

**SHIRE OF
WESTONIA**
A vibrant community lifestyle

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 15th August 2024

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 19th September 2024 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 15th August 2024.

.....
Cr RM Crees
Shire President

All attachment items referred to in these minutes are available for public perusal at the Shire Office



Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Westonia for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings.

The Shire of Westonia disclaims and liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused by arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during the 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 or committee meeting does that persons or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the board disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a license, any statement or intimation made by any member or Officer of the Shire of Westonia during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Westonia.

The Shire of Westonia warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Westonia 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 Shire of Westonia in respect of the application.



SHIRE OF WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

PLAN

2018-2028

CORE DRIVERS

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community.
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny.

OUR VALUES

Respect – We value people and places and the contribution they make to the Shire.

Inclusiveness – Be receptive, proactive, and responsive.

Fairness and Equity – Provide services for a variety of ages and needs.

Communication – Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.

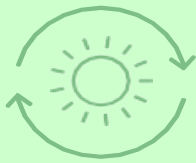
OUR VISION

A vibrant community lifestyle

MISSION

Provide leadership and direction for the community.

ECONOMIC



Support growth and progress, locally and regionally...

Efficient transport connectivity in and around our Shire.

- Continue to utilise our Road Management Plan, which incorporates a road hierarchy, minimum service levels and maintenance policy.
- RAV Ratings and Shire boundaries are consistent across local government boundaries.
- Lobby and build enduring partnerships with Key Government Departments to improve Great Eastern Hwy.
- Actively participate in the Secondary Freight Network group.
- Develop and implement a Road Asset Plan highlighting key funder and strategic partnerships to support sustainability.
- Develop a Gravel Reserve Policy which identifies future gravel reserves and recognises cost to local government.
- Educate road users about road safety and driving on gravel roads.
- Optimal and safe use of our plants and equipment assets.
- Ensure that appropriate RAV vehicles traverse correct RAV routes.
- Maintain our airport with a view to improvements to meet commercial and recreational aviation needs.

Facilitate local business retention and growth.

- Council recognises the opportunity of partnering with Westonia Progress Association, works closely and supports them to help achieve their economic development projects and our strategic goals.
- Council continue to have a role in facilitating the presence of a Co-op in our community.
- Enhance local economic activity by supporting the growth of tourism in our Shire and region including applying for funding to improve tourist facilities.
- Improve our online tourism presence.
- We forward plan to improve the economic diversity in our community.
- In partnership with Council, the mine develops long term business plans for current mine assets.
- Investigate options for multipurpose accommodation if vacancies arise in mine accommodation.

SOCIAL



Provide community facilities and promote social interaction...

Plan for community growth and changing demographics.

- Develop the Town Planning Scheme.
- Plan and develop residential and industrial land.
- Community safety and ease of access around town is a priority.
- Our lifestyle, facilities and sense of community is promoted.
- The CEACA project continues to expand the number of universally designed dwellings in our town.
- We support our emergency services.
- We enable visiting health professionals to our community.
- The Community Resource Centre receives external funding to provide preventative health and community development initiatives to the community.
- We facilitate healthy and active ageing in place
- Our cemetery is well presented.

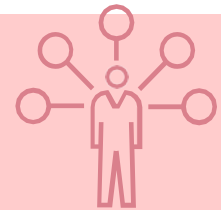
Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

- We collaborate and encourage active engagement in local clubs and community initiatives that support a healthy lifestyle.
- Investigate motor sport opportunities around the Shire.
- Preserve and celebrate our local history.
- Support our volunteers and clubs to remain strong, dynamic, and inclusive.
- Encourage lifelong learning.
- Children and youth have active and social opportunities.
- Continue to provide high standard and accessible shire facilities.
- Retain and expand Westonia's unique tourism experience.

Natural spaces are preserved and bring us value.

- Sustainably manage our reserves and open spaces.
- Participate in best practice waste management.
- Work collaboratively to meet legislative compliance with managing weeds and pests as well as our environmental health standards.
- Investigate renewable energy generation technologies.

GOVERNANCE



Continually enhance the Shire's organisational capacity to service the needs of a growing community...

