



Ararat Rural City

MINUTES

STATUTORY MEETING

Tuesday 12 November 2024

To be held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Jo Armstrong
Cr Rob Armstrong
Cr Peter Joyce
Cr Teli Kaur
Cr Luke Preston
Cr Bob Sanders
Cr Bill Waterston

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/aratruralitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS.....	9661
1.1 LIVE STREAMING.....	9661
1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE	9661
ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF MAYOR	9662
ITEM 3 – ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR.....	9663
SECTION 4 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION	9665
4.1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES/ORGANISTIONS	9665
4.2 FIXING OF MEETING DATES 2024/2025.....	9667
ITEM 5 - CLOSURE OF MEETING	9668

PRESENT: Cr Jo Armstrong, Cr Rob Armstrong, Cr Peter Joyce, Cr Teli Kaur, Cr Luke Preston, Cr Bob Sanders, Cr Bill Waterston, Dr Tim Harrison – Chief Executive Officer, Chandra Willmott – Governance & Risk Lead, Tim Lewis – Performing Arts Coordinator.

The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Tim Harrison opened the meeting.

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council’s Facebook page from 6pm and on Council’s website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement – CR KAUR

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer – CR JOYCE

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge – CR PRESTON

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 17870

The process of election of the Mayor will take place in accordance with the section 25 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2 – Part B of Council's Governance Rules. The Governance Rules state that any nominations for the office of Mayor must be, in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer and seconded by a Councillor.

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor on Friday 8 November 2024 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Tuesday 12 November 2024.

The Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors to be declared.

2.1 MAYORAL TERM

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

MOVED CR SANDERS
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

That Council adopt a Mayoral Term of 1 year.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion

CARRIED – 7/0
5053/24

2.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr _____ as Mayor.

MOVED CR JOYCE
SECONDED CR WATERSTON

Nomination received for Cr Jo Armstrong; no other nominations for Mayor were received.

That Council elect Cr Jo Armstrong as Mayor.

CARRIED – 7/0
5054/24

ITEM 3 – ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 17871

3.1 DECISION TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Council has no obligation to elect a Deputy Mayor as per the Local Government Act 2020. Council's Governance Rules 2022 Clause 8 states:

"If Council has not established an office of Deputy Mayor and it becomes required to appoint an Acting Mayor, it can do so by:

- 1.1 resolving that a specified Councillor be so appointed; or
- 1.2 following the procedure set out in Rules 5 and 6 (inclusive) of this Chapter, at its discretion"

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine if it wishes to elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2024/2025 term.

**MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

That Council determine if it wishes to elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2024/2025 term.

Cr Rob Armstrong spoke for the motion.

**CARRIED – 7/0
5055/24**

The process of election of the Deputy Mayor will take place in accordance with the section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 2 – Part B of Council’s Governance Rules. The Governance Rules state that any nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor must be, in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer and seconded by a Councillor.

Nominations were invited for the position of Deputy Mayor on Friday 8 November 2024 and are to be returned to the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm Tuesday 12 November 2024.

The Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors to be declared.

3.2 DEPUTY MAYORAL TERM

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

MOVED CR JOYCE SECONDED CR SANDERS

That Council adopt a Deputy Mayoral Term of 1 year.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion

**CARRIED – 7/0
5056/24**

3.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council elect Cr _____ as Deputy Mayor.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG SECONDED CR KAUR

Nomination received for Cr Bob Sanders; no other nominations for Deputy Mayor were received.

That Council elect Cr Bob Sanders as Deputy Mayor.

**CARRIED – 7/0
5057/24**

SECTION 4 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

4.1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATES TO COMMITTEES/ORGANISATIONS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 17872

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides clarity on Council representation on the various Council Committees and external bodies that Council will be represented for 2024/2025.

DISCUSSION

Council is represented on a range of committees, which are convened by external bodies and on various internal committees.

It is important to have a consistent representation on these Committees and Organisations during the Council term.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 Strong and effective governance

Budget Implications

Costs for Councillors attending (travel expenses) are included in the current budget allocations.

