



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS  
THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015**

**M I N U T E S**

**OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM**

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**PRESENT:**

The Mayor, Cr H A Zelones OAM JP River Ward  
presided:

Deputy Mayor, Cr R Butterfield	River Ward
Cr K Busby	Minnawarra Ward
Cr G Best	Neerigen Ward
Cr M Geary	Neerigen Ward
Cr C Frost	Lake Ward
Cr M Silver	Lake Ward
Cr C M Wielinga	Jarraah Ward
Cr G Nixon	Jarraah Ward
Cr C A Campbell JP	Palomino Ward
Cr L Sargeson	Palomino Ward
Cr D M Shaw	Heron Ward
Cr J A Stewart	Heron Ward

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr R S Tame	Chief Executive Officer
Mr P Sanders	Executive Director Development Services
Mrs Y Loveland	Executive Director Community Services
Mrs F Baxter	Acting Executive Director Corporate Services
Mr G Davies	A/Executive Director Technical Services
Mrs S D'Souza	CEO's Executive Assistant
Mrs J Sutherland	Executive Assistant Corporate Services

Public: 9

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr M H Norman

Minnawarra Ward

His Worship the Mayor, Cr Henry Zelones, welcomed those in attendance to the 2014-15 Annual General Meeting of Electors and addressed the meeting as follows:

*Good evening and welcome to our Annual Meeting of Electors.*

*I would like to acknowledge that tonight's meeting is being held on land under the traditional custodianship of the lands of the Nyoongar people, and pay our respect to their elders both past and present.*

*I'd like to begin by introducing my fellow Councillors and ask each of them to stand briefly as I introduce them.*

*The Deputy Mayor Ruth Butterfield, Councillors Kerry Busby, Guenter Best, Mark Geary, Colin Campbell, Jim Stewart, Donna Shaw, Carole Frost, Grant Nixon, Caroline Wielinga and newly elected Councillors Laurie Sargeson and Michelle Silver.*

*Also with us tonight are our senior executive team - our CEO, Mr Ray Tame, Mrs Felicity Baxter - Corporate Services, Mrs Yvonne Loveland - Community Services, Mr Glyn Davies-Technical Services and Mr Paul Sanders- Development Services.*

*Before dealing with the business of the meeting, I need to emphasise that this is not a public meeting, but a meeting of electors as provided by the Local Government Act of 1995. As such, the residents who would normally participate are those who are on the City of Armadale Electoral Roll. However, this entitlement is also extended to those others who would be entitled to be on the roll, whether they are on it yet or not. As we may have observers from neighbouring local governments, and if time permits, I shall accept questions from them as well. It is my intent to close the meeting at 9pm and to take any further questions on notice for a response to be included in the minutes of this meeting that will go forward to the Council.*

*The Local Government Act in allowing Electors Meetings confers on the Mayor the responsibility of chairing the meeting, and for deciding the manner in which the meeting should be run. I would hope that the meeting procedure that I am about to outline will permit informality, and during question time the maximum amount of time to ask questions on matters for which the city is responsible. If necessary, but only if necessary to retain order, I would invoke the full range of Council's Standing Orders.*

*I would hope that I don't have occasion to remind anyone during the meeting that none of us here enjoy any privilege or protection from laws relating to defamation, as we will of course, all be focusing on the issues. Prefacing remarks with the words "Without Prejudice" as sometimes happens at this type of meeting does not confer any protection to the speaker. The meeting is being recorded to assist officers who will be required to provide a detailed report to Council.*

*When we get to general business, I will deal with questions from the floor and alternate these with those questions submitted in writing prior to this meeting.*

*I or members of the Executive will try to answer your questions tonight, but some may require further research in which case I will take the question on notice and the person asking the question will receive a response in the mail. The minutes of this meeting once adopted by Council will also contain those answers.*

*The City of Armadale is a large metropolitan Council with a population exceeding 80,000 residents covering a land area of over 500 sq. kms and an operating budget of approximately 100 million dollars. It is not possible for me or the executive to be able to reply to all questions instantly as, in order, to provide accurate and current information it may require follow up with other officers from the City of Armadale, other government agencies and/or sub-contractors who carry out a large amount of the works required.*

