



SHIRE OF WILLIAMS

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST 2024,
5PM

SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
9 BROOKING STREET
WILLIAMS WA 6391



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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Presiding Member, President Logie, will declare the Council meeting open at 17.02 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members

Cr Jarrad Logie	President
Cr Natalie Major	Deputy President
Cr Tracey Price	
Cr Bernie Panizza	
Cr Christine Cowcher	
Cr John Macnamara	

Staff

Peter Stubbs	Chief Executive Officer
Gemma Boyce	Executive Manager for Corporate Services
Cassie Barker	Senior Finance Officer

Visitors

Apologies – Nil
Leave of Absence – Cr Simon Harding

3. REPORTS

3.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

3.1.1 2024-25 BUDGET CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION

File Reference	4.23.10
Statutory Reference	Local Government Act 1996, Section 6.2 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
Authors	Peter Stubbs, Gemma Boyce & Cassie Barker
Date	31 July 2024
Disclosure of Interest	The Authors declare Financial Interests, given they are beneficiaries of staff related budget costs.
Attachments	Draft Budget 2024-25 Draft Fees & Charges 2024-25

Background & Comment

The draft 2024/25 budget has been compiled based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan, and line with the earlier budget workshop with Councillors.

The draft 2024/25 Budget includes information required by the *Local Government Act 1995*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and the Australian Accounting Standards. The following considerations have been given in developing the draft 2024/25 Budget.

- Long term forecast for road upgrades and plant replacement.
- Consumer price index rises of between 3.4 to 3.6%.
- The mandatory increase in superannuation from 11% to 11.5%.
- Seasonal impacts in the district.
- That Community and Council assets are maintained.
- Council services to the community are maintained and enhanced.
- Cost increases are moderate.
- The Shire is equipped to optimise external revenue to drive innovation and improvement.
- A balanced approach is taken to support people of the district, people who visit the district, the environment, and economic development.
- That Council meets the increasing compliance costs for Local Governments.

The 2024-25 draft budget has an opening surplus of \$1.56million (unaudited), consisting of:

- Financial Assistance Grants (FAGS) for the 2024-25 of \$743,083 paid to the Shire 28 June 2024. The FAGS grants are typically paid in late June each year.
- Residual funds from unspent Capital projects in the 2023-24 year.

Road project over expenditure in 2023-24 has been absorbed in the operating costs for that year, and Reserve transfers late in the year reflect in the Operating deficit of \$79, 395.

Any changes required through audit identification can be accommodated in budget reviews and adjustments in the year ahead.

Rates - GRV and UV

The draft budget has been prepared with a 5.5% rate in the dollar increase for GRV and UV rated properties.

UV land revaluations in 2023-24 mean that the rate in dollar levied for UV properties has been reduced by 18% to reflect the increase valuations and achieve the 5.5% increase.

The 18% decrease in the rate in the dollar for UV rated properties is the result of smoothing the effect of annual UV Valuer Generals valuation increases.

GRV rated properties were last revalued in July 2022 and are due for revaluation in July 2025.

The nett increase in rate revenue is forecast to be \$126,547.

Rates- Minimum

Minimum rates for GRV properties are proposed to be \$876, and for UV properties \$1,118.

Fees & Charges

The draft Fees and Charges reflect a general increase of 3.5% in line with the CPI, and include, rounding and some adjustments from that up or down, to moderate impacts.

The waste collection fees from Avon Waste to Council will rise by 3.4%, and this is reflected in the budget and is passed on to users.

New fees recommended are;

1. \$35 for the deposit of white goods at the refuse site without a certificate evidencing gas removal. It is now a State legal requirement that equipment be degassed before it can be recycled.
2. \$180 for private swimming pool inspections required every four years and due in 2024-25. This fee is based on cost recovery of the regulatory inspections. Inspections of private pools in the district are scheduled for late October 2024.
3. \$120 for follow up private swimming pools where compliance is not achieved in the initial inspection.

The private swimming pool inspections fees proposed are broadly consistent with the fees for this regulatory requirement with other Local Governments. Some local governments charge a quarter of the fee yearly over four years to meet cost recovery. Williams has not done that, hence the proposed single fee for this year when inspections are due.

