

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor D Watton (in the Chair) and Councillors Dixon, Grine, Harrington, Hill, Jurd, King, Lea, Madden, Mason, Palmowski and Pascoe.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager
Director Planning and Environment
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
People and Culture Manager
Chief Financial Officer
Communications & Engagement Manager
Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Council Services Team Leader

The Prayer was presented by Reverend Nicole Baldwin.

**APOLOGY & LEAVE
OF ABSENCE:**

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Harrington
Seconded: Councillor Grine

148

RESOLVED that the apology tendered on behalf of Councillor Suvaal for unavoidable absence, be accepted.

That a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Pascoe from Monday, 14 July 2025 to Sunday, 20 July 2025.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Lea
Seconded: Councillor Mason

149

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 April 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Harrington
Councillor Grine	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI4/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Nil

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ALL REPORTS BY ENGLOBE OR INDIVIDUALLY WITH NOMINATED EXCEPTIONS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor King
150

RESOLVED

that having read and considered the reports in the agenda related to items

‡ GMU1/2025	Cessnock City Council Union Picnic Day	30
‡ CC25/2025	Investment Report - April 2025	59
‡ CC26/2025	Disclosures of Interests in Written Returns.....	64
‡ CC27/2025	Resolutions Tracking Report	67

Council adopt the recommendations as printed in the business papers for those items.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU4/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now indicate if there are any matters of urgency which they believe should be conducted at this meeting of Council.

Councillor Palmowski

That Council seek an urgent meeting with the State Member for Cessnock, Mr Cayton Barr MP and Federal Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi, to discuss coordinated plans to support individuals currently residing in TAFE park.

The scope of the discussion is to include:

- Immediate access to emergency accommodation.
- Identification and implementation of both short-term and long-term housing solutions; and
- Coordination of support through local health services, community organisations and relevant support services to ensue ongoing assistance for affected individuals.

The Mayor ruled the Motion as urgent.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Jurd

That Council urgently reviews the existing policy governing leasing agreements with sporting clubs with a view to simplifying processes and supporting sustainability of local clubs.

The Mayor ruled the motion as Urgent.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT NO. GMU1/2025

SUBJECT: CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL UNION PICNIC DAY

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Councillor King

151

RESOLVED

That Council notes the Union Picnic Day is to be held on Friday 31 October 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE12/2025

SUBJECT: PLANNING PROPOSAL 18/2024/6/1 - RECLASSIFICATION OF COUNCIL LAND - POST EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
152
RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the outcome of the community consultation for Planning Proposal 18/2024/6/1 - Reclassification of part Lot 312 DP 566724 (Old Maitland Road, Cessnock) from Community Land to Operational Land.
2. That Council forwards the Planning Proposal 18/2024/6/1 for Reclassification of Council Land to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a recommendation that the plan be made pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
3. That Council notifies submission makers of the Minister's decision.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE13/2025

**SUBJECT: CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL AND MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
153
RESOLVED

1. That Council proceed under section 218(E) of the Local Government Act 1993 with the proposal to affect a minor Local Government boundary adjustment and inform Maitland City Council that it has no objection to the transfer of:

- ☐ Part Lot 1, DP 1314431 (0.6ha) currently within the Maitland City Council to be incorporated by the boundary adjustment into the Cessnock City Council, and
- ☐ Lot 1, DP 62332 (3.4ha) currently within the Cessnock City Council to be incorporated by the boundary adjustment into the Maitland City Council.

2. That Council notes that the standard provision be included in the Proclamation:

Rates and charges

- a. Appropriate arrangements are to be made in relation to the payment of any outstanding rates and charges over the rateable land affected by this Proclamation.
- b. The General Manager of Maitland City Council and the General Manager of Cessnock City Council are to reach a negotiated agreement on the nature of those arrangements.
- c. In the event that the General Managers of Maitland City Council and Cessnock City Council cannot come to a negotiated agreement on the matter of rates and charges, the councils shall request that the Minister for Local Government make a determination on that matter.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC22/2025

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE 2022-26 DELIVERY PROGRAM

MOTION

154

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Councillor King

RESOLVED

That Council notes the progress in implementing the 2022-26 Delivery Program, for the 2024-25 Quarter 3 period (January to March 2025).