*We have a microphone available, and as I said earlier, the meeting is being recorded so I would ask that you step up to the microphone and begin your question by giving your name, and your address. We try to share the order of questions being asked around so initially I will deal with one question from each person who has one, then go to the second and so on. This process should ensure that everyone has a fair go.*

*In terms of voting tonight should that be necessary, you will have already been asked to register on your entry. If any member of the public present tonight isn't entitled to be an elector in the City of Armadale, given my earlier explanation of who is eligible, can I ask that you simply refrain from raising your hand when a vote is taken.*

*I would also remind members of the public that I and my fellow Councillors are also electors of the City of Armadale and retain the right to vote for or against, or abstain from voting, on any motion that may be put from the floor. Should a member of the public wish to put a motion before the meeting the procedure that I will adopt will be similar to that which we use at Council meetings and our standing orders will apply during the debate on the motion. All motions put to the meeting will require a seconder before debate on the motion proceeds. If there is no seconder the motion shall lapse.*

*The mover of the motion will speak first followed by the seconder and then alternately those wishing to speak for or against. The mover will have the right to respond in summing up his arguments or responding to comments made during debate. No new material to be introduced by the mover of a motion in his closing remarks. No person shall speak twice to a motion other than the mover and there shall be no further debate on a motion once the mover has concluded his remark. The motion shall then go to a vote of eligible voters.*

*I also advise that any vote taken on any matter here this evening is not binding on the Council but will be considered in light of all relevant information provided to Council in due course. The minutes of this meeting will be presented to a future City Strategy meeting and then to Council for consideration.*

*Thank you in advance for your consideration.*

## **1 BUSINESS OF MEETING**

### **1 PRESENTING AND RECEIVING THE 2014-2015 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **1.1 2014-2015 Annual Financial Report**

MOVED Cr Campbell that the 2014-2015 Annual Financial Report be received.

SECONDED Cr Best

**CARRIED**

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#### **1.2 Auditor's Report**

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr R S Tame, read aloud the Auditor's Report (Pages 39 and 40 in the Annual Report).

MOVED Cr Frost that the Auditor's Report on the 2014-2015 Annual Financial Report be received.

SECONDED Mr Grimwood

**CARRIED**

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#### **1.3 2014-15 Annual Report (Remaining Parts)**

The Mayor read aloud his Report as printed on Page 6 in the Annual Report.

MOVED Cr Frost that the 2014-2015 Annual Report be received.

SECONDED Mr Grimwood

**CARRIED**

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## **2 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **2.1 Questions received from the floor**

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#### **Mr D Foster – Albany Highway, Bedfordale**

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There are gates at each end of the area which the executive allow some people to graze horses (5 or 6 over a five year period at least) Whilst the fence is in poor condition and one can walk round the gates some local people still regard the area as private, as it was for many years gadded by a large private sign at the north end, and a smaller one at the southern end (neither legal)

**Q1. As it is public land on both sides of these gates, can they please be removed and save a lot of arguments?**

*Answer: This matter has been raised by Mr Foster and responded to on several occasions in the past. The City's response has been that the gates do not present any access issues to the reserve and as such, do not require removing. (It should be noted that the gates or stile were originally requested by Mr Foster in 2006).  
(In 2007, Mr Foster enquired – "What is the purpose of the two gates hung at either end of the grazed land?")*

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After I was arrested on the drive way near P.A.W.3 despite page 10 of the 2008 management plan saying quite definitely that it was O.K. to use this driveway, and being in the police lockup from 6.45am to 11.35am. I was pleased that at least shortly afterwards a portion of the stolen land was retrieved and a laneway was made, but, on consulting the Cadastral drawing and going down there with a tape I find that it was considerably narrower than it should be and protrudes onto the reserve more than it should, making access to the areas between P.A.W3 and 4 very difficult (PAW stolen land) and leaves access to the west side of the brook very difficult (the adjacent land owner filled the small gap with brushwood. He has also in the past blocked the P.A.W with borgonvillia (this position has improved lately.

**Q2. How was the size and position of the path determined by surveyors? By how the local landowners said? By GPS?**

*Answer: With regards to the construction of the public access way, these works were under taken using a licenced surveyor using survey equipment to ensure a high level of accuracy with regards to property boundaries.  
A City officer in charge of the construction of the PAW was on-site regularly when surveyors and work crews were on-site.*

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Yet again surveyors have done another partial survey. Once again they were hardly out of sight that pegs were moved. I was once promised that the boundaries of the reserve would be marked by strong bollards concreted in. This never happened, indeed some bollards were but few mm in the ground and fell over, others were cut in two to make them appear O.K.

