

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre 115 Civic Parade, Altona



**Council Meeting Minutes** 

9 November 2018

#### THE COUNCIL'S MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

#### **OUR VALUES**

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

Council acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

#### Councillors:

Cr Tony Briffa Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Sandra Wilson Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Angela Altair Strand Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden Strand Ward
Cr Colleen Gates Wetlands Ward
Cr Michael Grech Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond Chief Executive Officer Hobsons Bay City Council

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# **CONTENTS**

1	Council Welcome	2
2		
3		
4	Election of Mayor	11
5	Mayoral Response	12
6	Appointment of the Deputy Mayor	13
7	Election of Deputy Mayor	13
8	Mayoral Vehicle/Travel Arrangements	14
9	Close the Meeting and Issue an Invitation to the Civic Reception	14

Council Meeting Minutes

9 November 2018

# Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Friday 9 November 2018 at 7.08 pm in the Council Chamber, Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona.

#### **PRESENT**

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

Cr Tony Briffa	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Sandra Wilson	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Angela Altair	Strand Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Colleen Gates	Wetlands Ward
Cr Michael Grech	Wetlands Ward

#### **OFFICERS**

Mr A van Egmond	Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Verwey	Acting Director Corporate Services
Ms T Rose	Interim Director Strategic Development
Mr S Manivasagasivam	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Mr S Zelez	Manager Strategic Communications
Ms M Simkin	Governance Advisor/Minute Secretary

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in accordance with Clause 11 of the Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2015, he will be the temporary Chairperson for proceedings relating to the election of the Mayor.

#### 1 Council Welcome

The Chief Executive Officer welcomed members of the gallery and acknowledged the people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of this land.

A particular welcome was extended to former councillors and Mayors, including Carl Marsich and Leigh Hardinge OAM, Cr Daryl Warren, Deputy Mayor Buloke Shire, Citizen of the Year Andy Griffiths, former Citizens of the Year Geoff Mitchelmore, Lesley Ould, Sharon Walsh and Joseph Attard, Joy Martin from the Hobsons Bay Friendship Association, Hayden Raysmith from the Hobsons Bay Community Fund, Peter Sammut, CEO of the West Gate Tunnel Authority and Diana Rice.

# 2 Apologies

Nil.

# 3 Mayoral Focus – End of Term Report

**Directorate:** Corporate Services **Councillor Portfolio:** Not applicable

Appendices: Nil

# **Purpose**

To update Councillors and the community on the areas of focus of the Mayoral Term 2017-18 of Mayor Angela Altair.

#### **Motion**

Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council note the Mayoral Focus End of Term Report for Cr Angela Altair.

# Summary

Following the Mayoral election in November 2017, Council elected Cr Angela Altair to lead the Council as Mayor for the 2017-18 Mayoral Term.

Following her election as Mayor, Cr Altair determined that her mayoral activities would focus on heritage, promoting natural environments, celebrating women, young people and our many volunteers, building on friendships, improving communication and identifying more innovative ways to engage with the community. This report outlines the areas of particular interest and provides an update on the activities achieved throughout Cr Altair's Mayoral term.

# **Background**

The Mayoral Program provides an opportunity for the Mayor of the Day to support key actions focusing on particular areas of interest and passion while serving in the best interest of the Hobsons Bay community. For 2018, Cr Altair demonstrated a strong interest in being future focussed, inclusive, providing recognition of the past, and celebrating our local community heroes.

#### **Discussion**

#### Heritage and expanding the historic markers program across the municipality

Ensuring our stories are told, with opportunities to promote the heritage of the city, adding cultural value and learning to our everyday lives was an important focus for this Mayoral Program.

The Mayor supported Heritage Hobsons Bay, a Council led partnership with local community groups and historians under the auspices of the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival that took place around Australia during April and May. More than 20 events were conducted locally, from On The Beach, a history of Williamstown Beach presented by Brian Haynes for the Williamstown Historical Society and Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club to the Truganina Explosives Reserve Tour



and many points in between. During the festival, the Mayor officially opened the Brooklyn Community History mural on the footpath linking Cypress Avenue to the Federation Trail.