Councillor King left the meeting, the time being 6.56pm

Councillor King returned to the meeting, the time being 6.56pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC23/2025

**SUBJECT: QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - QUARTER 3, 31
MARCH 2025**

MOTION Moved: Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
155
RESOLVED

1. That Council receives the March 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement in accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
2. That Council approves proposed changes to the 2024-25 operating and capital budgets as presented in the Quarterly Business Report March 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC24/2025

SUBJECT: TENDER T2025-11 WESTON BEARS PARK GRANDSTAND, AMENITIES & CARPARK UPGRADE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
156
RESOLVED

That Council accepts the tender (T2025-11) from Connex Management & Construction Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$6,429,197.50 (including GST) for the Weston Bears Park Grandstand, Amenities & Carparking Upgrade.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC25/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - APRIL 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor King
157
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for April 2025 and notes that:

- **Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.**
- **Council's month end cash and investments balance was \$70,219,883.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC26/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Councillor King

158

RESOLVED

That Council notes the tabling of the disclosures of interests written returns for the period 1 February 2025 to 30 April 2025 in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC27/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor King
159
RESOLVED

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN10/2025

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SIGNAGE

MOTION

1. That Council notes it's concern with the way political signage is managed in the Cessnock LGA.
2. That Council requests the General Manager urgently review the procedure or policy with the intention of implementing a revised policy before the 2025 Federal Election.
3. That Council requests the new procedure or policy:
 - a. Provide clarity to political candidates around the requirements for election signage display in our LGA.
 - b. Bring the way political signage is managed in our LGA into line with other LGAs across the Hunter region.
 - c. Implement a more reasonable fine structure for incorrectly placed signage.
 - d. Ensures Council continues to monitor and ensure the removal of illegal signage across the LGA.

The Motion lapsed for want of a Mover and Seconder.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

MAYORAL SUMMARY - 16 April 2025 to 21 May 2025

Below are some items attended that are notable to report on, briefly summarised for reporting sake. Please let me know if you have any questions.

16 April – Mayoral Scholarship Selection Panel Meeting

18 April – 2CHR Interview – post Council meeting

23 April – Taskforce Veteran meeting, Accommodation for returning veterans at risk

23 April – Seniors Reference Group – Evaluation / Celebration meeting

24 April – Meeting with Clayton Barr MP, Mayor's Office

25 April – ANZAC Day – Kearsley, Pokolbin, Kurri, Branxton, Brunkerville

29 April – Citizenship Ceremony at the PACC

1 May – Official Opening of the Cessnock Netball Courts – playing surface replacement and upgrades.

1 May - Grand Opening of Kurri Kurri Community Services Study Hub,

5 May – HCC / HTP Regional Reference Group meeting, in Newcastle.

5 May – Committee for the Hunter meeting, Mayor's Office

5 May – Hunter Region Tourism Organisation Meeting, in Bolwarra

6 May – 2 NUR interview re: Sawyers Gully Survey

7 May – ARIC Meeting at Council

7 May – Freeman of the City Event, Delma Whyte

8 May – Meeting with CFO & DC&CS re: CSP and Development Contributions Projects

9 May – Councillors group meeting re: CSP

12 May – Hunter JO Media event – Newcastle Airport Terminal Tour and Official Opening.

13 May – Kuway Uwayka AET Official Yarning Circle Opening at Millfield Public School

13 May – Ground Breaking Event, Cessnock Leagues Club

13 May – Cessnock Lion's Club Dinner at ECBC

14 May – DP&E, DC&CS and Strategic Planning Manager meeting re: Developer Contributions relating to capital works.

14 May – Meeting with Sonia Sharpe re: Youth based needs

15 May – NSW Country Pool Managers Conference, ECBC official welcome by Mayor

15 May – National Road Safety Week filming, Comms team

15 May – Mayoral Scholarship Presentation

16 May – Biggest Morning Tea, Bellbird

21 May – Grants Advisory Committee Meeting

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Palmowski **Seconded:** Councillor Hill

160

RESOLVED

That Council seek an urgent meeting with the State Member for Cessnock, Mr Cayton Barr MP and Federal Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi, to discuss coordinated plans to support individuals currently residing in TAFE park.

The scope of the discussion is to include:

- Immediate access to emergency accommodation.
- Identification and implementation of both short-term and long-term housing solutions; and
- Coordination of support through local health services, community organisations and relevant support services to ensue ongoing assistance for affected individuals.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Madden
161
RESOLVED

That Council urgently reviews the existing policy governing leasing agreements with sporting clubs with a view to simplifying processes and supporting sustainability of local clubs.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 7.17pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 18 June 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**