

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 9:00 am  
Council Chambers

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**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING**

**Chairperson Deputy Mayor Williams declared the meeting open at 9:14, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country**

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson	Elizabeth Williams (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor	Ralph F Blyth
Councillor	Mickitja Onus
Councillor	Otto Dann
Councillor	Henry Guwiyul
Councillor	Gabby Gumurdul
Councillor	James Woods
Councillor	Jacqueline Phillips
Councillor	James Marrawal
Councillor	Julius Don Kernan
Councillor	Donna Nadjamerrek – joined at 13:36

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chief Executive Officer	Andrew Walsh
Director Council and Community Services	Fiona Ainsworth
Director Finance	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
General Manager Technical Services (Acting)	Clem Beard
Finance Manager (Acting)	Corey White
Information Advisor	Ben Heaslip
Governance and Risk Advisor (Acting)	Jasmine Mortimore
Manager Community Services Support	Marnie Mitchell
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator	Heidi Walton

**GUESTS**

Northern Land Council Chairman	Matthew Ryan
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### 3 APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absence Without Notice</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absence Without Notice.

**OCM37/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Woods**  
**Seconded Cr Marrawal**

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the absence of Donna Nadjamerrek
2. Determines Donna Nadjamerrek is absent with permission of the Council.

**CARRIED**

### 4 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Acceptance of Agenda</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

**OCM38/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Guwiyul**  
**Seconded Cr Gumurdul**

THAT COUNCIL accept the agenda papers as circulated for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20 March 2024.

**CARRIED**

### 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff.

**OCM39/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Phillips**  
**Seconded Cr Guwiyul**

THAT COUNCIL received a declarations of interest from Cr Gumurdul, Cr Dann, Cr Phillips, Cr Kernan for item 12.4 in the Confidential agenda as listed for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20 March 2024.

**CARRIED**

### 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes</b>

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>
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The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes.

**OCM40/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Gumurdul**  
**Seconded Cr Blyth**

THAT COUNCIL confirm the minutes of 20 – 21 February 2024 Ordinary Council meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

## **7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Meeting broke for morning tea at 10:27 and recommenced at 10:49

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Presentations and Visitors - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

**OCM41/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Blyth**  
**Seconded Cr Onus**

THAT COUNCIL

1. Noted the presentations on Community Planning by Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
2. Thank the presenters from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
3. Request that the Technical Services Team prepare a report on use of land at the airport in Minjilang.
4. Request a formal response from Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on concerns for airstrips, subdivisions, roads, community plans, clarification on desalination (warruwi) raised during the meeting.
5. Request in future that Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics actively engage with Council.
6. Request comparison on Jabiru Township JTDA) land use.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Presentations and Visitors - Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet.

**OCM42/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Onus**  
**Seconded Cr Blyth**

THAT COUNCIL

1. Noted the presentations on Update on Jabiru / Kakadu Projects by Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet.

2. Thank the presenter from Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet - David Boustead
3. Seek clarification from NTG on the following: Medical Transition, Permanency of Doctors, Increased Cost of Electricity in Jabiru, the Future of the old clinic building, and detail of expenditure for projects.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Presentations and Visitors - National Indigenous Australians Agency</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

Minute note: the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) did not attend the meeting to present.

The meeting broke for lunch at 13:11 and recommenced at 13:36

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Presentations and Visitors - Independent Commissioner Against Corruption</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.

**OCM43/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Woods**  
**Seconded Cr Dann**

THAT COUNCIL

1. Noted the presentations on Introduction of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC).
2. Thank the Presenter from Independent Commissioner Against Corruption - Michael Riches
3. Request contacts and information from ICAC to distribute

**CARRIED**

## **8 ACTION REPORTS**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Review of Action Items</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jessie Schaecken, Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

**OCM44/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Gumurdul**  
**Seconded Cr Phillips**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Received and noted the report entitled *Review of Action Items*; and
2. Reviewed the outstanding action items and gave approval for completed items to be removed from the register.
3. Request install bollards to stop short up access on road in Minjilang (reference item OCM232)
4. Request community services prepare a report on council night patrol services (reference item OCM224)
5. Invite the Northern Territory police and Night Patrol staff to next Ordinary Council meeting
6. Request CEO draft letter to Ministers with NLC support advocate for Night Patrol funding and cultural Rehabilitation centre in communities.

