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## **Council Kaunihera OPEN MINUTES**

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber and via Audio-Visual Link , Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 9:30 am.**

### **PRESENT**

<b>Chairperson</b> <i>Heamana</i>	Mayor Paula Southgate
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> <i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary
<b>Members</b>	Cr Maxine van Oosten Cr Moko Tauariki Cr Ewan Wilson Cr Mark Donovan Cr Louise Hutt Cr Andrew Bydder Cr Geoff Taylor Cr Sarah Thomson Cr Emma Pike Cr Melaina Huaki (via Audio Visual link) Cr Anna Casey-Cox Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf Cr Tim Macindoe

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Lance Vervoort – Chief Executive Sean Murray – General Manager Venues, Tourism & Events Andrew Parsons- General Manager Infrastructure & Assets Janet Carson – General Manager Partnerships, Communication & Maaori Blair Bowcott- General Manager Strategy, Growth & Planning Helen Paki – General Manager Customer & Community Sean Hickey – General Manager People, Performance & Culture David Bryant – General Manager Business Services Chris Allen – Executive Director Development Tracey Musty – Financial Director James Clarke – Unit Manager Strategy & Planning Michelle Hawthorne – Governance and Assurance Manager Maire Porter - Unit Director Three Waters Jackie Colliar - Strategic Waters Infrastructure Unit Manager Robyn Denton – Network and Systems Operations Manager
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<b>Governance Staff:</b>	Amy Viggers – Governance Lead Arnold Andrews & Keryn Phillips – Governance Advisors
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*The meeting was opened with a Karakia from Council Kaumatua Tame Pokaia.*

The Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledging in particular, family and friends of Cr Macindoe in attendance.

Mayor Southgate declared the meeting open and welcomed Cr Macindoe as a new Councillor.

Cr Macindoe was then sworn in and signed his Statutory Declaration, required by the Local Government Act 2002, which was witnessed by Mayor Paula Southgate. Following the declaration, he addressed the meeting and thanked those that had supported him during his campaign and in his past role as a Member of Parliament.

**The meeting was adjourned 9.47am to 10.15am.**

**1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Mayor Southgate)

That the apologies for lateness from Cr Tuariki and for early departure from Cr Hauki are accepted.

**2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr van Oosten)

That the agenda is confirmed noting:

- a) the additional verbal section added to the chair's report concerning the Israel-Hamas conflict;
- b) the late report Item C4 (Updated Draft Long-Term Plan Public Excluded Matters) has been added to the agenda. This matter has been added to agenda to enable a decision in a timely manner; and
- c) that the order of the agenda will be flexible.

**3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

**4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero***

No members of the public wished to speak.

**5. Confirmation of the Council Open Minutes - 28 November 2023**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 November 2023 as a true and correct record.

**6. Confirmation of the Council Open Minutes - 14 December 2023**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 December 2023 as a true and correct record.

**7. Chair's Report**

The Chair briefly outlined the verbal section concerning the Israel-Hamas conflict and the proposed statement from the Council.

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Pike)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) approves the release of the following statement:

*Hamilton City Council is gravely concerned about the ongoing devastation and loss of innocent life caused by the Israel-Hamas conflict.*

*We join calls from parts of our local community for a ceasefire, the release of remaining hostages, full compliance with international law, and unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance.*

*We urge continued and sustained efforts by all with influence to bring about peace, in the hope to see an end to the devastation and human suffering.*

*Our hearts go out to all of those who are affected by this conflict, and other conflicts around the world.*

**8. Updated Draft Long-Term Plan**

The Unit Manager Strategy & Planning introduced the report and the process for the meeting.

The Unit Director Three Waters then spoke to the requirement to incorporate Three Waters activities into the Draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning water loss, rainwater tanks, the change in Central Government direction, the proposed universal water metering business case process, cost to Council, and infrastructure and renewal projects.

During the discussion of the above Item, the meeting moved into a public excluded session to consider Item C4 Updated Draft Long-Term Plan Public Excluded Matters.