Be progressive and capture opportunities.

- Be open to local productivity/ best practice and cost saving opportunities locally and regionally.
- Investigate joint resourcing and tendering
- Advocate and develop strong partnerships to benefit our community.
- Be prepared by forward planning our resources and focusing on continuous improvement.
- Identify risks and opportunities after the life of the mine.

The community receives services in a timely manner.

- Meet our legislative and compliance requirements.
- Work towards optimal management of our assets.
- Work to develop Councillor and staff skills and experience to provide career and succession opportunities within the Shire.
- Inside and outside staff are multi skilled to understand the business of local government and provide a seamless service to the community.
- Communicate and engage with our community regularly.

Financial resources meet the ongoing needs of the community.

- Seek external funding for significant capital improvements that deliver upon our strategic objectives.
- Investigate ways to reduce reliance on operational grants given the current State and Federal Government priorities.

Shire of Westonia: -
A vibrant community lifestyle.



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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Crees welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 3.30pm.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr RM Crees	<i>Shire President</i>
Cr RA Della Bosca	<i>Deputy Shire President</i>
Cr DL Geier	
Cr WJ Huxtable	
Cr A Faithfull	
Cr DL Simmonds	

Staff:

Mr. AW Price	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
Mrs JL Geier	<i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>

Members of the Public:

Doug Hermon.

Apologies: Nil

Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.35PM – 3.50PM)

NIL

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NIL

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18th July 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Della Bosca	Seconded:	Cr Faithfull
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01/08-24	That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 th July 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.		
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CARRIED 6/0

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Wheatbelt Northeast SRRG meeting held Tuesday 23rd July 2024 be accepted.

That the minutes of the WEROC meeting held Wednesday 31st July 2024 be accepted.

That the minutes of the NEWTRAVEL meeting held Tuesday 27th July 2024 be accepted.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca **Seconded:** Cr Geier

02/08-24 That the minutes of the Wheatbelt Northeast SRRG meeting held Tuesday 23rd July 2024 be accepted.

That the minutes of the WEROC meeting held Wednesday 31st July 2024 be accepted.

That the minutes of the NEWTRAVEL meeting held Tuesday 27th July 2024 be accepted.

CARRIED 6/0

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Cr Crees advised having attended the following meetings:

WEROC Board Meeting 31st July 2024

Great Eastern Country Zone Executive meeting 7th August 2024

Ramelius Mine Executive Meeting 24th July 2024

Deputy President, Cr Della Bosca advised having attended the following meetings:

Ramelius Mine Executive Meeting 24th July 2024

Councillor Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

Wheatbelt Northeast SRRG meeting held Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Apex Park Revitalization Project 7th August 2024

Councillor Simmonds advised having attended the following meetings:

Nil

Councillor Faithfull advised having attended the following meetings:

Apex Park Revitalization Project 7th August 2024

Councillor Huxtable advised having attended the following meetings:

NEWTRAVEL meeting held Tuesday 27th July 2024

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Financial** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **15th August 2024**.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Closely Association Person and Impartiality** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **15th August 2024**.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	



In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Proximity. interest** were made at the Council meeting held on **15th August 2024**.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 2024

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits July be obtained.

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of July 2024 The credit card/ Fuel Card statements currently show: -

MasterCard Transactions

CEO July 2024 \$3,438.18 associated with the Starlink - CEO Internet 104945, Active8me internet service, Merredin Pharmacy – COVID Tests, 2VNet IT - Subscriptions , ESP Fremantle – Staff Accommodation, CEO Internet - July Bendigo card fee

DCEO July 2024 \$1,364.60 associated with the purchase of – Ebay - Masquerade Ball purchases, Kahoot - Subscription, Facebook - advert boost, Internation transaction fee, Spotlight, Bendigo Card Fee

Fuel Card Transactions

CEO July 2024 \$0.00

DCEO July 2024 \$81.64

Construction Supervisor July 2024 \$129.32

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulations 12 & 13 requires the list of accounts to be presented to Council. Payments are made by staff under delegated authority from the CEO and Council.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to payment of accounts.