**Q3. Will you please mark the boundaries of the reserve with strong markers including all five entrances (as per management plan 2008)?**

*Answer: The most recent installation of bollards was completed in April 2015 following the re-establishment survey of the reserve boundary in February 2015 (earlier cadastral survey carried out 1 May 2003 by a licenced surveyor and resurveyed in 2005) including all change of directions where required in order to determine private and public open space demarcation.  
Bollards are regularly assessed to ensure they are not being removed by residents. The CEO and Executive Director Technical Services personally inspected the February 2015 survey following an assurance made to Mr Foster at this time last year.*

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A huge Flooded Gum was being cut down illegally on the reserve I reported this when the perpetrators of this offence was doing the deed with 3 vehicles on site, men with chain saws and a mulcher and stump grinder standing by. I regarded this tree as the most significant in the city area, and because I had reported many other tree being cut down on the reserve by landowners wanting lawn down to the creek, but had been told nothing could be done unless "we see them with the chain saws in their hand" I expected some action. However was told that no one came as "they were too busy".

**Q4. Is it responsible for the city to employ the firm responsible (Beaver) for this and the cutting down of a row of 400 year old trees (illegally) near the Albany Highway (At least you're your environmental officer had a look at this.)**

*Answer: The matter of cutting down trees has been raised at past Annual General Meetings of Electors by Mr Foster, and he has also raised this matter on numerous occasions by telephone. The City does not permit the cutting down of trees on any reserves, and Officers on each occasion have investigated the allegations. The trees in question were on private land upon which the City has no jurisdiction. Furthermore, no contractors were engaged by the City to undertake these works.*

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I rang the city office to complain that an earth moving machine was diverting the creek on the reserve, the person I spoke to said that the reserve had only been under the control of the city a very short time and the matter would be looked into. I offered to go down to show the person where, but the offer was declined But I was assured that the matter would be looked into. Nothing was done at the time and the earth works, creek diversion and landscaping was completed, I rang again later and was told that the situation would be rectified under a 15year plan. 15 years has come and gone I have been told to be patient. Several times I have walked past this (one of several stolen portions of land) and have been abused (as have others several others which are in the defacto ownership of adjacent landowners.

**Q5. Is there any intention to claim back this land? And, replace the creek in its original position If so when? If not why? Please do not plead poverty as I see palatial offices, an army of highly paid executives and a large fleet of gas guzzlers?**

*Answer: The issue with earthmoving equipment by Mr Fosters own admission been raised consistently over the last 15 years and has been addressed previously in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2011.*

*Any works now to redirect the creek would create significant environmental damage to the reserve notwithstanding the lack of access through the site by machinery to undertake any works.*

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### **Fletcher Park**

**Q1. "In the surveyors report on land which the City tried to sell, was or, was not, the parcel of land was described as 'degraded by horse grazing'?"**

*Answer: I am not aware of any 'surveyors report' and there is currently no proposal to sell any part of Fletcher Park.*

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**Penny Versteeg – Moore St WUNGONG**

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**Q1. Please explain:**

**Why?! After nearly 4 years of negotiations we still cannot safely walk children, dogs, horses and elders from Moore St to Mitchell St without being forced to go along S.W. Highway. This is a Health and Safety issue. We pay a “residential” rating yet seem to have no rights!**

*Answer: This refers to a recent Council decision not to support the provision of a thoroughfare for horse riders. The original request raised local concerns, each of which was thoroughly investigated, and the options carefully considered then put to the residents of the area for their input, specifically requesting an indication of support and comment. The response to the request for comment was good considering the return factor normally experienced, and the results were a clear indication that the provision of a thoroughfare was not supported. The same process for two separate alternatives was followed, with both returning the same low level of support for a thoroughfare.*

*A very detailed report was therefore submitted to Council providing all the facts, the outcomes of the public surveys, and a technical assessment of the alternatives. Council resolved therefore not to support the application for the requested thoroughfare.*

