



TOWN OF VINCENT

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 5 MAY 2009

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Vincent will be held at the Administration and Civic Centre, 244 Vincent Street (corner Loftus Street), Leederville, on **Tuesday, 5 May 2009** at 6.00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the Draft Budget 2009/2010.

**JOHN GIORGI, JP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
30 April 2009**

"Enhancing and celebrating our diverse community"

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.

“Enhancing and celebrating our diverse community”

PURPOSE - The purpose defines the *business we are in*. It describes our reason for being, and the services and products we provide. Our purpose is:

“To provide and facilitate services for a safe, healthy and sustainable community.”

VISION – The vision statement is *what we are striving to become*, what we will look like in the future. Based on accomplishing key strategic challenges and the outcomes of Vincent Vision 2024, the Town’s vision is:

“A sustainable and caring community built with vibrancy and diversity.”

GUIDING VALUES (*Describes what values are important to us*)

- **Excellence and Service**

We aim to pursue and deliver the highest possible standard of service and professionalism to the Vincent community.

- **Honesty and Integrity**

We are honest, fair, consistent, accountable, open and transparent in our dealings with each other and are committed to building trust and mutual respect.

- **Innovation and Diversity**

We encourage creativity, innovation and initiative to realise the vibrancy and diversity of our vision.

- **Caring and Empathy**

We are committed to the wellbeing and needs of our employees and community and value each others views and contributions.

- **Teamwork and Commitment**

Effective teamwork is vital to our organisation and we encourage co-operation, teamwork and commitment within and between our employees and our business partners and community.

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Town of Vincent (Town) for any act, omission, statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings. The Town disclaims any liability for any loss however caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission, statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council meeting does so at their own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning or development application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by an Elected Member or Employee of the Town during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Town. The Town advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Town must obtain and should only rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Council in respect of the application.

Copyright

The Town wishes to advise that any plans or documents contained within this Agenda may be subject to copyright law provisions (Copyright Act 1968, as amended) and that the express permission of the copyright owner(s) should be sought prior to their reproduction. It should be noted that Copyright owners are entitled to take legal action against any persons who infringe their copyright. A reproduction of material that is protected by copyright may represent a copyright infringement.

PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

The Town of Vincent Local Law Relating to Standing Orders prescribes the procedure for persons to ask questions or make public statements relating to a matter affecting the Town, either verbally or in writing, at a Council meeting.

Questions or statements made at an Ordinary Council meeting can relate to matters that affect the Town. Questions or statements made at a Special Meeting of the Council must only relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.

1. Shortly after the commencement of the meeting, the Presiding Member will ask members of the public to come forward to address the Council and to give their name, address and Agenda Item number (if known).
2. Public speaking time will be strictly limited to three (3) minutes per member of the public.
3. Members of the public are encouraged to keep their questions/statements brief to enable everyone who desires to ask a question or make a statement to have the opportunity to do so.
4. Public speaking time is declared closed when there are no further members of the public who wish to speak.
5. Questions/statements are to be directed to the Presiding Member and are to be made politely in good faith and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on a Council Member or Town Employee.
6. Where the Presiding Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is making a statement at a Council meeting, that does not affect the Town, he may ask the person speaking to promptly cease.
7. Questions/statements and any responses will be summarised and included in the Minutes of the Council meeting.
8. Where practicable, responses to questions will be provided at the meeting. Where the information is not available or the question cannot be answered, it will be *"taken on notice"* and a written response will be sent by the Chief Executive Officer to the person asking the question. A copy of the reply will be included in the Agenda of the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.
9. It is not intended that public speaking time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the Town's records under Section 5.94 of the Local Government Act 1995 or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1992. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- ◆ All Ordinary and Special Council Meetings are electronically recorded (both visual and audio), except when the Council resolves to go behind closed doors;
- ◆ All recordings are retained as part of the Town's records in accordance with the General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records produced by the Public Records Office;
- ◆ A copy of the recorded proceedings and/or a transcript of a particular section or all of a Council meeting is available in accordance with Policy 4.2.4 - Council Meetings – Recording and Access to Recorded Information.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Declaration of Opening

2. Apologies/Members on Approved Leave of Absence

Cr Noel Youngman on approved leave of absence for personal commitments.

3. Public Question Time and Receiving of Public Statements

Please Note: Section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 states that:

“Council at a Special Meeting is not required to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting. It is requested that only questions that relate to items on the Agenda be asked.”

4. Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil.