In June, the Mayor hosted an afternoon tea attended by heritage representatives to acknowledge the completion of the restoration of the Williamstown Town Hall. On 28 October, the Mayor spoke at the Irish Famine Orphans Commemoration which included ceremonial activities at Burgoyne Reserve and at the Williamstown Town Hall, marking a significant occurrence in the history of Williamstown in particular.

Council progressed its monuments conservation program, with maintenance work on The Strand Cannons and conservation of the Strand Capstan being completed in October 2018.



A cultural focus was brought to the fore, with the naming of the Williamstown Town Hall and Library Forecourt after Ada Cambridge. The Ada Cambridge Forecourt was formally gazetted as an Official Place Name 23 August 2018 and an interpretive sign commissioned that demonstrates the contributions made by Ada Cambridge, the novelist, poet and memoirist, in a location that has strong civic and literary context. This link is also noted in the Home Grown authors profile section of the Hobsons Bay Libraries website linked by 'QR code' from the sign. The naming was also in support of the Mayor's focus on recognising the contribution of women in Hobsons Bay.





#### Mayoral Walks around the city

The Mayor conducted a number of walks across the whole of the municipality with the support of her colleagues and the many environmental champions in Hobsons Bay. The Mayoral walks around the city allowed people to enjoy Hobsons Bay's wonderful natural environment while promoting an amazing array of Friends Groups and recognising the remarkable work our volunteers do to preserve and improve open space areas.

The Mayoral Walks started in March with a very well attended walk along Toyota Way on the Kororoit Creek Trail to experience the public artworks Spirits Of Time And Place with the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek. The group's President Geoff Mitchelmore and the artist Geoffrey Ricardo were on hand to talk about the works.

There was a second Mayoral Walk at Newport Lakes on 11 August with a strong community attendance. The event consisted of a guided tour of the area with Council's rangers highlighting the conservation features of the lakes area. The Council's Communications Team supported the pre-event promotion of the walk with a successful video that was featured heavily on Council's digital channels.

The third and final Mayoral Walk at Truganina Coastal Reserve on 7 October was the most highly attended walk. The guided walk, again facilitated by Council's rangers, highlighted the Truganina Explosives Reserves, Truganina Wetlands, interpretive bird signage near Apex Park and the 100 Steps to Federation. Approximately 40 people attended on this sunny spring day and there was excellent feedback from attendees.





#### Promoting and facilitating ideas of young people in Hobsons Bay

Listening to, celebrating and promoting the youth of Hobsons Bay was a key area of interest for the Mayor. The Mayor committed to engaging with local groups and organisations and acting as a facilitator for young peoples' ideas as well as taking advantage of any opportunity to promote our young community leaders. As part of her Mayoral Program, Cr Altair addressed the annual Youth Suicide Prevention Forum, a partnership between Orygen - the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health and Hobsons Bay City Council. The focus was on Youth Suicide Prevention in Educational Settings, highlighting the research and youth mental health initiatives being conducted by Orygen.



Over 100 people attended the forum including students, education staff and community stakeholders from across Melbourne's North-West Region. The event was co-convened by Abbey Brown (2018 Hobsons Bay Young Citizen of the Year) and Emily Boubis (Headspace Youth Advisory Group member and Altona Meadows resident).

Attendees were presented with an insight into the breadth of research work and youth suicide prevention programs being implemented within schools, while

workshops provided an opportunity for discussion and students provided the youth voice to assist Orygen to

determine effective approaches for implementation within school settings. Orygen will analyse feedback and determine actions that will be shared across the region.



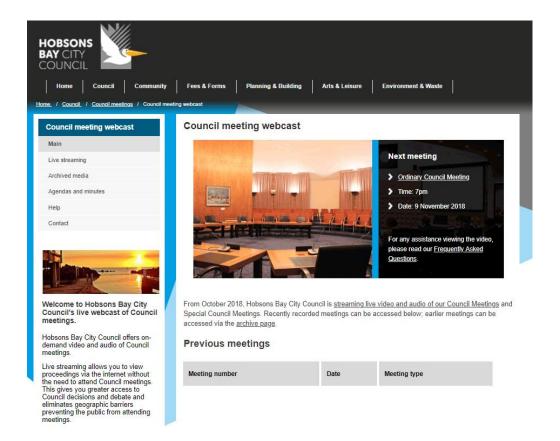
#### **Leaders for Sustainability Program**