Strategic Implications

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2024/2025 Annual Budget.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That July 2024 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers from DD4200 to DD4227 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7013 to EFT7064 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$689,711.94 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Huxtable

Seconded:


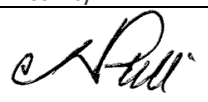
Cr Faithfull

03/08-24

That July 2024 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers from DD4200 to DD4227 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7013 to EFT7064 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$689711.94 be passed for payment.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– JULY 2024

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council’s activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending July 2024 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

1. Statement of Financial Activity
2. Statement of Financial Position
3. Note 1 Basis of Preparation
4. Note 2 Statement of Financial Activity Information
5. Note 3 Explanation of Material Variances
6. Supplementary information

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2024/2025 Budget
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996
Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4

Policy Implications

Council is required annually to adopt a policy on what it considers to be material as far as variances that require to be reported for Council. Council policy is that the material variation be set at \$10,000 and 15%.

Strategic Implications

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council’s activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication in relation to this matter.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending July 2024 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

RESOLUTION



Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

04/08-24 That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending July 2024 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – JULY 2024

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.4.4 Audit Report
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council’s current GST liability, which has an impact on Council’s cash-flow.

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at July 2024 provided to Council on a monthly basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.

Comment

The GST Reconciliation Report is attached for Councillor consideration.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in regard to Goods and Services Tax.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council’s current GST liability, which has an impact on Council’s cash-flow.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the GST Reconciliation totalling (\$ 2,385.00) for the period ending July 2024 adopted.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Della Bosca

Seconded:



Cr Simmonds

05/08-24

That the GST Reconciliation totalling (\$ 2,385.00) for the period ending July 2024 adopted.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.4 ADOPTION OF THE 2024/2025 BUDGET

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	ES1.7.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.6 – 2024/2025 Budget
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

To consider and adopt the Municipal Fund Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year together with supporting schedules, including imposition of rates and minimum payments, adoption of fees and charges, establishment of new reserve funds, setting of elected members fees for the year and other consequential matters arising from the budget papers.

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

Background

The draft 2024/2025 budget has been compiled based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan and Plan for the Future. The 2024/2025 draft budget has been prepared in accordance with the presentations made to councillors at the budget workshops held between May and June 2024

The proposed differential general rates were approved by the council on 16th May 2024 and advertised for public comment. No submissions were received by 17th July 2024 when the public comment period closed.

As Ministerial approval to impose differential rates/minimum payments wasn't received until 1 August 2024, Council's previous adoption of the 24/25 budget and subsequent motions at the July meeting are considered non-compliant, hence the need to re-present and adopt the budget motions again at this meeting.

Comment

The budget has been prepared to include information required by the Local Government Act 1995, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Australian Accounting Standards. The main features of the draft budget include:

- The budget has been prepared with a 5.0% rate increase in line with the forward financial plans contained in the Plan for the Future. This increase applies to all differential general rate categories.
- Fees and charges for the various services that the Shire provides are listed in pages 77 to 80 in the budget. Some Fees & Charges have had moderate changes although plant hire rates have been increased in consideration of rising fuel costs.
- A capital works program totalling \$5.7m for investment in infrastructure, land and buildings, plant and equipment and furniture and equipment is planned. Expenditure on road infrastructure is the major component of this (\$2.3m) in line with Council's strategy to increase the investment in road and associated assets. An amount of \$3.3m is provided for land and buildings of which \$1.4m is for the Kiosk/Ablution Redevelopment at the Swimming pool.
- An estimated surplus of \$2.8m is anticipated to be brought forward from 30 June 2024. However, this is unaudited and may change. Any change will be addressed as part of a future budget review.
- Principal additional grant funding for the year is estimated from:
 - LRCIP Funding - \$439,000.
 - MRWA Funding - \$590,000.
 - Roads to Recovery - \$571,000.

- The draft 2024/2025 budget continues to deliver on other strategies adopted by the council and maintains a high level of service across all programs while ensuring an increased focus on road and associated infrastructure as well as on renewing all assets at sustainable levels.