**9. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O’Leary)

**Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Confirmation of the Council Public Excluded Minutes 28 November 2023	) Good reason to withhold ) information exists under ) Section 7 Local Government ) Official Information and ) Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Confirmation of the Council Public Excluded Minutes 14 December 2023		
C4. Updated Draft Long-Term Plan Public Excluded Matters		

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official

Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C2.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C4.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	

**The meeting moved into the public excluded session at 11.48am.**

*Cr Tauriki joined the meeting during the public excluded session.*

**The meeting returned to the open session at 2.02pm.**

#### **9. Updated Draft Long-Term Plan - *Continued***

*For further information concerning content and discussion, please refer to the following recording of the meeting: [www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonCityCouncil/videos?view](http://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonCityCouncil/videos?view)*

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O’Leary)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) notes the changes affecting the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan since the draft budget was approved at the 28 November 2023 Council meeting.

#### **Rates Remissions and Postponements Policy**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr van Oosten)

That the Council approves the amendment to the *Rates Remissions and Postponements Policy* to:

- i. enable the savings threshold for the rates rebate to increase annually above Consumer Price Index (CPI);and
- ii. increase the savings threshold for 2024-25 to be \$30,000 for a rates rebate.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to include the Rates Remissions and Postponements Policy in the matters to be considered by the Rates Working Group.*

#### **Draft Significant Forecasting Assumptions**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O’Leary)

That the Council approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, the updated draft Significant Forecasting Assumptions at **Attachment 3**.

*Cr Huaki retired from the meeting (2.13pm) during the discussion of the above. She was not present when the matter was voted on.*

**Various Transport Capital programmes**

**Motion:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Donovan)

That the Council approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, the reduction of 50% in the following capital programmes in Attachment 4 of the staff report by 50% across each budget for each year in the Draft Long-Term Plan Budget:

- I. LCLR Road to Zero – Programme A;
- II. LCLR Walking - Programme A;
- III. 452 Biking and Micro Mobility Strategic Routes Programme A.

**Amendment:** (Cr Thomson/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Council approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, the reallocation of \$3m net per year from LCLR 'Road to Zero' to Major Intersection Improvements.

**The Amendment was put.**

**Those for the Amendment:** Councillors Hutt, Casey-Cox, van Oosten and Thomson

**Those against the Amendment:** Mayor Southgate, Deputy Mayor O'Leary  
Councillors Bydder, Pike, Taylor,  
Macindoe, Naidoo-Rauf, Donovan,  
Tauariki and Wilson

**The Amendment was declared LOST.**

**The Motion was then put.**

**Those for the Motion:** Councillors Bydder, Pike, Taylor,  
Macindoe, Naidoo-Rauf, Donovan and  
Wilson.

**Those against the Motion:** Mayor Southgate, Deputy Mayor O'Leary  
Councillors Hutt, Casey-Cox, van Oosten,  
Thomson and Tauariki.

**The Motion was declared EQUAL.**

**The meeting was adjourned 3.20pm to 3.35pm.**

**The Chair elected to not to use her casting vote and the Motion was declared LOST.**

**Personnel and Consultant Budget**

**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Cr Bydder)

That the Council:

- a) approves level of service reductions, commencing part way through year 2 of the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, which will result in:
  - i. a 7% reduction to the personnel budget and a 10% reduction to the consultant budget once fully implemented, being a combined saving of \$10.4m in year 3;
  - ii. a smaller saving of \$2.1m in year 2, noting the mid-year implementation and programme and redundancy costs associated with these savings; and
  - iii. total savings over the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan of \$104m;
- b) notes that the savings referred to in a) above are additional to the \$7 million savings delivered through Future Fit in year 1 and the additional \$1 million saving delivered through Future Fit in year 2, which focus on internal efficiencies; and
- c) requests staff include in the draft Consultation Document a section seeking direction from the community as to the external and internal areas/levels of service that could be lowered to achieve the reduction in a) above.

