.

It has been an honour and privilege to be Mayor of Campaspe Shire Council during what has been another extraordinary year. A large focus of our work has been continuing to support our communities to navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, fires and floods.

The October 2022 flood was a defining event in our shire's history but it does not, and will never, define who we are as a community. Since the event, I have been heartened by the way our Council, our community and our stakeholder partners have worked together, both during the response phase and now in recovery, to address the many changes and challenges.

While there's still a long way to go in recovery for some individuals and communities, together we will continue to work with those still impacted building on camaraderie and support, that has been so readily demonstrated throughout the year, rallying together in times of need.

I'm particularly proud of our Council's advocacy efforts over the past 12 months which have been strong and wide-ranging. Some of the key issues we've advocated on include:

- Repairing our damaged critical infrastructure, such as roads and bridges and continuing our advocacy efforts in betterment funding.
- Establishing our fit-for-purpose recovery hub and dedicated recovery team.
- Presenting our key insights and learnings at the Flood Inquiry public hearing and actively advocating to federal and state government on mitigating the risk for future disasters.

I'm proud of Council's work in collaborating with our government and community partners on a range of flood-related issues, including facilitating a forum with the National Emergency Management Agency and the three levels of government to discuss ways of improving cross-border responses to emergencies.

We've been working with Murray River Council in NSW and stakeholders on recalibrating the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study so we can better understand flood behaviour and better plan for the future.

We've also been a strong voice as part of the Murray River Group of Councils and Loddon Campaspe CEO Network on the removal of red tape and blockages around government funding for flood recovery, support for our more vulnerable members of our community, social, affordable and workforce housing to name a few.

As this year's Chair of the Murray River Group of Councils the Australian Government's proposed changes to the Murray Darling Basin Plan has been one of the most important policy priorities in the past 12 months and will continue to be a key issue for Council in the ensuing years. If these changes are passed, the impacts on our businesses, industries, economies and communities will be devastating.

In addition to a firm focus on flood relief and recovery, this year we've also had the strong desire to make the impossible -possible.

Just some of the tremendous outcomes that spring to mind this year have been –

- The return of several significant events that postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic or floods, such as the Southern 80 and Riverboat Festival. With our team working with organisers to be adaptable in their delivery, we were able to draw thousands of visitors to our region and boost our economy.
- The opening of some fantastic open spaces which resulted from long held community aspirations in Gunbower, Rochester and Echuca. These projects were all wonderful examples of the fantastic outcomes that can be achieved when Council and community work together.
- Thousands of dollars have been provided to the community in grants for events, equipment, community spaces and groups. It is heartening to be able to assist so many wonderful community led organisations and together with my fellow councillors I've loved progressing some excellent projects such as Victoria Park, Rushworth Rail trail, Rochester Moon Oval lighting, Toolleen and Kyabram Netball Courts to name a few.

Feedback from the Community Satisfaction Survey told us we need to improve our communication with the community, and we've been directing our energies into getting out amongst our constituents and listening to what matters the most to them. To that end we've had over 770,000 visits to our website; 40,582 calls answered and thousands of emails to our team. We're reaching out to the community more than ever before, connecting and listening as we progress key strategies and projects for towns.

The inaugural Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Summit was a first for our organisation, with hundreds of our key business across the shire informing a future strategy's development. The findings from the engagement are shortly to be released for further input based on an enormous amount of information provided by our residents.

Whilst there's a long way to go, we've worked hard to repair flood damaged roads and facilities with over 900km of kilometres of roads graded since July and the team continuing to focus additional efforts to getting roads back on track and recreational spaces reopened for the community to enjoy. It was great to see unanimous support in redirecting budget towards the purchase of new equipment and additional staff to tackle the unenviable task head on.

One of the highlights in my Mayoral term was to proudly be welcoming over 90 new citizens to our region as new Australians and to see their pleasure in calling Campaspe home.

I would like to express gratitude on behalf of the Councillors to our CEO Pauline Gordon. Pauline joined us in October 2022, immediately following the floods, and had in fact, arrived a week early to volunteer her time during the immediate aftermath of the floods.

During her first year, she has overseen the appointment of five new directors and steered the ship through a significant restructure and recruitment period. Under her leadership, a cultural shift has

occurred throughout the organisation, and we look forward to watching this blossom even further as the new directors, managers and their teams progress.