5. Announcements by the Presiding Member (Without Discussion)

6. Declaration of Interests

- 6.1 Financial - Local Government Act 1995, s5.60A
- 6.2 Proximity - Local Government Act 1995, s5.60B
- 6.3 Impartiality - Local Government (Administration) Regulations, Reg 34

7. Reports

- 7.1 Draft Budget 2009/2010 (FIN0025)

8. Closure

7.1 Draft Annual Budget 2009/2010

Ward:	Both	Date:	30 April 2009
Precinct:	All	File Ref:	FIN0025
Attachments:	-		
Reporting Officer(s):	M Rootsey		
Checked/Endorsed by:	John Giorgi	Amended by:	

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council;

- (i) **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE the Draft Budget 2009/2010;**
- (ii) **ADVERTISES the Draft Budget 2009/2010 for public comment for a period of twenty-one (21) days and further considers any submissions received; and**
- (iii) **in the event that a second Budget Special Council Meeting is not required, APPROVES BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to amend the adopted Budget Timetable to:**
 - (a) **delete the “2nd Budget Briefing/Special Council Meeting (open to the Public) on 19 May 2009; and**
 - (b) **varying the dates for the advertising of the Draft Budget for community consultation and the closing date for receiving of public submissions.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To present and consider the Draft Budget for the financial year 2009/2010.

BACKGROUND:

The budget timetable for the 2009/2010 was adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 December 2008, Item 9.3.6. The timetable is shown below:

<i>DATE</i>	<i>ITEM</i>
<i>1-26 April</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer and Directors to review 1st Draft Budget</i>
<i>27 April</i>	<i>1st Draft Budget issued to Council Members</i>
<i>2 May</i>	<i>Briefing provided to Council Members on Draft Budget</i>
<i>5 May</i>	<i>1st Budget briefing/Special Council Meeting (open to the public)</i>
<i>19 May</i>	<i>2nd Budget briefing/Special Council Meeting (open to the public) if required</i>
<i>20 -29 May</i>	<i>Budget documentation finalised for public comment</i>
<i>29 May</i>	<i>Advertise for public comment</i>
<i>19 June</i>	<i>Public comment closes</i>
<i>19 – 26 June</i>	<i>Final Budget documentation and report for Council prepared</i>
<i>26 June</i>	<i>Agenda report issued</i>
<i>1 July</i>	<i>Adoption of Annual Budget at the Special Meeting of Council</i>

A briefing for the Council Members was held on Saturday 2 May 2009.

DETAILS:

Draft Budget

The Draft Budget 2009/2010 as presented proposes the funds for the new capital works as follows:

Land and Buildings	\$11,362,500
Infrastructure	\$4,539,915
Plant and Equipment	\$1,012,500
Furniture and Equipment	\$117,900

The Town's Administration has prepared the draft budget and has included the following:

- (a) Council adopted programs;
- (b) Items from Council resolutions;
- (c) Council Members' requests;
- (d) Ratepayer/resident requests; and
- (e) Projects identified by the Town's Administration.

The Town's Administration has used the following criteria to determine project priorities:

<i>Priority Rating</i>		
1	Very High	Adopted program/legislative requirement/safety issue/significant Ratepayer benefit
2	High	Essential/cost benefits/Community need
3	Medium	Desirable/may benefit the Community
4	Low	Nice to do/not a priority
5	Very Low	No demonstrated benefit/need

The budget for recurrent operating expenditure is \$35,842,860.

The rates figure on the summary page of the Draft Budget of \$18,577,900 represents the funds that would be generated from a rates calculation at this point of time using the existing rate in the dollar, plus an estimate of the existing rates from the new areas using the Town's rate in the dollar, therefore taking into account any interim accounts that would be applicable for the full year. The value of operating revenue other than rates income is \$15,230,880.

As the summary indicates, if all the works included on the Draft Budget 2009/2010 as presented are funded, the Council will need an estimate increase of **4.22%** in the rate in the dollar to meet all of the requests.

It should be noted that the inflation rate is estimated to be 3% (State Consumer Price Index) and the Local Government Index is estimated to be 4.5%. Therefore, the estimated increase in the rate of the dollar is considered appropriate to meet all of the budget requirements.

Ordinary Meeting of Council held 28 April 2009

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2009 the Council considered a matter under Urgent Business to investigate the provision of a toilet in the Mount Lawley Business District. Based on previous information concerning the installation of a self cleaning toilet in Axford Park in Mount Hawthorn in 2008, if approved, it is estimated that such a facility would cost approximately \$180,000 - \$200,000.

As this matter arose after the completion of the Draft Budget by the Town's Administration, this matter has not been included. Subject to the investigations being carried out, it can be dealt with in two ways, namely:

1. amend the Draft Budget following Community Consultation, or alternatively
2. consider the matter during 2009/2010 at a mid year budget review.