Statutory Environment

LGA S6.2 requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year, or such extended time as the Minister allows, each local government is to prepare and adopt, (Absolute Majority required) in the form and manner prescribed, a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Divisions 5 and 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995 refer to the setting of budgets and raising of rates and charges. The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2024/2025 budget as presented is considered to meet statutory requirements.

Section 67 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 enables a local government to impose an annual charge in respect of premises provided with a waste service by the local government.

Section 5.98 of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out fees etc payable to Council members.

Section 5.98A of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out fees etc payable to sets out allowances payable to deputy Presidents or deputy Mayors.

Section 78(2) of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 requires the Tribunal, at intervals of not more than 12 months, to inquire into and determine –

- the amount of fees to be paid to Council members;
- the amount of expenses to be reimbursed to Council members;
- the amount of allowances to be paid to Council members.

Regulations 30-34AD of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 set the limits, parameters and types of allowances that can be paid to elected members.

Policy Implications

There are no known policy implications arising from this report.

Strategic Implications

The draft 2024/2025 budget has been developed having regard for the Shire Plan for the Future and Corporate Business Plan adopted by council.

Financial Implications

Specific financial implications are as outlined in the body of this report and as itemised in the draft 2024/2025 budget attached for adoption.



Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council revoke en-block Resolutions 07/07-24, 08/07-24, 09/07-24 10/07-24 and 11/07-24 passed on the 18 July 2024, As Ministerial approval to impose differential rates/minimum payments wasn't received until 1 August 2024, Council's previous adoption of the 24/25 budget and subsequent motions at the July meeting are considered non-compliant.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded: Cr Faithfull

6/08-24 That Council revoke on block Resolutions 07/07-24, 08/07-24, 09/07-24 10/07-24 and 11/07-24 passed on the 18 July 2024, As Ministerial approval to impose differential rates/minimum payments wasn't received until 1 August 2024, Council's previous adoption of the 24/25 budget and subsequent motions at the July meeting are considered non-compliant.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGET FOR 2024 /2025

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopt the Budget as contained in Attachment 4.10.1 of this agenda and the minutes, for the Shire of Westonia for the 2024/2025 financial year which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.
- Statement of Cash Flows.
- Rate Setting Statement.
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull Seconded: Cr Geier

07/08-24 BUDGET FOR 2024 /2025

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopt the Budget as contained in Attachment 4.10.1 of this agenda and the minutes, for the Shire of Westonia for the 2024/2025 financial year which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.
- Statement of Cash Flows.
- Rate Setting Statement.
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RATES, MINIMUM PAYMENTS, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, DISCOUNTS AND INTEREST

1. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.34 of the *Local Government Act 1995* impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.

GRV Residential/Commercial	\$735,008– increase of 0.74% from last year.
GRV Mining -	\$1,305,800 – same as last year.
UV Rural -	\$65,058,400 – increase of 13.07% from last year; and
UV Mining -	\$269,452 – – – increase of 19.77% from last year.

Rating

GRV Residential -	8.3833 cents in the \$.
GRV Comm/Industrial/Other-	8.3833 cents in the \$.
GRV Mining -	25.528 cents in the \$.
UV Rural -	1.2846 cents in the \$; and
UV Mining -	1.2847 cents in the \$.
Minimum Rate	
UV Mining	\$200.00
All Other	\$370.00

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:

- Option 1 (Full Payment)
 - Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 1 October 2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is the later.
- Option 2 (Two Instalments)
 - First instalment to be made on or before 1 October 2024 or 35 days after the date of Issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 1 December 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.
- Option 3 (Four Instalments)
 - First instalment to be made on or before 1 October 2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 1 December 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
 - Third instalment to be made on or before 3rd February 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
 - Fourth instalment to be made on or before 6th April 2025

54, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.

4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$12 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
6. Pursuant to Section 6.51 (1) and subject to Section 6.51 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

8/08-24 GENERAL RATES, MINIMUM PAYMENTS, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, DISCOUNTS AND INTEREST

2. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.34 of the *Local Government Act 1995* impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.

