



Special Council Meeting

6 May 2020

Virtual Meeting to be broadcast live on Council's website

AGENDA

Public Copy

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF BALLARAT CITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2020 AT 7:00PM.**

This meeting will be a virtual meeting conducted via electronic communication in accordance with section 394 of the Local Government Act 2020 and the meeting is closed for attendance by members of the public.

This meeting is being broadcast live on the internet and the recording of this meeting will be published on council's website www.ballarat.vic.gov.au after the meeting.

Information about the broadcasting and publishing recordings of council meetings is available in council's broadcasting and publishing recordings of council meetings procedure available on the council's website.

AGENDA

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The next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballarat City Council will be held on Wednesday 27 May 2020.

1. OPENING DECLARATION

Councillors: *"We, the Councillors of the City of Ballarat, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance."*

Mayor: *"I respectfully acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, the traditional custodians of the land, and I would like to welcome members of the public in the gallery."*

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

4. OFFICER REPORTS

4.1. DRAFT 2020/21 BUDGET

Division: Business Services
Director: Glenn Kallio
Author/Position: Glenn Kallio - Director Business Services

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves to:

1. Give Public Notice in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to adopt, at a Council meeting of Council to be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 24 June 2020, the proposed 2020-21 Budget.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Section 171 of the *Local Government 1989*, Council will waive \$95.00 of the Rates Levied for the 2020-21 year on properties where the ratepayer:-
 - a) Is an eligible recipient within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, and has qualified for a waiver under Section 171(4) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and,
 - b) Who lives alone in their own home and is solely responsible for the payment of rates and charges on that property.
3. Invite and consider public submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, on the proposals contained in the 2020-21 draft budget and/or the granting of a rate rebate to eligible pensioners and/or Recreational 1 rateable properties. Written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days ending 9.00am Monday 8 June 2020.
4. Any person who wishes to be heard in support of a submission received by Council should indicate in the written submission that he or she wishes to be heard. Any person requesting that he or she be heard in support of a submission is entitled to appear before a meeting of the Council either personally or by a person acting on his or her behalf at a Special Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 7:00pm. Should current social distancing measures be still in force at the time of the Special Council meeting to be held to hear submissions, for those who have indicated to be heard at the meeting, may have their submission read out at the meeting on their behalf, as attendance may not be permitted.
5. In accordance with the provisions of Section 171 of the *Local Government 1989*, Council will waive the Rates Levied for the 2020-21 year on properties where the property is classified as Recreational 1 for rating purposes: -

The objective of this waiver is to provide financial assistance to those sporting and recreational clubs that are required to pay rates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council must prepare a Budget and Strategic Resource Plan for each financial year. The Budget is to contain the information specified in the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and all details required by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (the Regulations). As soon as practicable after the Council has prepared a Budget it must give Public Notice. Any person has the right to make a submission under section 223 of the Act on any proposal contained in the Budget.

Following the completion of the statutory obligations including consideration of submissions, Council may adopt the Budget.

It will be prudent and fiscally responsible to ensure the adoption of the 2020-21 Budget by 30 June 2020.

RATIONALE

Budget 2020-21

Council is required to give public notice of the proposed budget and Strategic Resource Plan, and invite and consider submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, on the proposals contained in the 2020-2021 budget.

Principal components of the 2020-21 budget include:

- Rate increase 0%
- Fees and Charges increase 0%
- New Borrowings \$17m
- Waste Management Charge \$363.10
- Green Waste Charge \$70.30

The Minister for Local Government has issued a *Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGPG-1: Virtual Meetings*. This guideline was issued by the Minister for Local Government pursuant to section 87 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The following is an extract from the Guideline which comes into effect on 1 May 2020.

“Requirement 3: Representation at council meetings by members of the public.

Councils are encouraged to make arrangements to allow members of the public who wish to appear before council to do so through virtual means or other alternatives, including the provision for written statements to be read out at the virtual council meeting or posted prior to the meeting. From 1 May 2020 to 1 November 2020 (the prescribed period) Councils do not need to provide for members of the public to physically attend meetings. Providing public access to livestreamed events satisfies the public attendance test during the prescribed period.”

In accordance with the Act and Ministerial Guidelines, written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days commencing Monday 11 May, 2020, closing 9.00 am on Monday 8 June 2020. A special meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 17 June 2020 to hear the submissions where a submitter has requested to be heard. Those members of the community that have submitted a written submission can request to present that submission to the Special Council meeting. All written submissions received by the Ballarat City Council will be kept confidential as to the matters raised within.

Should current social distancing measures are still in force at the time of the Special Council meeting to be held to hear submissions, for those who have indicated to be heard at the meeting, may have their submission read out at the meeting on their behalf, as attendance may not be permitted. Council will endeavor to investigate all possibilities to enable those submitters wishing to heard to be personally heard on the night.

Council at the Council meeting on Wednesday 24 June 2020 to consider and adopt the 2020-21 Budget and Strategic Resource Plan.

A public notice of the adopted budget and declaration of rates and charges being scheduled to be lodged in The Courier on Saturday 27 June 2020.

LEGISLATION, COUNCIL PLAN, STRATEGIES AND POLICY IMPACTS

The financial operations are conducted within the financial policy framework of Council and the financial 2020-21 Budget is prepared in accordance with the appropriate regulations, legislation and Australian Accounting Standards.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Implications	Considered in Report?	Implications Identified?
Human Rights	Yes	No
Social/cultural	No	No
Environmental/Sustainability	No	No
Economic	No	No
Financial/Resources	Yes	Yes
Risk Management	No	No
Implementation and Marketing	Yes	Yes
Evaluation and Review	Yes	Yes

Human Rights - It is considered that this Report does not impact on any human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 200*.

Financial/Resources - The major financial issues associated with this report are considered with the 2020-21 Draft Budget.

Implementation/Marketing - Information outlining the 2020-21 draft budget will be available on the City of Ballarat's website. Various media articles will be circulated during the submission period relating to the draft budget.

In the event that Council offices remain closed due to restrictions in force as a result of COVID-19, the 2020-21 draft budget will only be available on Council's website.

Evaluation and Review – Evaluation and review occurs at the close of the public submission period at which time Council will review all submissions received. Council will evaluate all submissions and the draft budget, amend if required with the view to adopt the budget on 24 June 2020.

OFFICER' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council Officers affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to the matter of this Report.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

5. CLOSE