7. Request the CEO to review the operations of Night Patrol.
8. Request item OCM/215 to be kept on the action items register and a letter to be written to K9 Security to provide feedback on training opportunities for local members.
9. Refer action item OCM190 to Maningrida Local Authority to fund.
10. Requests standing invitation to stakeholder for meeting attendance
11. Request to write to NLC chairman for airport shelter action OCM175 / OCM

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>New Years Eve Fireworks Display - Maningrida, Waruwi and Minjilang Communities</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Clem Beard, Project Manager Technical Services</b>

The Council considered a report on New Years Eve Fireworks Display - Maningrida, Waruwi and Minjilang Communities.

**OCM45/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Phillips**  
**Seconded Cr Nadjamerrek**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Received and notes the report.
2. Note that external funding will be required for the listed events to proceed.
3. Approve for the administration to source external funding for the listed firework events.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly.

**OCM47/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Blyth**  
**Seconded Cr Woods**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Received and noted the report.
2. Notes the NGA discussion paper that was circulated at the meeting.
3. Approves the attendance of Mayor Woods and Elected Member Jacqueline Phillips, Mickitja Onus, Otto Dann, Donna Nadjamerrek accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer at the National General Assembly.
5. Submits a motion to the National General Assembly on a topic still to be decided.
6. Approves for the final draft of the motion to be approved by the Mayor.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Ballot for Mayor</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jessie Schaecken, Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Ballot for Mayor.

**OCM46/2024 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Blyth  
Seconded Cr Marrawal**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Received and noted the report.
3. Notes the resignation of Matthew Ryan from the Principal Member and as a Member of West Arnhem Regional Council.
4. Notes that all legislative requirements regarding the resignation have been completed by the Chief Executive Officer.
5. Approved the appointment of Mayor by secret ballot.
6. Approved the Nominations received from Councillors James Woods, James Marrawal, Julius Kernan, Ralph Blyth
7. Appoints James Woods as West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Local Government Association of the Northern Territory April Conference</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Local Government Association of the Northern Territory April Conference.

**OCM48/2024 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Onus  
Seconded Cr Dann**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Received and noted the report.
2. Notes the invitations received by Mayor James Woods and (ex) Mayor Matthew Ryan from the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM to attend a reception.
3. Notes the Notice of General Meeting, Constitution Changes, and Call for Motions received from LGANT.
4. Approves the attendance of Mayor James Woods, Cr Ralph Blyth accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer at the LGANT conference and related events.
5. Submits a motion to the LGANT April General meeting on a topic to be decided.
6. Approves for the final draft motion to be approved by the mayor; and
7. Approves for the April Ordinary Council Meeting to be moved to the week beginning 22 April and held in Maningrida.

**CARRIED**

**9 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

**OCM49/2024 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor Woods  
Seconded Cr Onus**

THAT COUNCIL received and noted the attached items of incoming and outgoing correspondence.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>9.2</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor.

**OCM50/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Blyth**  
**Seconded Cr Nadjamerrek**

THAT COUNCIL received and noted the report entitled *Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor*.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Meetings and Events attended by the CEO</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events attended by the CEO.

**OCM51/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Gumurdul**  
**Seconded Cr Guwiyul**

THAT COUNCIL

1. Received and noted the report entitled *Meetings and Events attended by the CEO*.
2. Noted that Elected Members from community should be present in further meetings involving their Wards.

**CARRIED**

Cr Kernan left the meeting at 16:40

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2024</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Corey White, Accountant</b>

The Council considered a report on Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2024.

The information in this item is classed as confidential under Section 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021*.