Lastly, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for the support you've shown me. Particular mention to Deputy Mayor Cr Colleen Gates for her advice and support.

We have all worked together extremely well in what has been one of the toughest years on record in Campaspe Shire.

I look forward to achieving even more great outcomes for the community with Councillors and staff during the year ahead.

There is still much work to be done over coming months but once again, thank you all for providing me with this opportunity.

5 Office of the Deputy Mayor and Setting the term of Office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer:	Office of the CEO Support Officer
Manager:	CEO Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

The process for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is set out in rule 6 of the Campaspe Shire Council Governance Rules (the Governance Rules).

Initially, in accordance with section 20A of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and rule 6.2 (2) of the Governance Rules, Council may by resolution, determine to establish an office of the Deputy Mayor.

Council must also, under section 26(3) of the Act and rule 6.2(4) of the Governance Rules, determine whether the term of office of the Mayor will be for a one- or two-year period. However, given this is the last year of a four-year term, the term of office will be one year.

Moved by Cr Jarman

Seconded by Cr Mackrell

That Council:

- 1. Resolve to establish the office of Deputy Mayor.**
- 2. Determine that the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be for a period of one year from 14 November 2023.**

CARRIED

6 Election of Mayor

Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer:	Office of the CEO Support Officer
Manager:	CEO Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

A Councillor must be elected as the Mayor of the Council under section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the process by which an election of the Mayor is held is set out in rule 6 of the Campaspe Shire Council Governance Rules (the Governance Rules).

Cr Weller nominated Cr Rob Amos for the position of Mayor.

Seconded by Cr Jarman

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Councillor Amos received an absolute majority of votes cast and was declared elected as Mayor for a one-year period from 14 November 2023.

7 Ceremonial Mayoral Speech

Following the Election of the Mayor, the CEO passed the Chair to the Mayor. In accordance with Governance Rule 6.8, the Mayor made a speech to thank Councillors for their support.

8 Election of the Deputy Mayor

Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer:	CEO Executive Officer
Manager:	Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

A Councillor must be elected to be the Deputy Mayor during the Council Meeting at which the Mayor is to be elected, in accordance with rule 6.2(3) of Council's Governance Rules.

Cr Gates nominated Cr Marwood for the role of Deputy Mayor.

Seconded by Cr Weller

In accordance with the Campaspe Shire Council Governance Rules, Councillor Marwood has received an absolute majority of votes cast and was declared elected as Deputy Mayor for a one-year period from 14 November 2023.

9 Schedule 2024 Meeting Dates and Councillor Committee Representation

9.1 Schedule 2024 Council Meeting Dates

Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer:	Office of the CEO Support Officer
Manager:	CEO Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

Council must set the date and times for all scheduled Council meetings for the following calendar year at or before the last meeting of the current calendar year. The proposed dates, times and locations for scheduled Council meetings in 2024 are set out for Council consideration.

Moved by Cr Gates

Seconded by Cr Jarman

That Council adopt the following dates for the 2024 Scheduled Council Meetings to be held at Echuca Civic Centre, 2 Heygarth Street Echuca, commencing at 6:00pm:

- 1. Tuesday 20 February 2024**
- 2. Tuesday 19 March 2024**
- 3. Tuesday 23 April 2024**
- 4. Tuesday 21 May 2024**
- 5. Tuesday 18 June 2024**
- 6. Tuesday 23 July 2024**
- 7. Tuesday 20 August 2024**
- 8. Tuesday 17 September 2024**
- 9. Tuesday 15 October 2024**
- 10. Tuesday 12 November 2024**
- 11. Tuesday 19 November 2024**
- 12. Tuesday 10 December 2024**

CARRIED

9.2 Councillor Committee Representation

Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Responsible Officer:	Office of the CEO Support Officer
Manager:	CEO Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

The purpose of this item is to consider the proposed Councillor appointment to the following committees for the upcoming calendar year.

Moved by Cr Weston

Seconded by Cr Weller

That Council, from 14 November 2023, appoint

- 1. Councillor Marwood and Councillor Jarman to the Audit and Risk Committee.**
- 2. Councillor Amos, Councillor Gates, Councillor Weller and Councillor Mackrell to the CEO Performance and Remuneration Advisory Committee.**
- 3. Councillor Gates as the Campaspe Shire Council Delegate for the Municipal Association of Victoria.**

CARRIED

10 Close Meeting

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 5:57pm.

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Cr Rob Amos
Mayor