Statutory Environment

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 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, by Absolute Majority, 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 the Local Government Act 1995 refers to the setting of budgets and the raising of rates and charges. The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2024/25 Budget as presented is meets these 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.

Strategic Implications

This item links to Councils Strategic Community Plan 2017 to 2032 and Long-Term Financial Plan and is a key driver for resourcing activity to advance most strategic goals.

Financial Implications

The specific financial implications are detailed in the draft budget and budget notes.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION AND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

PART A - MUNICIPAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2024/2025

Moved : Cr Major

Seconded: Cr Price

The Council adopts the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Draft Budget attached to this Agenda, for the Shire of Williams for the 2023/24 financial year which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type on page (2)
- Statement of Cash Flows on page (3)
- Statement of Financial Activity on page (4) showing a net result for that year and the amount required to be raised from rates and ex-gratia rates of \$2,368,869.
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget on pages (5 to 24)

For: Cr Cowcher, Cr Logie, Cr Macnamara, Cr Major, Cr Panizza, Cr Price.

Against: Nil

Carried: 6/0

Resolution: 12/25

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

PART B -GENERAL AND MINIMUM RATES, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Raising Rates

Council pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* impose the following Gross Rental and Unimproved Value and Minimum Rates.

2. General Rates*

- Residential (GRV) **8.862 cents in the dollar**
- Commercial / Industrial (GRV) **8.862 cents in the dollar**
- Rural/Mining (UV) **0.382 cents in the dollar**

3. Minimum Rates

- Residential (GRV) **\$876**
- Commercial / Industrial (GRV) **\$876**
- Rural/Mining (UV) **\$1,118**

4. Instalments

Council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:

- Full payment and 1st instalment due date **30 September 2024**
- 2nd quarterly instalment due date **22 November 2024**
- 3rd quarterly instalment due date **17 January 2025**
- 4th and final quarterly instalment due date **14 March 2025**

5. Instalment Option Charge

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, 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 **\$10.00** for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

6. Instalment Option Interest Rate

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Council adopts an interest rate of **3%** where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

7. Interest rate on Overdue Rates

Pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* Council adopts an interest rate of **7%** for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Panizza

Seconded: Cr Major

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6. Instalment Option Interest Rate

Pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Council adopts an interest rate of **5%** where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

7. Interest rate on Overdue Rates

Pursuant to section 6.51 (1) and subject to section 6.51 (4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* Council adopts an interest rate of **10%** for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

For: Cr Cowcher, Cr Logie, Cr Macnamara, Cr Major, Cr Panizza, Cr Price.

Against: Nil

Carried: 6/0

Resolution: 13/25

Council adopted a rate installment interest rate of 5% and an interest fee of 10% for overdue rates payments to better reflect costs of managing staged and overdue rates payments.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

PART C - GENERAL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/2025

Pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council adopts the Fees and Charges included in the draft budget attached to this Agenda and forming part of the 2024/2025 Budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Panizza

Seconded: Cr Macnamara

PART C - GENERAL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/2025

Pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council adopts the Fees and Charges included in the draft budget attached to this Agenda and forming part of the 2024/2025 Budget, with the following amendments,

Removal of proposed cost recovery fee of \$180 for required 4 -yearly private swimming pool compliance inspections.

An increase the fee for required second private pool inspections from \$120 to \$200.

For: Cr Cowcher, Cr Logie, Cr Macnamara, Cr Major, Cr Panizza, Cr Price.

Against: Nil

Carried: 6/0

Resolution: 14/25

Council agreed to absorb the cost of the first required private pool compliance inspection, and to increase the fee for any subsequent required inspection where pool compliance was not in place, noting to owners of private pools would receive advance notice of pool requirements and inspection times allowing time for them to ensure compliance standards were met on the first inspection.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION AND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Price

Seconded: Cr Macnamara

PART D. MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2024/2025

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/2025 for reporting material variances shall be 5% or \$5,000, whichever is the greater.

For: Cr Cowcher, Cr Logie, Cr Macnamara, Cr Major, Cr Panizza, Cr Price.

Against: Nil

Carried: 6/0

Resolution: 15/25

4. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business for discussion the President, Cr Jarrad Logie, declared the Meeting closed at 6.54pm.