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Lease of House in Maningrida to AFLNT</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Leanne Johansson, Business Development Manager</b>

Mayor Woods declared that he is Chair on the Maningrida AFL Committee but remained in the meeting.

The Council considered a report on Lease of House in Maningrida to AFLNT.

**OCM53/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Guwiyul**  
**Seconded Cr Marrawal**

THAT COUNCIL received and noted the report entitled *Lease of House in Maningrida to AFLNT*.

**CARRIED**

## 10 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>10.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Elected Member Questions with or without Notice</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Elected Member Questions with or without Notice.

### **OCM60/2024 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Mayor Woods**

**Seconded Cr Gumurdul**

That the Chairperson invites questions with or without notice from Elected Members.

1. Cr Dann raised concerns with the conditions of the Gunbalanya roads.
2. Cr Marrawal requested report to be taken to the Waruwi Local Authority for installing Bollards.
3. Request Technical Services team to investigate and bring a report to Local Authorities for trailers for large rubbish removal in each community.
4. Request Admin reach out to Larrakia Nation for information on how WARC can assist with providing ID services for West Arnhem communities.
5. Request letter be sent to Birth Deaths and Marriages for information on their services and frequency.

**CARRIED**

## 10.2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Confirmation of Local Authority Meeting Minutes</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

### **OCM59/2024 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Dann**

**Seconded Cr Onus**

THAT COUNCIL

1. Received and noted the report entitled *Confirmation of Local Authority Meeting Minutes*.
2. Confirmed the minutes of the following Local Authority meetings and reviewed decisions made by the Local Authority:

<b>Community</b>	<b>Date Held</b>	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
Gunbalanya	7 March 2024	Yes	6 June 2024
Maningrida	14 March 2024	Yes (provisional quorum)	13 June 2024

3. Endorsed provisional decision for the Maningrida Local Authority to purchase an additional (4) four 6 metre grandstands to provide extra seating to the value of \$59,472.50; and
4. Endorsed provisional decision for the Maningrida Local Authority to approve a budget of 75k for outdoor gym equipment to be installed at Lot 468
5. Requests report on Gunbalanya oval, including surface works.

**CARRIED**



## 11 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Closed the meeting at 17:07 and recommenced at 9:11 on Thursday 21.03.2024

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items.

**OCM54/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams**  
**Seconded Mayor Woods**

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 52 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

## 12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The information in this section of the Agenda is classed as confidential under Section 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021*.

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>12.1</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Ben Heaslip, Information Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes.

**OCM55/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams**  
**Seconded Cr Phillips**

THAT COUNCIL confirm the minutes of 20 – 21 February 2024 Ordinary Council meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting with the spelling amendment to report name on item 12.3.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>12.2</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Confirmation of Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes.

**OCM56/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams**  
**Seconded Cr Guwiyul**

THAT COUNCIL confirmed the minutes of 19 September 2023 Risk Management and Audit Committee as a true and correct record of the meeting and reviewed decisions made by the Committee.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>12.3</b>
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Bank Authorisations</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance</b>

The Council considered a report on Bank Authorisations.

**OCM57/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams**  
**Seconded Mayor Woods**

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Received and noted the report entitled *Bank Authorisations*; and
2. Approve the following Council officers be authorised to deal with the National Australia Bank on behalf of the Council:
  - a. Andrew Walsh
  - b. Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
  - c. Corey White
  - d. Imran Shajib
3. Approve to remove existing Council staff names from authorisation.

**CARRIED**

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Clem Beard, Project Manager Technical Services</b>

The Council deferred report on Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council till next scheduled Council meeting.

<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jasmine Mortimore, Acting Governance and Risk Advisor</b>

The Council considered a report on Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public.

**OCM58/2024 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Marrawal**  
**Seconded Cr Gumurdul**

THAT COUNCIL opened the meeting to the public after the discussion of confidential items, and approved to disclose the resolutions 12.1, 12.2 12.3 from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes.

**13 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 22 April 2024

**14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED**

Chairperson Mayor Woods declared the meeting closed at 10:14 on Thursday 21 March 2024

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2024.