GRV Residential/Commercial **\$735,008– increase of 0.74% from last year.**

GRV Mining - **\$1,305,800 – same as last year.**

UV Rural - **\$65,058,400 – increase of 13.07% from last year; and**

UV Mining - **\$269,452 – – – increase of 19.77% from last year.**

Rating

GRV Residential - **8.3833 cents in the \$.**

GRV Comm/Industrial/Other- **8.3833 cents in the \$.**

GRV Mining - **25.528 cents in the \$.**

UV Rural - **1.2846 cents in the \$; and**

UV Mining - **1.2847 cents in the \$.**

Minimum Rate UV Mining **\$200.00**

All Other **\$370.00**

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:
 - **Option 1 (Full Payment)**
 - Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 1 October2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is the later.
 - **Option 2 (Two Instalments)**
 - First instalment to be made on or before 1 October2024 or 35 days after the date of Issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 1 December 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.
 - **Option 3 (Four Instalments)**
 - First instalment to be made on or before 1 October2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;

- Second instalment to be made on or before 1 December 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
 - Third instalment to be made on or before 3rd February 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
 - Fourth instalment to be made on or before 6th April 2025
- 54, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.
4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$12 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
 5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
 6. Pursuant to Section 6.51 (1) and subject to Section 6.51 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/2025

Pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 and other relevant legislation, council adopts the Fees and Charges included at pages 77 to 80 inclusive of the draft 2024/2025 budget included as Attachment 9.1.6 of this agenda and minutes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds

Seconded: Cr Faithfull

9/08-24 FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/2025

Pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 and other relevant legislation, Council adopts the Fees and Charges included at pages 77 to 80 inclusive of the draft 2024/2025 budget included as Attachment 9.1.6 of this agenda and minutes.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

ELECTED MEMBERS' FEES AND ALLOWANCES FOR 2024/2025

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, Councillor meeting attendance fees be set at \$353.09 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, meeting attendance fees for the President be set at \$353.09 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 33 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Part 7.2 (1) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, the annual allowance for the Shire President be set at \$6,000.00

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca **Seconded:** Cr Faithfull

10/08-24 ELECTED MEMBERS' FEES AND ALLOWANCES FOR 2024/2025

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, Councillor meeting attendance fees be set at \$353.09 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, meeting attendance fees for the President be set at \$353.09 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 33 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Part 7.2 (1) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, the annual allowance for the Shire President be set at \$6,000.00

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2024/2025

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/2025 for reporting material variances shall be 15% or \$10,000, whichever is the greater.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca **Seconded:** Cr Huxtable


11/08-24 MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2024/2025

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/2025 for reporting material variances shall be 15% or \$10,000, whichever is the greater.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.5 SALE OF LAND LOT 115 GRANITE STREET – USE OF COMMON SEAL

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	T.1.1.3
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider selling Lot 115 Granite Street to Mr Graham Veale.

Background

Council have been selling land via a Conditional Land Release arrangement to help promote population growth and development within the townsite.

Council has received an application from a Mr Graham Veale who wishes to purchase lot 115 Granite Street Westonia with the intention to construct a hardstand and storage shed with office.

Below is a map illustrating the lot in question.



Comment

This particular lot will require power connection.

Should Council approve the sale the President and the CEO will be required to sign the Transfer of Landform and affix the Common Seal.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

\$ 10,000 land sale but cost of Western Power connection still to be determined.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve the sale of Lot 115 Granite Street to Mr Graham Veale and authorise the President and CEO in affixing the common seal on the Transfer of Land Ownership form.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Faithfull

Seconded:

Cr Simmonds

12/08-24

That Council approve the sale of Lot 115 Granite Street to Mr Graham Veale and authorise the President and CEO in affixing the common seal on the Transfer of Land Ownership form.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.6 COLLGAR RENEWABLES - GRANT

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

This report seeks Council's acceptance of the Collgar Renewables grant of \$ 5,000 towards the Warm Water Pool project.

Background

The Collgar Renewables contributes funds annually to community groups for a variety of projects that have a wide benefit to the local community.

The Council made an application for \$ 10,000 to assist in the construction of the Warm Water Pool Project at the Leisure Hub at the Old Primary School.

The Collgar Renewables have advised that the application was successful for the amount of \$ 5,000.