*The matter of riders using the verge of South West Highway to access the bridle trail on the escarpment side of the Highway was discussed at great length in the compilation of the report. The riders have two alternate safe crossing points for accessing the bridle trail, and need to take into consideration all factors in making their selection. The journey along the verge of the Highway is considered to be a safe option, but should riders be less sure of this option, then have the responsibility to make an informed decision regarding their own safety. To date there have been no reports of accidents involving horses or riders along this stretch of road. This provides some indication that this option is exercised with care and that the verge option when used is a safe alternative. The portion of the journey along the verge of the road, if chosen by a rider, is considered very safe when compared against the actual road crossing, should either crossing point be selected.*

*Please be assured that the City has performed this investigation with a great deal of thoroughness, and has come to a conclusion which is considered reasonable under the circumstances.*

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**Supplementary Questions – Mr and Mrs Vertsteeg**

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**Q2. In last year’s minutes it states clearly that negotiations are in the final stages and will allow horse and pedestrian traffic to move safely between Mitchell and Moore Streets. So what happened to that bit?**

*Answer: I think what you are referring to is the negotiations that were taking place at the time. The City, in good faith was trying to find a solution and undertook surveys of local residents and other agencies. I believe that reserve is not under control of the City. The result of all that work was the recent report and recommendation to Council.*

- Q3. The Highway is not safe for pedestrians and dangerous. We use it because we have no other way. There is another way. Fencing off the section of Bush Forever has prevented people from travelling safely. Surely a Bush Forever can have a firebreak?**

*Answer: Decisions made were based on a number of factors. Officer and Councillors took all of those matters seriously in coming to a decision.*

- Q4. Travelling to pony club on Mitchell Street requires contacting them to get the key.**

*Answer: The Pony Club does have a lease over that property and use of it. If you are seeking an arrangement enabling access of local residents I would suggest you go directly to the Club.*

- Q5. I have lived here for 40 years and have just retired. I have to climb through two rails to walk my dogs. My wife and I are too old to climb through these rails. I don't want to walk down the Highway. I think I deserve the right to exercise.**

*Answer: You most certainly do have the right. It maybe though that you are going to have to do it on the laneways and pathways that are already provided.*

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**Penny Versteeg – Moore St WUNGONG**

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- Q1. Please explain - "Everyone in this Shire is paying "Residential" Rates – But as acreage owners we do not seem to have any 'Rights'?"**

*Answer: The City has various Rate types dependent on the nature of the property. These include:*

<u>Rates for Gross Rental Value (GRV) Land</u>	<u>Rate in the \$\$</u>
Group 1 – Vacant	15.70
Group 2 – Residential Improved	8.024
Group 2 – Business Improved	8.748
Unimproved Value Lands	0.4150

*(unimproved based on the **capital value** of the land)*

- Q2. I have recently found out that our street is classified as "Rural" therefore we are not included in any Benefits".**

*Answer: The property which Penny Versteeg refers 35-37 Wungong Road (refer GIS description below).*

*Assessment 40850 (Parcel 20125) is owned by Antony-Lee Nominees Pty Ltd – The Directors are as below Umberto and Helen-Ann Versteeg of the same property.*

*The property has mixed use for both Residential and Commercial purposes. This property is rated as GRV residential with 2 buildings on the property. The GRV of 33,800 is for both buildings; there are 2 full bin services on the property one for each property.*



*As a Residential Rates property this is the cheapest Rate and the zone of Rural is not taken in to consideration the same as all properties in the city.*

*The rate of \$2,712.11 is only \$1,356.06 per building. A rating of Business Improved would attract a higher rate of 8.748 cents in the dollar resulting in approximately \$2,956.82 Rate charge.*

Type	Description	Diff	Description	Levied	Balance
1	GRV General Rate	2	Residential Improved	\$2712.11	
20	Domestic Rubbish	1	Domestic Rubbish	\$676.00	
51	ESL Category 1	6	ESL Category 1 - Residential	\$415.74	

## **2.2 Questions of which prior notice has been given**

### **Mr Christmas – Wandoo Street, Mt. Nasura**

- Q1. I have been impressed with the gardens and roundabouts in Armadale. It is a treat to come up to Armadale but I wish we had a few flowers in Kelmscott.**

*Answer: Noted thank you.*

### **Mr Christmas – Wandoo Street, Mt. Nasura**

- Q2. On the subject of the Kelmscott and the Armadale District Hall. I am very concerned at the proposal to spend a very large sum of money on the hall. I feel it would be a good idea to have a meeting with the public and take them around the building and look at the facilities as the plans don't always make these things clear and I think the public would like that.**