In August, 65 local secondary students came to the Council Chambers to celebrate the completion of the Future Leaders for Sustainability Program and to receive a CSIRO Creativity in Research, Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST) award from the Mayor of Hobsons Bay. This program was a first in Australia and a partnership between Council, the CSIRO and four of Hobsons Bay's secondary schools: Laverton P-12, Altona P-9, Bayside Williamstown campus and Mount St Joseph Girls' College. Students from Years 8 and 9 identified local environmental issues and were tasked with finding Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) based solutions to these problems. The event included displays of the students' projects, presentations from CSIRO, a young, locally based STEM student who is studying at Melbourne University and Taimor Hazhou from Dow Chemicals who provided an insight into future career options for STEM students as well as presentations from the students themselves. The collaborative program will be offered again next year with the addition of academics from the University of Melbourne who will mentor the teachers and students.

#### **Expanding and promoting access to meetings of Council and Councillors**

Acknowledging that members of our community lead busy lives and that it is not always possible to attend a meeting, event or consultation of Council, Cr Altair sought opportunities to open the doors of Council further.

Through Cr Altair's advocacy for this initiative, a motion to adopt Live Streaming of Ordinary Meetings of Council was approved by Council on 11 September 2018. A Live Streaming solution has now been implemented and is an ideal way for Council to increase public accessibility to Council meetings by allowing interested members of the public to view Council decision making live on any device, rather than read or hear about a decision at a later point in time. The solution also supports an archived recording of Council meetings, bookmarked per agenda item enabling users to quickly view their topics of interest (see image of Council's Live Streaming Webpage below).



#### Recognition of women's contribution to the city

It is recognised that across the municipality we have many women whose lives are connected to Hobsons Bay and whose contributions benefit the local community each and every day.

The Mayor wishes to acknowledge and celebrate the women from the Hobsons Bay municipality who have made significant and long lasting contributions during their lifetime. This recognition builds on the excellent work done by Cr Wilson, other Councillors and members of important groups such as the Women's Advisory Committee.

Throughout her Mayoral program, Cr Altair took the opportunity to celebrate all women across our great city and indeed our nation and the world at events such as International Women's Day with a walk around Cherry Lake in support of solidarity. The theme this year was #PressforProgress. Cr Altair said there has never been a more important time to keep motivated.



Also on the theme of International Women's Day and in continued efforts to provide opportunities through visibility and awareness raising to help drive positive change, the Mayor introduced a large cohort of Council staff to Nikita Beriman. Nikita was the first female jockey to win a Group 1 race in Victoria. Winning her first race at the age of 16, Nikita is an advocate for young female jockeys and does whatever she can to help up and coming females in the industry. Nikita's story is inspiring about her coming back from injury and working in what is known as a traditional male dominated industry.

Nikita was responsible for the successful separation of the female/male change rooms in the racing industry. A concept that the Mayor has been working hard for right across all sporting codes in Hobsons Bay.

Of course as mentioned earlier, the Mayor also had the privilege of opening the newly named Ada Cambridge Forecourt at the Williamstown Town Hall.

Other programs supported by the Mayor included:

- Daughters of the West. Council supported 43 women who completed the program at Laverton which focussed on healthy choices, mental and physical health and social connections.
- Cultivate Leadership. A women's leadership program for 24 women from Altona North and Brooklyn was completed in June 2018. The program focused on building women's leadership capacity across generations and across our multicultural community. Pleasingly, several of these participants have recently joined Council's newly formed Advisory Committees to continue their ongoing commitment in this area.

#### **Heroes of Hobsons Bay**

The Mayoral Program supported the recognition of volunteers and their pivotal role in contributing to the quality of life in our community. There are many unsung heroes that the Mayor recognised during Volunteer Week. These people work in all areas of the community contributing their time, knowledge and skills to benefit the community and most importantly make a difference to the lives of many grateful community members. Recognition of their humble contribution was a key focus of the 2018 Mayoral Program. The Mayor, along with her colleagues Cr Sandra Wilson and Cr Jonathon Marsden, were thrilled to launch the Hobsons Bay Volunteering Strategy. Two young women from the local opportunity shop gave memorable speeches about the importance of their roles in the community.