Comment

The Collgar Renewables have provided a grant agreement for signature and I recommend that Council accept the grant offer and conditions.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter

Strategic Implications

Social – provide community facilities and promote social interaction.

Financial Implications

\$ 5,000 income towards the Warm Water Pool Project proposed for the 2024/25 financial year.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council accept the Collgar Renewables grant of \$ 5,000 towards the Warm Water Pool Project and authorise the signing of the agreement.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Della Bosca

Seconded:

Cr Geier

13/08-24

That Council accept the Collgar Renewables grant of \$ 5,000 towards the Warm Water Pool Project and authorise the signing of the agreement.

CARRIED 6/0

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS

9.2.1 APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION LICENCE 77/3234 & 77/3238

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	ES1.6.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Location Map EL 77/3234 & 77/3238
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

This report seeks Council's comment on an Exploration license in the central part of the shire.

Background

The Shire has been advised of an application for an Exploration license having been lodged by Anderson's Tenement Management on behalf of Kula Gold Limited (E77/3234 & 77/3238).

The application relates to land in the central portion of the Shire surrounding the Westonia townsite (See Attached)

Comment

Kula Gold Limited is a Western Australian ASX listed company with exploration activities

Previous exploration approvals have been granted with the following conditions:

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company's mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread.
- 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner.
- 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner.
- 6) A firefighting unit is to be always available, and drilling is to cease if a total fire and harvest ban is called.
- 7) No drill holes are to extend under any public railway line or any roadways. Drilling being carried out is not to interfere with road drainage and must be beyond the batter line (this is to minimise damage to capped drill holes during maintenance grading) – refer to Typical Cross Section of Road Formation diagram.
- 8) Safety signs are to be erected in accordance with Australian Standards – to warn both mining staff, contractors, and the public/visitors.
- 9) All drill holes are to be capped as soon as possible/practical after drilling.
- 10) If working within 100m from a residence, all noise generated is to be limited in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, when working between 7:00 pm. and 7:00 am.

- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical Rabbit Proof Fence in any way.

Statutory Environment

The Mining Act prevails in this matter.

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council grants approval to Kula Gold Ltd (E77/3234 & 77/3238) to carry out drilling along sections of Council controlled road reserves with this respective Exploration Lease as shown on the attached maps with the following conditions: -

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company’s mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread.
- 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner.
- 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner.
- 6) A firefighting unit is to be always available, and drilling is to cease if a total fire and harvest ban is called.
- 7) No drill holes are to extend under any public railway line or any roadways. Drilling being carried out is not to interfere with road drainage and must be beyond the batter line (this is to minimise damage to capped drill holes during maintenance grading) – refer to Typical Cross Section of Road Formation diagram.
- 8) Safety signs are to be erected in accordance with Australian Standards – to warn both mining staff, contractors, and the public/ visitors.
- 9) All drill holes are to be capped as soon as possible/practical after drilling.
- 10) If working within 100m from a residence, all noise generated is to be limited in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, when working between 7:00 pm. and 7:00 am.
- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical Rabbit Proof Fence in any way.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds **Seconded:** Cr Huxtable

14/08-24 That Council grants approval to Kula Gold Ltd (E77/3234 & 77/3238) to carry out drilling along sections of Council controlled road reserves with this respective Exploration Lease as shown on the attached maps with the following conditions: -

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company's mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be banded so that it does not spread.
- 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner.
- 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner.
- 6) A firefighting unit is to be always available, and drilling is to cease if a total fire and harvest ban is called.
- 7) No drill holes are to extend under any public railway line or any roadways. Drilling being carried out is not to interfere with road drainage and must be beyond the batter line (this is to minimise damage to capped drill holes during maintenance grading) – refer to Typical Cross Section of Road Formation diagram.
- 8) Safety signs are to be erected in accordance with Australian Standards – to warn both mining staff, contractors, and the public/ visitors.
- 9) All drill holes are to be capped as soon as possible/practical after drilling.
- 10) If working within 100m from a residence, all noise generated is to be limited in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, when working between 7:00 pm. and 7:00 am.
- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical Rabbit Proof Fence in any way.