*Answer There will be additional consultation with the public regarding the Armadale Hall and there is a lot of information out there with the consultant's reports and the City's reports. A public meeting is not proposed but there will be further consultation and we will take your comment under consideration.*

- Q3. I understand that a local architect has been commissioned to draw up plans for the Kelmscott Hall?**

*Answer: We are unable to confirm that today but can follow this up for you.*

- Q4. River Road has been quite contentious with all the changes made. I have noted that a lot of works were undertaken and then have changed. Was this bad planning or incompetence? Is somebody responsible and how much money was spent to rectify this. I know we have talked about jacaranda trees planted under powerlines. I am concerned with the money spent and that the result is not wonderful.**

*Answer: Some of the work there did need to be rectified due to speeding and other factors including school traffic. River road has suffered a fair impact. Black spot works have been undertaken.*

**Q5. Smoking in the malls should be banned.**

*Answer: Smoking in the mall and many other places is changing and there are policies in place.*

**Mr Van Kuyl - Clarence Way, Champion Lakes**

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**Q1. Shopping trolleys in the road all the time. Can Council do something about passing a by-law about trolleys not leaving the shopping centre?**

*Answer: It is an issue in all metropolitan councils. There is an understanding between shopping centres and local government on clearing trolleys. If you have a particular area that trolleys are being dumped please report it to us.*

**Q2. Are they going to do something with Denny Avenue or leave it like it is?**

*Answer: A local community reference group was established in 2007 with Main Roads. A series of recommendations were put to them to provide a solution for Denny Avenue. The most recent work is a road safety measure but the problem of congestion remains with the matter of funding a new rail crossing before both the Government and Opposition.*

**Mr Grimwood – Sapphire Court, Mt. Richon**

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**Q1. Mr Mayor, your personal website at [www.henryzelones.com](http://www.henryzelones.com) provides a detailed documented history of your involvement in local government and allied bodies. Could you please outline your most outstanding achievements to date in the locality of Mt. Richon?**

*Answer: One in particular that does come to mind is my support for the naming of “Mount Richon” which I promoted at the request of a large number of residents.*

**Q2. Many people in the community are still under the impression that Councillors are volunteers serving our community, sacrificing themselves and their families for no fee or reward in the cause of the public good.**

**To set the record straight would you please outline the current rates of remuneration and allowances for Councillors together with any additional payments for higher office such as Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairpersons?**

*Answer: The remuneration for all Councillors is a matter of public record published in the Annual Budget in accordance with the guidelines set by the State Government.*

**Mr Foster – Albany Highway, Bedfordale**

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**Q1. In the Neerigen Brook Reserve I have been attacked by dogs numerous times. Can we please have some signs saying “dogs on a lead”? Also that bridge on PAW 3 they regard it as private so need a few signs.**

*Answer: The matter will be investigated and where appropriate relevant signage will be provided.*

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**Mrs De Ruiter – Incana Court, Kelmscott**

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- Q1. In regard to the Clifton Street South Precinct can you please give an indication as to how many storeys we can expect to see from the three zonings. How many storeys will R40, R60 and R80 be?**

*Answer: Different densities do allow different heights. Generally most densities can have more than two storeys. It has got to do with plot density and other scenarios. It does also depend on how the developer deals with parking, fire management and other issues.*

- Q2. The community do have concerns and would like some consultation on what is proposed. I just want to know how many storeys am I likely to be seeing?**

*Answer: The structure plan map on the website does have a limit of two storeys for R40 between the Southern boundary and the aged persons complex. The balance area is R60 where you generally expect to see two to three storey development and possibility at R80 you could see higher. Given the nature of that land and the constraints it is probably not likely to be more than three to four storeys.*

- Q3. Can you please explain the proposed road network when it says left in and left out only? Does this mean you will only be able to make a left hand turn in from Clifton St and when exiting only turn left?**

*Answer: A median in the centre of the road south of the aged persons complex will restrict access so you can only enter and exit turning left. There will be no right hand turns in or out at that point, other intersections will provide full movement for vehicles. New residents will have an alternative entrance from Clifton Street about 100m south of the proposed left in/left out exit.*

The Executive Director Development Services suggested that he was happy to discuss the matter after the meeting and provide a plan.

