


Minutes Whakatāne District Ordinary Council Meeting – 15 August 2024

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA (CHAMBERS), WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, ON THURSDAY, 15 AUGUST 2024, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.
	Present:	His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors T Boynton, G Dennis, A Iles, J Jukes, T O’Brien, J Pullar, N Rangiaho, and N Tánzos
	In Attendance:	D Bewley (Acting Chief Executive), S Perdia (GM Strategy and Transformation), G Fletcher (GM Community Experience), B Gray (GM Infrastructure), E Hatch (GM People and Engagement), P Warbrick (Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships), N Woodley (Acting GM Development and Environment Services), C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services) and S French (Senior Governance Support Advisor)
	Visitors:	<i>Via Teams:</i> B Roser (Election Services)
	Apologies:	Councillor W James

1 KARAKIA

Mayor Luca welcomed all to the meeting at 9:00 am, and Councillor O’Brien gave a Karakia.

2 MEETING NOTICES

Meeting attendees were advised on the following subjects:

- Health and Safety aspects attendees needed to be aware of.
- Standard meeting protocols when livestreamed.
- The meeting was advised that the Chief Executive had withdrawn the Iwi Chairs Forum report from the agenda. This followed a request from the Iwi Chairs Forum to defer the paper until it had the opportunity to inform and confirm its approach. The paper would be bought back to a future Council meeting.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor Jukes / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT Council **accepts** the apology from Councillor James.

CARRIED

Attendance: GM People and Engagement entered the meeting at 9:03 am.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Mayor Luca acknowledged and thanked Mr Bewley for his role as Acting Chief Executive.

The recent success of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Olympians was acknowledged. The meeting was advised that logistical issues were being worked through, and it was suggested that a communication be released advising initial planning for a recognition event was underway.

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to page 9 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Jukes

RESOLVED:

THAT the following minutes be **confirmed** as a true and correct record:

1. Ordinary Council Meeting 17 July 2024; public and public excluded minutes
2. Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting 25 July 2024; public and public excluded minutes
3. Ordinary Council Meeting 30 July 2024; public minutes

CARRIED

8 MAYORAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8.1 Mayoral Report – July/August 2024

Refer to pages 10-19 of the agenda.

Regional Development Minister Shane Jones was scheduled to hold the BOP regional summit on 20 September 2024.

Moved Councillor Puller / Seconded Councillor Iles

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council **receives** the Mayoral Report – July/August 2024.

CARRIED

8.2 Acting Chief Executive Report – August 2024

Refer to pages 20-23 of the agenda.

The Chief Executive spoke of the Local Waters Done Well recent announcements. Reference was made to the availability of increased borrowing from the NZ Local Government Funding Agency Limited (LGFA) for water services and that work had commenced around affordability.

The Acting Chief Executive acknowledged Mr Warbrick for his work at Council over the past three years and he, along with Elected Members, wished him well in his up-coming role at Rotorua Lakes Council.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor Jukes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council **receives** the Acting Chief Executive report – August 2024.

CARRIED

9 REPORTS

9.1 Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024

Refer to pages 24-31 of the agenda.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- Elected members raised concerns about the process set by the Government, including the short timeframes which did not allow time for public consultation.
- If a binding referendum was not held, Council would be in breach of legislation.
- Elected Member's support for retaining Māori Wards was unanimous.

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

1. THAT the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 report be **received**; and
2. THAT Council **agree** to hold a binding poll at the 2025 local elections, with the outcome of that poll effective for the 2028 and 2031 local elections; and
3. THAT Council **direct staff** to undertake the required statutory process to hold a binding poll at the 2025 local elections (Option 1).

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:13 am and recommenced at 10:29 am.

The Mover and Seconder of the above motions agreed to the inclusion of two additional recommendations and the voting took place on the five resolutions.

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 report be **received**; and
2. That Council **resolves** to retain Māori wards for 2025 triennium; and
3. THAT Council **agree** to hold a binding poll at the 2025 local elections, with the outcome of that poll effective for the 2028 and 2031 local elections; and
4. THAT Council **direct staff** to undertake the required statutory process to hold a binding poll at the 2025 local elections (Option 1).
5. THAT Council **direct staff** to seek legal advice regarding consequences of not holding a binding referendum.

CARRIED

Councillor O'Brien closed the meeting with a Karakia at 10:40 am.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON