

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS COMMENCING AT 5.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cr Sue Abbott, Cr James Burns, Cr Ron Campbell, Cr Tayah Clout, Cr Maurice Collison, Cr Liz Flaherty, Cr Allison McPhee, Cr Lee Watts and Cr Adam Williamson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Greg McDonald (General Manager), Mr Mathew Pringle (Director Environmental & Community Services), Ms Karen Davies (Director Infrastructure Services), Mr Wayne Phelps (Finance Manager), Ms Claire Killeen (Senior Communications Advisor) and Mrs Robyn Cox (Executive Assistant).

In the absence of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the General Manager opened the meeting.

**OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS OF OFFICE:**

Councillors made their oath or affirmation in the presence of the General Manager. Crs Abbott and Flaherty had made their affirmations prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED that Council elect a Chair to conduct the business of Council in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.**

Moved: Cr L Watts

Seconded: Cr J Burns

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr Watts was nominated and elected as Chair.

**RESOLVED that Council suspend standing orders to deal with Item G.01.4 as the first item on the agenda.**

Moved: Cr L Watts

Seconded: Cr J Burns

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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**G.01.4**

***REMOTE ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS***

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Greg McDonald - General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Kristian Enevoldson - Director Corporate Services

**That Council:**

1. permit Councillors to attend Council meetings by audio-visual means until the adoption of a new Code of Meeting Practice.
2. adopt the suggested Procedures governing Councillor attendance at meetings by audio-visual link.

Moved: Cr L Watts

Seconded: Cr T Clout

**AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION:**

**That Council:**

1. permit Councillors to attend Council meetings by audio-visual means until the adoption of a new Code of Meeting Practice.
2. adopt the suggested Procedures governing Councillor attendance at meetings by audio-visual link with the inclusion of a period of five (5) working days notice for normal leave and one (1) hour for illness.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr R Campbell

**THE AMENDMENT BECOMES THE MOTION:**

**RESOLVED That Council:**

1. permit Councillors to attend Council meetings by audio-visual means until the adoption of a new Code of Meeting Practice.
2. adopt the suggested Procedures governing Councillor attendance at meetings by audio-visual link with the inclusion of a period of five (5) working days notice for normal leave and one (1) hour for illness.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr R Campbell

CARRIED

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Burns	Councillor Clout
Councillor Campbell	Councillor Watts
Councillor Collison	Councillor McPhee
Councillor Williamson	
<b>Total (4)</b>	<b>Total (3)</b>

The General Manager resumed the role of Chair until the Mayor is elected.

**RESOLVED that Council, in accordance with the procedures, accept the requests received from Cr Abbott and Cr Flaherty to attend the meeting by audio-visual link.**

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr R Campbell

CARRIED

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Abbott	Councillor McPhee
Councillor Burns	
Councillor Campbell	
Councillor Clout	
Councillor Collison	
Councillor Flaherty	
Councillor Watts	
Councillor Williamson	
<b>Total (8)</b>	<b>Total (1)</b>

Standing orders were resumed.

**APOLOGIES / APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS:**

Nil

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Nil

**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:**

Nil

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**G.01.1** ***ELECTION OF MAYOR***

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Greg McDonald - General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

The Returning Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

There being only one (1) nomination received and being in order, Cr Maurice Collison was declared elected as Mayor of Upper Hunter Shire Council until September 2023.

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**G.01.2** ***ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR***

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Greg McDonald - General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

The Returning Officer called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Two (2) nominations were received; Cr Sue Abbott and Cr James Burns. These nominations being in order, open voting was conducted by a show of hands.

**VOTE COUNT FOR COUNCILLOR SUE ABBOTT**

Councillor Abbott  
Councillor Clout  
Councillor Flaherty  
Councillor Watts

**Total (4)**

**VOTE COUNT FOR COUNCILLOR JAMES BURNS**

Councillor Burns  
Councillor Campbell  
Councillor Collison  
Councillor McPhee  
Councillor Williamson

**Total (5)**

Councillor Burns, receiving five (5) votes, was declared elected as Deputy Mayor of Upper Hunter Shire Council until September 2023.

Newly elected Mayor, Cr Maurice Collison, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

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**G.01.3** ***COUNTBACK OF VOTES TO FILL CASUAL VACANCIES***

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Greg McDonald - General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

**RESOLVED** That Council, pursuant to section 291A(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), declare that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a Councillor within 18 months after the last ordinary election of Councillors for the Council on 4 December 2021 are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at that election for the office in accordance with section 291A of the Act and direct the General Manager to notify the NSW Electoral Commissioner of Council's decision within 7 days of the decision.

Moved: Cr L Watts

Seconded: Cr S Abbott

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.25PM.