**Those for the Motion:** Councillors Bydder, Pike, Taylor,  
Macindoe, Naidoo-Rauf, Donovan,

**Those against the Motion:** Tauariki and Wilson  
Mayor Southgate, Deputy Mayor O’Leary,  
Councillors Hutt, Casey-Cox, van Oosten  
and Thomson

**The Motion was declared CARRIED.**

**The meeting was adjourned 4.57pm to 5.10pm.**

**Three Waters capital and operational budgets**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Thomson)

That the Council approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, the addition of the Three Waters capital and operational budgets, as set out in paragraphs 25-59 of the staff report.

**Water Demand Management – Universal Water Meters Programme**

**Motion:** (Deputy Mayor O’Leary/Cr Taylor)

That the Council:

- a) approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, **option 2** the addition of the Water Demand Management business case (Attachment 5 of the staff report) of \$1.5million Operating expenditure in Year 3 of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan;
- b) requests the works for Hamilton’s response to ‘Local Water Done Well’ costs be ringfenced as a separate project to provide transparency to the community and the Council, and that the financial costs be reported regularly to the Finance and Monitoring Committee; and
- c) requests staff prepare a draft communications plan for how Council will communicate with the public on the work programme and future outcome, and report back to the Council at the appropriate time.

**Amendment:** (Cr Wilson/Cr Donovan)

That the Council:

- a) approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, the addition of the Water Demand Management – Universal Water Meters Programme, noting that this is a funding provision only, and the first step would be a detailed business case, which would be reported to the Council prior to a decision on this matter;
- a) requests the works for Hamilton’s response to ‘Local Water Done Well’ costs be ringfenced as a separate project to provide transparency to the community and the Council, and that the financial costs be reported regularly to the Finance and monitoring Committee; and
- b) requests staff prepare a draft communications plan for how Council will communicate with the public on the work programme and future outcome, and report back to the Council at the appropriate time.

**The Amendment was put.**

**Those for the Amendment:** Councillors Hutt, Donovan, Tauariki and Wilson.

**Those against the Amendment:** Mayor Southgate, Deputy Mayor O’Leary,  
Councillors Bydder, Pike, Casey-Cox,  
Taylor, Macindoe, Naidoo-Rauf, van  
Oosten and Thomson.

**The Amendment was LOST.**

**The Motion was then put and declared CARRIED.**

**Resolved:** (Deputy Mayor O’Leary/Cr Taylor)

That the Council:

- a) approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, **option 2** the addition of the Water Demand Management business case (Attachment 5 of the staff report) of \$1.5million opex in Year 3 of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan;
- b) requests the works for Hamilton’s response to ‘Local Water Done Well’ costs be ringfenced as a separate project to provide transparency to the community and the Council, and that the financial costs be reported regularly to the Finance and monitoring Committee; and
- c) requests staff prepare a draft communications plan for how Council will communicate with the public on the work programme and future outcome, and report back to the Council at the appropriate time.

**Comprehensive rates review**

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox/Deputy Mayor O’Leary)

That the Council requests that staff include in the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan consultation document a section concerning the Council’s intention to undertake a comprehensive rates review, via a Working Group, in the first year of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan which would include the assessment of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC).

**Procedural Motion**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O’Leary)

That the Council refers Item C3 (242-266 Victoria Street - Victoria on the River Southern Edge Activation Project) to be considered at the 27 February 2024 Strategic Growth and Discussion Plan committee meeting.

**Average rates Increases**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

That the Council approves, for the purposes of preparing the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan budget, to Balance the Books over 3 years, with the average rates increases over the 10 years as set out below:

<b>Rates %</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
BTB	(\$38m)	(\$9m)	\$30m	\$73m	\$117m	\$142m	\$146m	\$148m	\$149m	\$159m
DtR	281%	273%	268%	267%	274%	274%	270%	263%	256%	250%
GOVT BTB	(\$13m)	\$26m	\$87m	\$131m	\$130m	\$139m	\$158m	\$161m	\$144m	\$157m
Net Debt	\$1238m	\$1403m	\$1632m	\$1840m	\$2022m	\$2169m	\$2314m	\$2393m	\$2424m	\$2516m

*Cr Bydder retired from the meeting (6.15pm) during the discussion of the above. He was not present when the matter was voted on.*

**The meeting was declared closed at 6.20pm.**