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**Mr Anstey – Eneabba Place, Armadale**

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- Q1. Over the past three financial years CPI has increased by 4.8%, earnings by 4.33% and rates by \$9.92% have all risen. What economic performance measures does it reference when determining the rate in the dollar for annual rates?**

*Answer: The rates increase is not based on CPI increase. The methodology that is used is a formula set down by the State Government in the first instance. We work out the minimum cost to run the city for the next 12 months. From that we extract all possible grants, fees, charges and other alternative income or revenue and the balance left is used to work out the rate in the dollar for the City's rate collection. The valuations that are placed on the property to determine each property's separate rate contribution are done by the Valuer Generals Office.*

- Q2. The City has a history of bundling a lot of money into reserve accounts and a lot of money getting carried forward every year. What it is boiling down to here is that the average weekly earnings are not sustainable to keep up.**

*Answer: The City is not just "putting money away for a rainy day". The reserves are established for a particular purpose and each transfer to reserve is based on need and*

*can only be used for that purpose. Some reserves are for development contribution schemes that are established specifically to distribute the costs of development of a particular area of the City. The funds can only be spent on creation of public infrastructure in the designated development area.*

*In the late 80's and early 90's this City was in significant debt. The strategy put in place over a period of time in order to reduce that debt included putting up the rates and investing in strategic initiatives aimed at broadening the rate base through commercial development.*

*The other obvious way to reduce your rate increase is to simply cut your services. There are consequences to making those decisions.*

**Q3. I think you focussed too heavily on the Reserve and that was not my point, my point was people trying to keep up.**

*Answer: It is a concern we have as well. We always take that seriously in seeking to reduce the City's costs. Point taken.*

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**Mr Rob Simmonds – River Road, Kelmscott**

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**Q1. In regard to the development of part of Clifton Hills along the river and the figures quoted to me. There is a heavy increase in traffic that has not subsided and we continue to see continuous growth with a lot more proposed. How is the road structure going to cope with each infill, and Page Road is the example. Traffic must be put high on the agenda for any further infill in that area.**

*Answer: The City is growing along with the rest of the metro area and infill is a part of that growth in established areas. I also live in one of those areas and am being surrounded by higher density. In terms of street parking, appropriate traffic management does form part of every expansion plan and development application. In terms of the Clifton Hills development I can advise that consideration is being given to traffic management in the area.*

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**Mr Grimwood – Sapphire Court, Mt. Richon**

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**Q3. Council, your CEO serves you under a contract of employment with the City of Armadale. First, would you agree Council has flicked passed its responsibilities to its CEO to create a situation of "all care and no responsibility" for itself and someone to blame when things go wrong? Secondly, when is it likely you will develop and share Council's own Key Result Area Objectives, Key Strategies and Key Performance Indicators with your Electors?**

*Answer: Nearly all of the decisions that Council make that are based on sound advice and community consultation and I would direct you to our Corporate Business Plan 2015-2020. It is a 5 year plan forward and this is what we measure Council's performance. The Plan is reviewed on an annual basis and actions ticked off in that report are considered at Budget time along with other actions that are works in progress.*

*The CEO is contracted and we review his performance on a yearly basis and we set key objectives based generally on the Corporate Plan. We have a separate committee that meet, review, discuss and make recommendations to Council on the CEO's performance.*

**Mr Anstey – Eneabba Place, Armadale**

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- Q4. I have found numerous discrepancies in the financial statement. One example is the staff leave accruals and the substantial difference between the budgeted and actual figures. What is the city doing to minimise that liability?**

*Answer: The CEO advised that the value of the leave provision reflects the accrued allowance for both annual and long service leave taken. When salaries are budgeted, full account for four weeks annual leave (or pro-rata equivalent) is factored into the Salary estimates. If leave is not taken in that year the equivalent value is transferred to the Employee Reserve which is fully cash backed.*

*The City's HR policies encourage staff to accrue no more than 8 weeks leave to ensure they have a break on a regular basis.*

*The City has many long serving staff members. As they near Long Service Leave entitlement the liability increases at a significant rate. The calculation is based on ratios which increase considerably once seven years or more is reached.*

*In 2013/14 the uncertainty of local government reform engendered an unusual amount of deferred leave.*

