



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council held in the
Council Chamber on
Wednesday 12 August 2020 at 10:00 am

Membership

Cr Andrew Noone

(Chairperson)

Cr Michael Laws

(Deputy Chairperson)

Cr Hilary Calvert

Cr Alexa Forbes

Cr Michael Deaker

Hon Cr Marian Hobbs

Cr Carmen Hope

Cr Gary Kelliher

Cr Kevin Malcolm

Cr Gretchen Robertson

Cr Bryan Scott

Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Chairperson Noone welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10 a.m.

For our future

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. Cr Calvert was present via audio/video link.

2. ATTENDANCE

Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive)
Nick Donnelly (General Manager Corporate Services and CFO)
Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations)
Richard Saunders (General Manager Regulatory)
Gwyneth Elsum (General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science)
Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor)
Liz Spector (via A/V (Committee Secretary)
link)

Also present were Garry Maloney (Manager Transport), Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels), Ryan Tippet (Media Communications Lead).

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Chairperson Noone noted that a late paper from Councillor Laws and consideration of creation of a Working Party for COVID-19 funding opportunities would be added to the agenda. Cr Noone asked for a motion to add both items to the agenda.

Resolution

That the late paper discussing the draft submission to the Commerce Commission about Aurora rates increases and consideration of a COVID-19 Funding Opportunities Working group be added to the agenda.

Moved: Cr Noone
Seconded: Cr Hope
CARRIED

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Ilka Beekhuis spoke to the Council about placement of bus shelters and their impact on local tourism businesses, specifically, proposed bus stop changes on Macandrew Road. The Councillors had several questions for Ms Beekhuis and then thanked her for her presentation.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cr Kelliher requested that specific detail be included in future minutes where previous minutes were corrected and adopted by resolution.

Resolution

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 22 July 2020 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Laws
CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

7.1. Hearing Panel Recommendation on Interim Trial Simplified Dunedin Fares Consultation

Garry Maloney (Manager Transport) and Dr Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) were available to speak to the report. Councillors had several questions related to the potential revenue shortfall caused by the proposed reduction in fares during the trial period. Dr Palmer noted the shortfall would be approximately \$9,000 per month, being a relatively minor portion of usual fare revenue received, and that the primary driver for the change was to minimise the implementation risk of the new tag on/tag off system.

Cr Hobbs said she understood Dunedin City Councillors had indicated their willingness to contribute financially to reduce bus fares for the community and asked if Mr Maloney was working with DCC towards this end. He stated he was. Cr Forbes mentioned the email that had been sent from Dunedin Mayor Aaron Hawkins the previous evening which indicated he still had concerns with the plan proposals. He said he felt the hearings panel's recommendations didn't go far enough towards reducing fares for the most vulnerable residents, children and people with disabilities. Cr Noone said he had spoken with Mayor Hawkins who said DCC was keen to continue a move towards a cross-subsidy role on bus fares, but wanted to resolve some of these issues first. Cr Noone said the commitment from the City was there and will remain.

Cr Hope said she had some concerns over how the tag off penalty would be communicated to the public, and why the penalty would be \$3. Mr Maloney said details of the changes would be included in printed FAQs and posted to the website. He said staff were being as transparent as possible to ensure the changes were being clearly communicated. Cr Forbes suggested the tag off penalty be posted inside buses as an additional reminder to patrons.

Cr Malcolm noted that the trial was set up to simplify implementation of the new ticketing system and was not intended to be the final result. He said there will be options provided for consideration after the trial period.

Cr Forbes said the hearings panel made a recommendation they felt best addressed the concerns of submitters and that she wants assurance ORC will work with DCC on bus fare issues, at both staff and political levels. Cr Calvert said it will be important to know what DCC thinks of the outcome and what they would like to happen. She suggested the process should include DCC at an appropriate time, prior to making any final decisions.

Cr Noone said Mayor Hawkins noted in their conversation that the City has mandated making public transport more affordable and although Mayor Hawkins said he did not have the ability to deal with some of his concerns currently, he will go back to the Dunedin City Council for approval.

There were no further questions and Cr Noone moved the staff recommendation.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the Hearings Panel recommendation that:
 - a. The proposed Dunedin flat fare system be introduced;
 - b. The Dunedin fare for children be lowered to \$1.20; and
 - c. The charge for forgetting to tag-off in Dunedin be reduced to \$3.00.
- 3) **Requests** staff prepare a further report to enable Council to further consider options for what happens following the end of the trial.

Moved: Cr Noone
Seconded: Cr Forbes
CARRIED

7.2. Submission to Commerce Commission on Aurora Energy Proposal

At its May 2020 Council Meeting, Council approved a resolution that Cr Laws draft a submission to the Commerce Commission on an Aurora proposal to increase regional electricity supply prices between 16% and 23%. Cr Laws submitted his draft proposal to the Councillors for approval via email for discussion and approval at this meeting.

Cr Laws noted the final consultation workshop on the Aurora proposal was held in Cromwell the previous day. The Councillors reviewed the draft submission and Cr Deaker suggested some additional wording be added to indicate the submission was a request, rather than a statement. Cr Forbes expressed concern that the submission was merely opinion and wondered that staff should be given the opportunity to provide input and add details. Cr Laws said this was merely an initial submission to get the Council into the consultation process which was due by 17 August. He said the Commerce Commission will generate a particular view after reviewing all submissions and then come back to the submitters. He indicated there would be time to write an additional submission.

There was no further discussion and Cr Noone put the motion.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Approves** the submission to the Commerce Commission on the Aurora Proposal to Increase Regional electricity supply prices.

Moved: Cr Laws
Seconded: Cr Kelliher
CARRIED

Cr Noone requested his abstention be recorded in the minutes.
Cr Hobbs requested her abstention be recorded in the minutes.

7.3. Working Party for COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

Chairperson Noone introduced the second late item, which was a request to create a COVID-19 Recovery/Jobs for Nature working party and to appoint Councillors to the group. Cr Scott moved that Cr Robertson, Cr Wilson, Cr Forbes and himself be nominated as members of the group.

After a general discussion about the focus of the group, including Cr Calvert's statement that nine of ten out of work due to COVID-19 are women, Cr Noone put the motion, seconded by Cr Malcolm.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Creates** a COVID-19 Recovery/Jobs for Nature Working Party and **appoints** Councillors Forbes, Robertson, Scott and Wilson as its members.

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr Malcolm

CARRIED

8. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Noone declared the meeting closed at 11:20 am.



Chairperson Andrew Noone

26 August 2020

Date