

Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 6pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Councillors

Cr Nic Brooks	Thomastown Ward
Cr Blair Colwell	Mill Park Ward
Cr Lawrie Cox	Ganbul Gulinj Ward
Cr Deb Gunn	Painted Hills Ward
Cr Stevan Kozmevski	Lalor Ward
Cr Jarrod Lappin	Mernda Ward
Cr David Lenberg	Epping Ward
Cr Aidan McLindon	Kirrip Ward
Cr Christine Stow	North Ward
Cr Martin Taylor	South Morang Ward
Cr Daniela Zinni	Bundoora Ward

Executive Leadership Team

Craig Lloyd	Chief Executive Officer
Emma Appleton	Director Planning & Development
Agata Chmielewski	Director Community Wellbeing
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jacinta Stevens	Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 19 November 2024 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

My name is Craig Lloyd and I'm the Chief Executive Officer at the City of Whittlesea. I would now like to introduce our Councillors and members of the Executive Leadership Team in attendance tonight, we have:

Councillor Nic Brooks
Councillor Blair Colwell
Councillor Lawrie Cox
Councillor Deb Gunn
Councillor Stevan Kozmevski
Councillor Jarrod Lappin
Councillor David Lenberg
Councillor Aidan McLindon
Councillor Christine Stow
Councillor Martin Taylor
Councillor Daniela Zinni

We also have with us:

Director Planning & Development, Emma Appleton;
Director Community Wellbeing, Agata Chmielewski;
Director Customer & Corporate Services, Sarah Renner;
Director Infrastructure & Environment, Debbie Wood;
Executive Manager Public Affairs, Janine Morgan; and
Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO, Jacinta Stevens.”

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

Wurundjeri Man Colin Hunter Jnr Jnr was in attendance and commenced the evening with Wurundjeri welcome from the Traditional Owners of the Land.

1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Chief Executive Officer read the following statement:

“At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.”

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Chief Executive Officer sought a procedural motion to suspend standing orders to enable the ceremonial signing of the oaths and affirmations.

PROCEDURAL MOTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Christine Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Deb Gunn</i>

THAT standing orders be suspended to enable the ceremonial signing of the oaths and affirmations of office to take place.

CARRIED

Standing orders were suspended at 6:04pm.

The Chief Executive Officer sought a procedural motion to resume standing orders.

PROCEDURAL MOTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stevan Kozmevski</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Christine Stow</i>

THAT standing orders be resumed.

CARRIED

Standing orders resumed at 6:17pm.

3 Officers' Reports

3.1 Term of Office of the Mayor 2024-25

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the requirements to determine whether the Mayoral term be for a one year or two year term in accordance with s 26 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), and to inform Councillors a Mayor must be elected no later than one month after the date of a general election.

To ensure different Councillors have an opportunity to serve as Mayor over the four year Council term, officers are seeking Council consider the Mayoral term be for a period of one year with the next election of the Mayor to be held on a day as close to the end of the one year term as is reasonably practicable.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve the Mayoral term be for a period of one year in accordance with s 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Note the next election of the Mayor will be held on a day as close to the end of the one year term as is reasonably practicable.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Lawrie Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Jarrod Lapin</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve the Mayoral term be for a period of one year in accordance with s 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
2. **Note the next election of the Mayor will be held on a day as close to the end of the one year term as is reasonably practicable.**

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

3.2 Mayor Election 2024-2025

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council the election of the Mayor will be conducted in accordance s 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Council’s Governance Rules.

Section 25 of the Act prescribes that at a Council meeting open to the public, Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council. Any Councillor is eligible for the election to the Office of Mayor. The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors.

Further, Council’s Governance Rules prescribe the procedure for the election of Mayor, noting the Chief Executive Officer must chair the election of the Mayor in accordance with s 25(3)(a) of the Act.

Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council conducts an election for the position of Mayor for 2024-2025 Council year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Deb Gunn</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Jarrod Lapin</i>

THAT Council conducts an election for the position of Mayor for 2024-2025 Council year.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

Election of Mayor 2024-2025 Term

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd outlined the process for the election of the Mayor and invited Councillors to submit their nominations for the Office of Mayor for the 2024-2025 Council year.

Cr Martin Taylor nominated Cr Aidan McLindon for election to the Office of the Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Cr Nic Brooks. Cr Aidan McLindon accepted the nomination.