Policy/Relevant Law

Council is required to have delegates on various bodies and committees, this report will outline those delegations.

Sustainability Implications

Economic, social and environment matters were taken into account when preparing this report.

Risk Assessment

A definitive list will clarify who is the Council appointed representatives/s to any particular body or Committee.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Representation on these Committees and Organisation will ensure that Council is kept up to date with relevant legislative and sector changes.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Councillors and Chief Executive Officer will discuss the proposed Councillor Delegates on Committees and Organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Committees and Organisations for the Council term 2024/2025 as listed below:

Committee or Organisation with Council Representation	Basis of Representation	Council Delegate
<i>National/State/Regional Bodies</i>		
<i>Municipal Association of Victoria Delegate</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	
<i>Municipal Association of Victoria Substitute Delegate</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	
<i>Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum</i>	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Mayor</i>
<i>Western Highway Action Committee</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	
<i>Rail Freight Alliance</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	
<i>Council Committees</i>		
<i>Audit and Risk Committee</i>	<i>Two Councillors</i>	
<i>CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee</i>	<i>Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor</i>	

**MOVED CR SANDERS
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

That Council determine the appointment of Council Delegates to Committees and Organisations for the Council term 2024/2025 as listed below:

Committee or Organisation with Council Representation	Basis of Representation	Council Delegate
<i>National/State/Regional Bodies</i>		
<i>Municipal Association of Victoria Delegate</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	<i>Cr J Armstrong</i>
<i>Municipal Association of Victoria Substitute Delegate</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	<i>Cr Sanders</i>
<i>Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum</i>	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Cr J Armstrong</i>
<i>Western Highway Action Committee</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	<i>Cr R Armstrong</i>
<i>Rail Freight Alliance</i>	<i>One Councillor</i>	<i>Position withheld until further discussion</i>
<i>Council Committees</i>		
<i>Audit and Risk Committee</i>	<i>Two Councillors</i>	<i>Cr J Armstrong Cr Sanders</i>
<i>CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee</i>	<i>Mayor, Deputy Mayor and One Councillor</i>	<i>Cr J Armstrong Cr Sanders Cr Joyce</i>

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion

CARRIED – 7/0
5058/24

4.2 FIXING OF MEETING DATES 2024/2025

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 17873

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to set Council Meeting dates for 2024/2025 Council term.

It is proposed to keep the scheduling of future Council meetings to the last Tuesday of each month.

This report outlines the proposed dates for the ensuing 12 months and is presented to Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

The proposed Council Meetings dates outlined in the recommendation are to be considered for the ensuing twelve months.

Further proposed changes to the schedule are as follows:

- There will be no December Council Meeting

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

6 Strong and effective governance

Budget Implications

Advertising of Council Meeting dates is allocated in the Annual Budget 2024/2025.

Policy/Relevant Law

Schedule set for Council Meetings, meetings advertised and placed on Council website as required under the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

None identified.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer briefed Council on proposed Council Meeting dates.

Following adoption of this report an advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper and on Council's website advising the community of the Council Meeting schedule for 2024/2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2024/2025 as follows:
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 November 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 January 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 February 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 March 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 April 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 May 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 24 June 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 July 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 August 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 September 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 October 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 11 November 2025 (Statutory Meeting); and*
2. *Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2024/2025 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.*

**MOVED CR WATERSTON
SECONDED CR SANDERS**

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Council Meeting dates for 2024/2025 as follows:
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 November 2024;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 January 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 February 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 25 March 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 April 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 27 May 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 24 June 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 29 July 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 26 August 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 30 September 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 28 October 2025;
6.00pm - Tuesday 11 November 2025 (Statutory Meeting); and**
2. **Advertises the dates and times of the Council Meeting dates for 2024/2025 in a local newspaper and on Council's website.**

**CARRIED 7/0
5059/24**

ITEM 5 - CLOSURE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 6:18pm.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 9660 TO 9669 ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

MAYOR – CR JO ARMSTRONG