



Minutes Council Meeting

Thursday 28 October 2021 at 6:00 pm

**Council Chambers (and by video conferencing)
East Gippsland Shire Council Corporate Centre
273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875**

Councillors

Crs Arthur Allen, Sonia Buckley (Via Microsoft Teams), Tom Crook,
Jane Greacen OAM, Mark Reeves, Trevor Stow, Mendy Urie,
Kirsten Van Diggele and John White

Vision

East Gippsland is an inclusive and innovative community that values our natural environment, puts community at the centre of Council decision-making, and creates the conditions in which communities can thrive.

Our Strategic Objectives

1. An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity
2. Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities.
3. A natural environment that is managed and enhanced.
4. A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment.
5. A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging and responsive services

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1 Procedural

1.1 Chief Executive Officer presiding

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I am Anthony Basford, Chief Executive Officer of the East Gippsland Shire Council and I will chair the meeting until a Mayor is elected. I would now like to declare this Meeting open and welcome you all to the meeting to elect the next Mayor and Deputy Mayor (if Council resolves to have Deputy Mayor) for the East Gippsland Shire Council.

East Gippsland Shire Council live streams, records and publishes its meetings via webcasting. These recordings are available for viewing by the public and may be publicly shared by Council.

No other person has the right to record Council meetings unless approval has been granted by the Chair.

In line with the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are able to attend Council meetings electronically or in person and the meetings will be open to the public via livestreaming.

Members of the public are invited to view the livestreamed Council Meeting by following the link on Council's website or Facebook page.

If Council encounters technical difficulties with the livestreaming during the meeting, we will adjourn until the issue is resolved. If technical issues can't be resolved the meeting may be postponed to a later time or date.

1.2 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidawel people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council value their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders, past, present, and future.

A Councillors attendance can only be recorded as present at a Council meeting when the member can confirm that they meet all of these criteria:

1. They can hear proceedings;
2. They can see other members in attendance and can be seen by other members;
3. They can be heard (to speak).

I will now confirm with Councillor Buckley that she can see, hear and be heard and to note assurance that the location she is participating from is secure to ensure deliberations are confidential.

- Can you see and hear us?
- Can you confirm that the location you are participating from is secure to ensure confidential items are dealt with in a confidential manner?

Councillor Buckley confirmed.

1.3 Apologies

Nil

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

1.5 Next meeting

The next Council Meeting of Tuesday 16 November 2021 to be held at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00pm.

2 Term of Office of Mayor

Section 26 of the Act requires that before the election of the Mayor a Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for 1 or 2 years.

In addition, section 26 requires the election for the next Mayor to be held on a day that is close to the end of the term, decided as reasonably practicable.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to determine that the term of office of the Mayor will be for a 1 year term.

Cr Trevor Stow / Cr Mendy Urie

THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION BE ADOPTED

CARRIED

3 Election of Mayor

The Act pursuant of section 25 requires at a Council meeting that is open to the public the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council. Any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.

Section 25 of the Act stipulates that the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors. An absolute majority as defined by section 25(7) of the Act means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the total number of the Councillors of a Council. This means, for East Gippsland Shire Council, the Mayor must receive five or more votes to be elected. Governance Rule 5.4 (**Attachment 1**) requires that the election of the Mayor must be carried out by show of hands.

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations from Councillors for the position of Mayor.

Cr Jane Greacen OAM nominated Cr Mark Reeves for the position of Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Cr Mark Reeves accepted the nomination.

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele nominated Cr John White for the position of Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Cr John White accepted the nomination.

Cr Reeves – 5 votes

Cr White – 4 votes

Cr Mark Reeves was elected Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council for a 1 year term.

Procedural note

The newly elected Mayor assumed the Chair at this juncture

Attachments

Nil

4 Election of Deputy Mayor

The East Gippsland Shire Council traditionally elects a Deputy Mayor as this provides clarity to all Councillors regarding who steps in for the Mayor if they are unavailable. The Act, in section 21, provides that the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any powers of the Mayor if:

- a) the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or
- b) the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason including illness; or
- c) the office of Mayor is vacant.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to have the office of the Deputy Mayor.

Cr Trevor Stow / Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION BE ADOPTED

CARRIED

In addition, the election for the next Deputy Mayor is required to be held on a day that is close to the end of the determined Mayoral term, as reasonably practicable. This will occur at the same time as the election of the Mayor.

The election of the Deputy Mayor will be conducted by the Mayor in accordance with section 27 of the Act and the Governance Rule 5 – Election of Mayor (**Attachment 1**). This means, for East Gippsland Shire Council, the Deputy Mayor must receive five or more votes to be elected. Governance Rule 5.4 requires that the election of the Deputy Mayor must be carried out by show of hands.

Cr Mark Reeves Mayor called for nominations from Councillors for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele nominated Cr Arthur Allen for the position of Deputy Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Cr Arthur Allen accepted the nomination.

Cr Jane Greacen OAM nominated Cr Tom Crook for the position of Deputy Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Cr Tom Crook accepted the nomination.

Cr Allen – 6 votes
Cr Crook – 2 votes

Cr Arthur Allen was elected Deputy Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council for a 1 year term.

5 Attachments

5.1 Attachments

Documentation: 1. Extraction of East Gippsland Shire Council Rules [5.1.1 - 4 pages]

6 Close of Meeting

Cr Mark Reeves declared the Council Meeting closed at 6.49 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Mark Reeves
16 November 2021