Opportunities throughout the year such as World Environment Day were also important and provided further opportunity for the Mayor to acknowledge the great work of many in the community.



Council held a World Environment Day event (Beat Plastic Pollution – Beyond Recycling) on 5 June at the Williamstown Town Hall. The event featured over 20 stallholders with a focus on sustainability run by community groups and volunteers. Approximately 400-500 community members attended. Children enjoyed the Trash Puppets, the Book Cubby and making screen prints for Boomerang Bags. Mayor Altair opened the event, launched our Food Waste Avoidance Program and 2019 Environment Grants.

An impressive video was prepared (see link below). The video had the highest views of any video ever produced by Council.

https://www.facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil/videos/1817339511655934/

#### Building and maintaining strong sustainable relationships

The Mayoral Program continued to develop long standing friendships with Anjo, our Council's sister city in Japan, the community of Yarrabah in far north Queensland, and Buloke Shire in country Victoria.

The particular focus this year has been the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relationship with Anjo. This sister city alliance was formalised between the City of Anjo and the City of Altona on 17 October 1988. To commemorate this milestone, the Mayor joined a community delegation to Anjo in April 2018, and hosted a reciprocal delegation from Anjo in October, welcoming the delegates to Altona. The Mayor of Buloke and the CEO of Yarrabah also travelled to Hobsons Bay to participate in the occasion.



#### Promotion of user friendly communication and innovative community engagement

As part of the Mayoral Program, the Mayor maintained a keen focus on ensuring Council's communications are user friendly.

In an effort to reach a wider cohort of the community in a modern way, the CEO's Operations Report E-newsletter has been developed to encourage a clearer understanding and connection with the many services and outputs from Council. The E-newsletter has grown significantly in reach and membership due to stronger promotion via Council's digital platforms. Each E-newsletter item is now promoted as individual social media posts, which further enhances community awareness of Council's core services.

Expanded promotion of Council meetings and the decisions made has also received special attention. As part of the Mayoral focus, Council meeting agendas and decision making has featured in Around the Bay, social media, rotating banners and latest news sections on the website, on-hold phone messages, and on TV screens in the customer service foyer.

Council is transitioning to a new website product in 2018 called Open Cities. The new website puts customer focus at the forefront of its layout and design. It will have a more logical layout of information and ease of use with its information architecture. Open Cities will enhance search functions and will make transacting with Council far easier via online forms and an improved menu system. Excitingly, the new website is due to go live to the community for consultation and usability testing in November and furthermore to go live as Council's official website in early December 2018.

#### Reducing our carbon emissions through changes to our fleet

As part of the Mayoral Program, Council has embarked on reducing our emissions of our fleet. Council is partnering with Toyota as part of a trial of the Toyota Mirai which is at the forefront of a new age of hydrogen fuel cell cars. The benefits of the Mirai include no harmful gases and other pollutants whilst driving with the only tailpipe emission from Mirai being water, therefore assisting Council in achieving its ambitious target of zero net emissions by 2020. Council will also be trialling electric vehicles (EV) and is working towards installing EV charge points in the municipality for community use.

# 4 Election of Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer invited nomination/s for the Office of Mayor for 2018-19.

#### Nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2018-19

Cr Jonathon Marsden was nominated by Cr Michael Grech.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that, as there were no further nominations, Cr Jonathon Marsden is duly elected Mayor of the Hobsons Bay City Council for 2018-19.

The Mayor was robed by the Chief Executive Officer and presented with the Mayoral Jewel of Office.

Mr van Egmond invited Cr Marsden to take the chair at the head of the Council table and offered congratulations. The Mayor chaired the remainder of the meeting.

# 5 Mayoral Response

Councillors congratulated Cr Marsden on his election as Mayor, in particular noting his active commitment to Council duties and advocacy for Hobsons Bay and the western region. Councillors offered their support to Cr Marsden as they work together as a team over the coming year for the benefit of the Hobsons Bay community.