Beatty Park Leisure Centre Redevelopment – Federal Government Funding Submission

As the Council is aware, the Town's Administration lodged a submission with the Federal Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government – Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects for the redevelopment of Beatty Park Leisure Centre. The program requirements necessitated a comprehensive submission to be made. The total project cost is estimated to be \$22.3 million and be constructed over a period of 30 months. The Town's submission requested \$17 million of Federal Funding. At the time of writing this report, no decision has been made. Once the Town is informed of the Federal Government decision, the matter will be reported to Council for consideration and determination.

Exclusion – Members Equity Stadium – Possible Upgrade

As reported to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2009 (Item 9.4.3), 24 March 2009 (Item 14.2) and 24 February 2009 (Item 9.4.4) a number of discussions have been held with the State Government concerning the possible upgrade of Members Equity Stadium. The Stage 2 development is estimated to cost \$73 million. At the time of writing this report and finalising the Draft Budget 2009/2010, no decision has been made by the State Government or the Council concerning this matter. As such, no funding details have been included. There is speculation that the State Government may make its decision as early as mid 2009 however, to date no details have been provided to the Town.

Once the State Government has made its decision and announced its details, the matter will be reported to the Council for consideration and determination at the appropriate time. If necessary, the Budget 2009/2010 can be amended to reflect the Government and Council's decision.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

The Council's Policy No. 4.1.21 "*Community Consultation*" prescribes the Draft Budget to be advertised on a local basis for a period of 21 days. Copies are also placed on the Town's website, placed in the Library and sent to the Community/Business Groups.

The approved Budget Timetable provides for two Special Council Meetings (5 and 19 May 2009) to consider the matter. The second meeting will only be held, if required. In 2008, the Council considered and determined the Draft Budget at one Special Council Meeting. Should this be the case in 2009, it will be appropriate for the Council to amend the Budget Timetable to reflect the change – in essence, this would shorten the process by approximately two weeks.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Adoption of Budget

The recent amendments to the Local Government Act (1995) now allow the Council to adopt its budget prior to the end of the financial year 30 June 2009. The Council will this year adopt the budget at a Special Meeting of Council on 1 July 2009.

There is no legal requirement for a Local Government to advertise their Draft Budget for Community Consultation. However, as the Council is aware the Town has been advertising its Draft Budget for Community Consultation for a number of years in accordance with Community Consultation Policy 4.1.21.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

The Council's budget process is in accordance with the Council's Plan for the Future Strategic Plan 2009-2014, Objective 4.1 "Leadership, Governance and Management:"

"4.1.2 Manage the organisation in a responsible, efficient and accountable manner"

"4.1.4 Deliver services in ways that accord with the expectations of the community, whilst maintain statutory compliance:

- (c) Develop a medium to long-term strategic vision and strategic financial plan to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Town."*

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town has been independently assessed in a statewide survey by Access Economics, in 2006, as being viable and sustainable.

The Town is in a strong financial position, with considerable funds in reserve, debts covered by money-back guarantees, considerable future revenue from its share of the Tamala Park land and with potential income from the future redevelopment in Leederville.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The approval in principle of the Draft Budget is essential to maintain the timeframe to allow adoption of the Annual Budget in line with the Council approved timetable.

This will then ensure funding for the operations of the Council for the next financial year.

COMMENTS:

The 2009/2010 Annual Budget has been prepared during difficult economic conditions as a result of the global financial crisis.

"The global economy is in a severe recession inflicted by a massive financial crisis and acute loss of confidence." (Accordingly to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook report (WEO) for April 2009).

However, the Town stands in good stead to weather the crisis being somewhat insulated from many of the factors driving conditions in the private sector. Bearing this in mind, the crisis has had an impact on the Town in so far as the revenue streams, in particular investment income, development applications and building licence fees, have been effected by the economic downturn.

During the 2009/2010 financial year, the Town will also incur significant increases in utility charges such as electricity and gas) and waste disposal costs.

The Town is also cognisant of the impact that the financial crisis is having on the community and has attempted to keep any rate increase to a minimum, whilst maintaining the levels of services expected by the community.

The Draft Budget 2009/2010 also includes a number of cost saving initiatives which have been identified as part of the Chief Executive Officer's recent Organisational Review to reduce costs, eliminate duplication and waste and provide for better efficiencies and customer service.

The Draft Budget 2009/2010 provides funding for a comprehensive Capital Works Programme to provide good quality infrastructure for the Town. In addition, the Operating Budget includes monies to provide and maintain the current level of service for the ratepayers.

It is recommended the Council consider and approve in principle the Draft Budget 2009/2010 and for this to be advertised for public comment.

8. Closure