- Q5. Why are Macri and Partners continuously auditing the City? Why aren't we opening up and using another company for new blood?**

*Answer: The City's external audit contract is a five year contract determined competitively at the end of each term. Macri and partners have been the successful tenderer for in excess of 15 years and is a reputed, professional accounting firm contracted to a significant number of local governments in the metro area.*

- Q6. So for the means of impartiality – is there any moves to move away from this auditor?**

*Answer: You do not disallow a preferred tenderer for continued good service. There are quite strict guidelines and regulations in doing audits. It is not the same people within that audit firm conducting the audit each year.*

*The appointment of auditors is a very competitive process and when we first took on Macri and Partners they had two or three other councils but are now doing a majority of the metropolitan councils. The competitive Tender process was strictly followed at each contract termination. Their service is generally understood to be top quality.*

*The State Government is having a review of Local Government auditing practices at the moment.*

**Mr Foster – Albany Highway, Bedfordale**

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- Q2. What is the situation with Clean Up Australia Day and why is Council not providing waste pick-up bags?**

*Answer: Clean up Australia day is a separately run organisation and body however they do work closely with the City in terms of promoting such events. The matter will be raised with the organisation.*

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**Mr Grimwood – Sapphire Court, Mt.Richon**

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- Q4. Council during the recent Federal election campaign for the seat of Canning, you enjoined with the Liberal Party to paint Armadale as the leading WA centre for the illicit drug “ice”, high unemployment, high crime and domestic violence. This adversely affects land values and reduces employment prospects for our youth via social stigma. What actions will the City of Armadale undertake to restore our former good name which you have recklessly destroyed for no real benefit?**

*Answer: The City did not initiate or enjoin with anyone in any such declaration. These issues were raised by the community with candidates for the recent by-election for the Federal seat of Canning. They are recognised as problems that need addressing throughout not only the Canning electorate but nation-wide. Ice is recognised as one of the most difficult issues within the Australian community and Armadale is no different from any other urban centre in that regard. The City continually promotes and undertakes media interviews to build on the reputation of the City.*

- Q5. Council, for some years the City of Armadale has been a core member of the federal political lobby group National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA). Given the intensity of the recent federal electoral campaign to paint Armadale as the sin city capital of WA in desperate need of salvation, why have you no projects worthy of national publicity that describe your efforts to combat that alleged community degeneration ?**

*Answer: We submitted Orchard House and the Armadale Road project because we regarded them as excellent demonstrative urban growth projects for the 22 local governments throughout urban Australia that make up the NGAA. Our project received the gong because other people, not the City of Armadale, thought it was worthy of the award. Orchard House is a commercial office building leased to other government agencies, with Council temporarily occupying one floor. In terms of economic development you could not argue that it does not bring economic benefit, housing an extra 250 office workers in the City centre. It also encouraged private developers to consider similar projects within the city. This is about growing strategic centres within the Perth metropolitan area.*

- Q6. Council, during the federal election campaign you undertook an NGAA award winning programme to elicit 300 or so million dollars from the federal government. How can you in good conscience possibly commit this level of debt to every citizen, when Armadale is in dire need of numerous unfulfilled long-neglected services and infrastructure projects, is populated by a high proportion of working class families and welfare dependent individuals, including pensioners, unemployed persons and single mothers, who do not have the means to service such debt?**

*Answer: It is a large amount of money that would not have otherwise come to our district. With State and Federal Governments going to spend billions of dollars on road projects and other community projects, what we were arguing for was for the Armadale community to get their fair share of that. We are not asking them to go into more debt but are quite justified in convincing government to commit a fair share of government spending on critical infrastructure needed in our region.*

*The economic benefit of widening Armadale Road will come back directly to residents. There will be 70,000 new residents using Armadale Road over the next 15 years. There are economic benefits and savings every year from herein that will accrue once the*

*delays and costs of congestion are removed. Our intention is to minimise transport and freight costs to Armadale residents so I don't think there is an issue at all in trying to ensure the Federal Taxation System gives back to the residents of Armadale as much as possible. In achieving that project we've got 145 million dollars that wouldn't have been coming back to this district at all.*

*The Mayor thanked his fellow councillors for their attendance tonight and thanked the public.*

MEETING DECLARED CLOSED AT 9.00 PM

MINUTES CONFIRMED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2015

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MAYOR