Cr Marsden acknowledged the traditional owners of the land upon which the Council meets and acknowledged the special guests in attendance including former councillors and mayors, former and current Citizens of the Year, Council directors, visitors to the city, family and viewers on the Council website.

In thanking the Council for the invitation to serve as Mayor, Cr Marsden acknowledged the opportunity he has been given to fully participate in the life of the city and governance of the Council.

Cr Marsden proudly acknowledged his fellow councillors and their community contribution, and expressed his gratitude for their support. He also congratulated Cr Altair on her successful mayoral term.

Outlining the issues and challenges ahead, Cr Marsden noted that the community and Council will be required to discover new ways to adapt to changing expectations and circumstances, including building resilience to make the community thrive in the face of climate change and rapid technological innovations. Cr Marsden stated that he would elaborate further on the initiatives within his mayoral program at the December Council meeting.

Cr Marsden noted that as a group the Council has a number of responsibilities under the Local Government Act, including responsibility for the Council budget and good governance. Councillors have been elected by the Hobsons Bay community to develop a budget that meets the needs of the residents and ratepayers and to fulfil the vision of guiding documents, Hobsons Bay 2030 and the Council Plan which were crafted with extensive contribution of the community.

In closing, Cr Marsden expressed his confidence in the Council team, the Chief Executive Officer and his team and the many dedicated people who make up the community of Hobsons Bay.

# 6 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

#### **Motion**

Moved Cr Sandra Wilson, seconded Cr Colleen Gates:

#### **That Council:**

- 1. Appoint a Deputy Mayor for the purpose of assisting the Mayor with official duties.
- 2. Note that the position of Deputy Mayor is not a statutory position under the *Local Government Act* 1989, and that no additional allowance is payable.
- 3. Conduct the process for the election of the Deputy Mayor as described in the Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2015.

**Carried** 

# 7 Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor called for nominations for the Deputy Mayor for 2018-19.

#### **Nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2018-19**

Cr Michael Grech was nominated by Cr Tony Briffa.

The Mayor stated that as there were no further nominations, Cr Michael Grech is duly elected as Deputy Mayor for 2018-19.

# 8 Mayoral Vehicle/Travel Arrangements

#### **Motion**

Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill:

That Council provide a vehicle for the use of the Mayor and pay all associated costs or, in the event that the Mayor does not require a motor vehicle, that an amount equivalent to the mean average vehicle operating cost for a medium vehicle as published by the RACV in June 2018 be paid to the Mayor to cover all expenses associated with servicing, fuel and insurance of the Mayor's private motor vehicle.

Carried

# 9 Close the Meeting and Issue an Invitation to the Civic Reception

The Mayor invited all present to the Civic Reception in Meeting Rooms 3 and 4.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.51pm.

Chairperson - Cr Jonathon Marsden

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

naha Marsden

11 December 2018

# **Procedure for the Election of the Mayor 2018-19**

#### Local Government Act 1989

#### **Section 90 Voting**

- (1) A question before a meeting of a Council or special committee is to be determined as follows—
- (a) each Councillor present at a meeting of the Council and each member of a special committee present at a meeting of the special committee who is entitled to vote is entitled to one vote:

\* \* \* \* \*

- (c) unless the procedures of a Council or special Committee otherwise provide, voting must be by a show of hands;
- (ca) voting at a meeting that is open to members of the public must not be in secret;
- (d) the question is determined in the affirmative by a majority of the Councillors or members of the special committee present at a meeting at the time the vote is taken voting in favour of the question;
- (e) except where subsection (2) applies, if the number of votes in favour of the question is half the number of Councillors or members of the special committee present at the meeting at the time the vote is taken, the Chairperson has a second vote.
- (2) If there is an equality of votes on a question arising under section 71(1), 87(2), 87(3) or 87(4), the matter is to be determined by lot.

# **Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2015**

#### Clause 12 - Method of Voting

The election of Mayor will be carried out by a show of hands.