Cr Stevan Kozmevski nominated Cr Lawrie Cox for election to the Office of the Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Cr Jarrod Lappin. Cr Lawrie Cox accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd conducted the vote in order of nominations received. The vote was conducted by a show of hands. Cr Aidan McLindon received the votes of an absolute majority of the Council.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules 2024, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Aidan McLindon duly elected to the Office of Mayor of the City of Whittlesea for the 2024-2025 Council year.

Mayor Aidan McLindon assumed the Chair and addressed the meeting.

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO THE ELECTION

Cr Christine Stow

Cr Martin Taylor

Cr Lawrie Cox

Cr Blair Colwell

3.3 Establishment of the Role of Deputy Mayor 2024-2025

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

Pursuant to Section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), a Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

Section 21 of the Act states that the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and exercise any powers of the Mayor if it is deemed the Mayor is unable to attend part/all of a Council meeting, the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of office of Mayor for any reason, or if the office of the Mayor is vacant.

The election of Deputy Mayor will be regulated in accordance with sections 4-6 of Council's Governance Rules.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council in accordance with section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its Governance Rules establish the position of Deputy Mayor for a term to coincide with the term of the Mayor for the 2024-2025 Council year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Martin Taylor</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Blair Colwell</i>

THAT Council in accordance with section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its Governance Rules establish the position of Deputy Mayor for a term to coincide with the term of the Mayor for the 2024-2025 Council year.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR /S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

3.4 Election of Deputy Mayor 2024-2025

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

In accordance with Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* the election of Deputy Mayor will be conducted in accordance with sections 4-6 of Council’s Governance Rules.

The term of a Deputy Mayor is to be identical to the term of the Mayor as resolved by Council.

Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council conduct an election for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2024-2025 Council year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Martin Taylor</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lawrie Cox</i>

THAT Council conduct an election for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2024-2025 Council year.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR /S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

Election of Deputy Mayor 2024-2025 Term

The Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon outlined the process for the election of the Deputy Mayor and invited Councillors to submit their nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2024-2025 Council year.

Cr Martin Taylor nominated Cr Daniela Zinni for election to the position of Deputy Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Cr Nic Brooks. Cr Daniela Zinni accepted the nomination.

Cr Lawrie Cox nominated Cr Deb Gunn for election to the position of Deputy Mayor. The nomination was seconded by Cr Stevan Kozmevski. Cr Deb Gunn accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations

The Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon conducted the vote in order of the nominations received. The vote was conducted by a show of hands. Cr Daniela Zinni received the votes of an absolute majority of the Council.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules 2024, the Mayor declared Cr Daniela Zinni duly elected to the position of Deputy Mayor of the City of Whittlesea for the 2024-2025 Council year.

Cr Daniela Zinni addressed the meeting.

3.5 Confirmation of Meeting Dates until the end of June 2025

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

On the 21st of November 2023, Council resolved to fix Council meeting dates up to and including 17 June 2025. At this time, it was proposed the 26 November 2024 would be the first Council meeting after the general election for the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Due to the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) bringing forward the declaration of election results to Monday 11 November 2024, the CEO, in accordance with s 10(2) of the *Local Government Act (City of Whittlesea) Act 2020*, was required to summon the first Council meeting within 14 days of the VEC returning officer publicly declaring the results. The CEO in meeting their legislative obligations summoned the first Council meeting for Tuesday 19 November 2024.

The purpose of this report is for Council to confirm the scheduled meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 through to the end of June 2025, excluding the previously fixed first Council meeting date of Tuesday 26 November 2024.

Council meetings are conducted monthly to enable Council to make formal decisions and to provide the community with the opportunity to participate in this decision-making process.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Confirm the Council meeting schedule until end June 2025 as follows:
 - Tuesday 17 December 2024;
 - Tuesday 18 February 2025;
 - Tuesday 18 March 2025;
 - Tuesday 15 April 2025;
 - Tuesday 20 May 2025; and
 - Tuesday 17 June 2025.
2. Note a subsequent report, with a schedule of Council meeting dates for July 2025 to December 2025, will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption prior to June 2025.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Christine Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Deb Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Confirm the Council meeting schedule until end June 2025 as follows:**
 - **Tuesday 17 December 2024;**
 - **Tuesday 18 February 2025;**
 - **Tuesday 18 March 2025;**
 - **Tuesday 15 April 2025;**
 - **Tuesday 20 May 2025; and**
 - **Tuesday 17 June 2025.**
2. **Note a subsequent report, with a schedule of Council meeting dates for July 2025 to December 2025, will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption prior to June 2025.**

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR /S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
<i>YES</i>			

4 Closure

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6:43pm.

Confirmed this 17th day of December 2024.

Cr Aidan McLindon
Mayor