

**Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held remotely and livestreamed on
Council's website on 1 March 2021**

Meeting commenced at 6.33pm

Present:

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Victor Macri	Deputy Mayor
Marghanita Da Cruz	Councillor
Mark Drury	Councillor
Lucille McKenna OAM	Councillor
Colin Hesse	Councillor
Sam Iskandar	Councillor
Tom Kiat	Councillor
Pauline Lockie	Councillor
Julie Passas	Councillor (6.40pm)
Rochelle Porteous	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
John Stamolis	Councillor
Louise Steer	Councillor
Anna York	Councillor
Brian Barrett	Acting General Manager
Katherine Paixao	Acting Manager Governance

APOLOGIES: Nil

DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS: Nil

PUBLIC FORUM

The registered speakers were asked to address the meeting. The list of speakers is available on the last page of these minutes.

Councillor Passas entered the Meeting at 6:40 pm.

Procedural Motion: (Drury/Byrne)

THAT the motion be put to a vote.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Raciti and York

Against Motion: Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Porteous, Stamolis and Steer

The Mayor issued a warning at 7:11pm to Cllr Porteous for her repeated interjections.

C0321(1) Item 1 Harmonisation of Rates.

Motion: (Macri/Drury)

THAT Council:

1. **Writes to the Premier, Treasurer, the Minister for Local Government and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) noting:**
 - a) **that we are being forced to harmonise rates and many in our community see this a unfair;**
 - b) **harmonisation will lead to a major increase in rates for some residents in our community;**
 - c) **if they insist on harmonisation then we must be able to phase the increases over 4 years and observe they not yet legislated to allow us to do this.**
2. **Include in the letters to IPART the Council's community engagement report on rates harmonisation as well as our preference for the minimum rates tabled below, should the rates harmonisation have to proceed. Further, that Council request from the Local Government Minister a specific timeline for when the legislative changes to the rating system will be tabled in the Parliament;**

Minimum Rates to apply from 1 July 2021 –

 - **Residential - \$850**
 - **Business – General - \$820**
 - **Business – Industrial - \$820**
 - **Business Shopping Malls - \$820**
 - **Business Airport - \$820**
3. **Notes that the NSW Government is yet to adopt key recommendations of a 2016 IPART Local Government Rating System report which put forward a detailed review of the local government rating system and how to make the system fairer and more efficient;**
4. **Responds in writing to everyone who made a submission to Council about the proposed changes to the rating structure, advising them of this resolution;**
5. **Ensures all future communications to residents about rates harmonisation include reference to Council's opposition to the NSW Government's council rate harmonisation process; and**
6. **Notes that a failure to set new minimum rates will result in a default minimum rate of \$565 which will not equitably distribute the rate burden across the former council areas or require the majority of new ratepayers to contribute adequately to the cost of services made available by Inner West Council.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Raciti and York

Against Motion: Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Passas, Porteous, Stamolis and Steer

Foreshadowed Motion (Passas)**THAT Council:**

1. Acknowledges that the rates harmonisation process is to be implemented before 1 July 2021 in order to comply with the Local Government Act 1993;
2. Receives and notes the Engagement Outcomes Report;
3. Endorses the submission of an application to IPART for approval of the following Minimum Rates to apply from 1 July 2021 –
 - Residential - \$790
 - Business – General - \$790
 - Business – Industrial - \$790
 - Business Shopping Malls - \$790
 - Business Airport - \$790
4. Notes that in response to council advocacy, the NSW State Government is introducing a Bill to Parliament that will allow amalgamated Councils to harmonise rates gradually over four years; and
5. Receives a report on options to phase in harmonisation as part of the annual budget preparation process.

This Foreshadowed motion lapsed for want of seconder.

Foreshadowed Motion (Hesse/Steer)**THAT Council:**

1. Conducts a poll (Division 1, 14 of the NSW Local Government Act) of all voting residents at the local government election in September that asks residents whether they wish to revert to the previous local government areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville; and
2. Writes to the Minister for Local Government advising her that Inner West Council will be conducting a poll on the future of the amalgamated Inner West Council, and requesting her to freeze the rates harmonisation process until the results of the referendum are received.

This Foreshadowed motion lapsed.

Amendment (Byrne)

THAT Council incorporate the following wording into the foreshadowed motion. 'That Council notes that a failure to set new minimum rates will result in a default minimum rate of \$565 which will not equitably distribute the rate burden across the former council areas or require the majority of new ratepayers to contribute adequately to the cost of services made available by Inner West Council.'

This amendment did not get voted on as the Primary Motion was carried.

Meeting closed at 7.13pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Item #	Speaker	Suburb
Item 1:	Steven Dimitropoulos Silvia Levame	Rozelle Enmore

Unconfirmed minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 1 March 2021.