#### Clause 13 – Determining the Election of Mayor

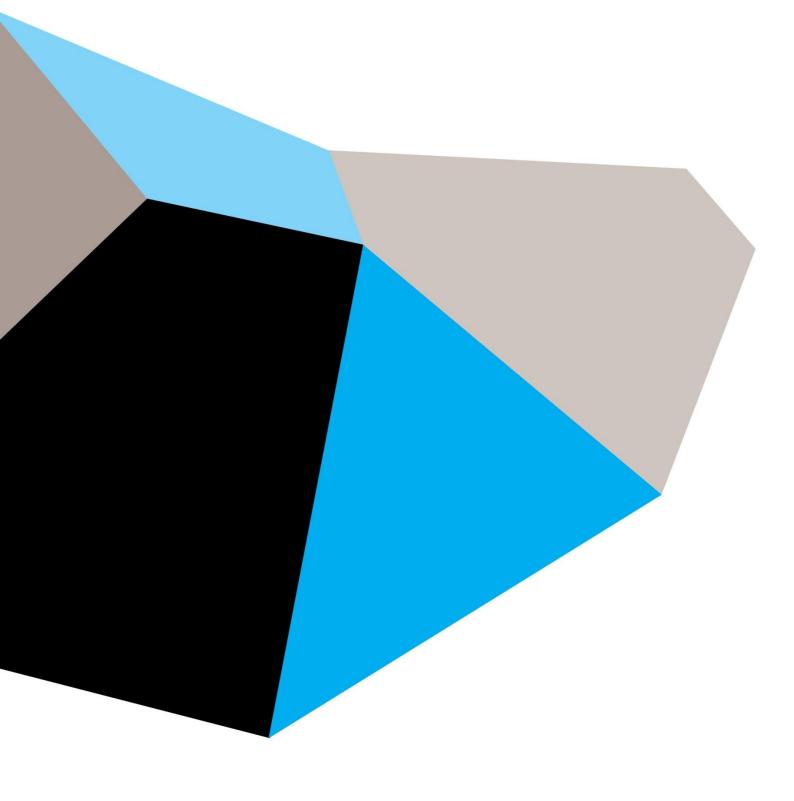
- 1. The Chief Executive Officer will invite nominations for the office of Mayor.
- 2. Any Councillor is eligible for election to the office of Mayor.
- 3. Nominations for Mayor do not require a seconder.
- 4. Any Councillor nominated may refuse nomination.
- 5. If there is only one nomination received the candidate nominated shall be declared elected.
- Where two or more nominations are received, the method of voting shall be by show of hands and the Councillor with the absolute majority of votes cast will be declared elected.
- 7. Where there are two or more nominations and all votes cast equally divided between two or more nominees, the election must be determined by lot.

- 8. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes, the candidate with the least number of votes must be eliminated as a candidate and a further poll conducted between the remaining candidates. If there are several candidates, this procedure must be repeated until a candidate receives an absolute majority of votes and that candidate shall be declared elected.
- 9. If for the purpose of eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes, two or more candidates have the same least number of votes, the candidate to be eliminated shall be determined by simple majority vote.
- If there is an equality of votes with respect to the candidate to be eliminated, the
  candidate to be eliminated shall then be determined by lot to be conducted by the Chief
  Executive Officer.

#### Clause 14 – Determining by Lot

If a lot is required, the Chief Executive Officer will conduct the lot and the following provisions will apply:

- 1. Each candidate shall draw one (1) lot.
- 2. The order of drawing lots shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the surname of the Councillors who received an equal number of votes, except that if two (2) or more such Councillors' surnames are identical, the order shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the Councillors' first names;
- 3. As many identical pieces of paper as there are Councillors who received an equal number of votes shall be placed in a receptacle by the Chief Executive Officer;
- 4. If the lot is being conducted to determine which candidate is a defeated candidate, the word "Defeated" shall be written on one (1) of the pieces of paper, and the Councillor who draws the paper with the word "Defeated" written on it shall be declared the defeated candidate (in which event a further vote shall be taken on the remaining candidates unless there is only one candidate remaining, in which case that candidate will be declared to have been duly elected); or
- 5. If the lot is being conducted to determine which candidate is to be duly elected, the word "Elected" shall be written on one (1) of the pieces of paper, and the Councillor who draws the paper with the word "Elected" written on it shall be declared to have been duly elected.



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