CARRIED 6/0

9.3 WORKS AND SERVICES

Nil

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

9.4.1 SURRENDER OF LEASE 0741832 LOTS 346-348 & 350-353 SCHEELITE STREET

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Townsite Lot Plan – Local Planning Strategy	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider terminating Lease 0741832 being for Lots 346-348 & 350-353 Scheelite Street from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

Background

In 2021 Council entered into a lease arrangement with the DPLH in relation to identifying proposed development lots for residential and/or light industrial purposes.

The land identified as Lots 346-348 & 350-353 Scheelite Street was intended for future residential purposes. Lots 110, 112, 113, 115 & 116 Granite Street were originally part of this same Lease, but Council resolved to freehold purchase the said lots at market price in the 23/24 financial year. Lot 103 Jasper Street (Residential) was also included in this purchase.

Hence the lease has been altered to remove the purchased lots with only the remaining Scheelite Lots identified in the Lease.

Comment

The DPLH has written to the Council advising that as per the conditions of the Lease a rental review (every 3 years) has been invoked with rentals for the reduced number of lots increasing from \$ 1,300/annum to \$ 3,500/annum.

As part of Council's Local Planning Strategy process undertaken in 2022/23 the Council identified the lots located in Scheelite Street as mentioned above, as having prohibitive headwork costs required to develop and that the existing remnant bush should be retained as part of the Town Common Nature Reserve.

Council has since progressed obtaining more suitable residential land surrounding the Old School site for future development.

Section 9.2 of the Lease has a clause for Termination of Lease being

S9.2(a)(ii) The parties agree that, in addition to any other ground for termination at law, and subject to section 81(1) of the Property Law Act 1969 if it applies, this lease may be terminated by the lessor:

(II) without limiting subclause (a)(i), if the Lessee ceases to use the Leased Premises for the Permitted Use, other than temporarily for repairs and maintenance, or ceases to have the right under any Law to use the Leased Premises for the Permitted Use.

It is my recommendation that as the Council is not intending to have the lots developed in the future and that it is considered wasteful in paying \$ 3,500/annum on lease fees for another 7 years that Council write to the DPLH requesting that the lease be terminated effective immediately.

It is anticipated that there will be some cost involved in the termination.

Statutory Environment

Nil



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Surrender of a lease with the DPLH no longer required.



Financial Implications

After the initial termination costs still to be determined cost savings of \$ 3,500/annum in the next three years and savings for the following three years.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolve to terminate Lease 0741832 being for Lots 346-348 & 350-353 Scheelite Street from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Huxtable

Seconded:

Cr Della Bosca

15/08-24

That Council resolve to terminate Lease 0741832 being for Lots 346-348 & 350-353 Scheelite Street from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

CARRIED 6/0

10. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

16/08-24

That Council introduces the following item of an urgent nature to the meeting for discussion.

CARRIED 6/0

11.1 DWER – FUNDING AGREEMENT IMPROVEMENT WORKS WARRALAKIN TANK

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	ES1.7.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Schedules of Financial Contract
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into and signing a Funding Agreement with the Department of Water & Environmental Regulations (DWER) for funding assistance in remedial works on the Warralakin Tank.

Background

As Council are aware the Warralakin Water Tank and Catchment Reserve are under the management of the Shire of Westonia having recently accepted the responsibility from the Water Corporation.

Council have been working closely with DWER on a refurbishment program for the Warralakin Tank to bring it back to a safe and usable state. The Shire of Westonia will be project managing the following works:

- Remove and dispose of dilapidated roof structure.
- Clean out tank;
- Assess integrity of tank walls and outlet fittings;
- Carry out concrete crack repair and coat walls to reduce/eliminate water seepage.
- Installation of tank gauge, mesh to inlet and outlet, and lockable ladders for safe access (internal / external, plus platform); and
- Installation of floating roof to prevent UV contamination and improve water quality.

Comment

DWER have provided a draft Funding Agreement for Council consideration which proposes to provide funding of \$ 273,085.23 plus GST towards the components project managed by the Council. Timeframe for the project is August until end of December.

