



# **MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council meeting  
Monday, 24 February 2025**

**Order of Business**

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	There were no minutes to confirm.	
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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
REGIONAL HOUSE, 1 ELIZABETH STREET, TAURANGA  
ON MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 9.30AM**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Rick Curach, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor
- APOLOGIES:** None
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** None
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Marty Grenfell (Chief Executive), Paul Davidson (Chief Financial Officer), Barbara Dempsey (General Manager: Community Services), Nic Johansson (General Manager: Infrastructure), Christine Jones (General Manager: Strategy, Growth & Governance), Alastair McNeil (General Manager: Corporate Services), Sarah Omundsen (General Manager: Regulatory & Compliance), Gareth Wallis (General Manager: City Development & Partnerships), Amanda Davies (Manager: Spaces & Places Project Outcomes), Andrew Hough (General Counsel), Hemi Leef (Associate Counsel), Kathryn Sharplin (Manager: Finance), Sarah Holmes (Corporate Planner), Jim Taylor (Manager: Rating Policy & Revenue), Josh Logan (Team Leader: Corporate Planning), Tracey Hughes (Financial Insights & Reporting Manager), Susan Braid (Finance Lead Projects Assurance), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services), Clare Sullivan (Team Leader: Governance Services), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor),
- EXTERNAL:** Rebecca Ryder, Boffa Miskell and Craig Batchelar, Cognito Consulting

Timestamps are included beside each of the items and relate to the recording of the meeting held on 24 February 2025 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm9cQr01b54>

**1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Cr Hautapu Baker opened the meeting with a karakia.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

### 3 PUBLIC FORUM

#### TIMESTAMP 4:55

#### 3.1 Fred Hutchings, Treasurer, on behalf of the Tauranga Harbour Protection Society - Te Hononga ki Te Awanui (Memorial Park to Elizabeth Recreation Connection)

##### Key Points

- Mr Hutchings spoke on behalf of Jan Jamieson and the Tauranga Harbour Protection Society. He commented on the four options noted in the report in the agenda for Te Hononga ki Te Awanui. He noted that the Society would prefer to see a joint application with the Council and the Protection Society to the High Court for a legal determination on the proposed design for the full recreation connection as it would bring clarity over the riparian rights issue.

#### TIMESTAMP 10:35

#### 3.2 Brian Scantlebury - Te Hononga ki Te Awanui (Memorial Park to Elizabeth Recreation Connection)

##### Key Points

- Mr Scantlebury spoke of the history of the project and discussed each of the options noted in the report on the agenda. He urged Council to choose Option One and change the words suspend to “cease” or “stop”. He noted a number of issues if the project went ahead including those of a geotechnical nature, riparian rights, whole of life cost of the project, and security for residents who owned property in the area.
- Mr Scantlebury in response to questioning if the research that the Tauranga Harbour Protection Society (TPHS) had completed would be shared with the Council, advised that this was a decision for the THPS Committee, however he doubted it would be shared at this point.

### 4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

### 5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

### 6 CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

### 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to confirm.

### 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

## 9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

Nil

## 10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

**TIMESTAMP 23:08**

### 10.1 **Recommendatory Report from the Accountability, Performance & Finance Committee dated 5 November 2024 - Rating Categories and Rating Policy**

#### **RESOLUTION CO/25/2/1**

Moved: Cr Rod Taylor

Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Recommendatory Report from the Accountability, Performance & Finance Committee - Rating Categories and Rating Policy".
- (b) Adopts the recommendations of the Accountability, Performance & Finance Committee and considers, along with the draft budget in February, options regarding the industrial category including:
  - (i) Removing smaller operations from the industrial category.
  - (ii) Reviewing the level of differential.
  - (iii) Recombining commercial and industrial rating categories.
- (c) Adopts the recommendations of the Accountability, Performance & Finance Committee and as part of the annual plan process, consider whether to continue to move toward general rates set at a fixed proportion of residential 65%, Commercial 15%, industrial 20% as included in the LTP.
- (d) Directs staff to bring back a brief business case to develop a rates estimator calculator on Council's property search page for the first 3 years of the Long-Term Plan, to be ready before Council's next Long-term Plan.

**CARRIED**

## 11 BUSINESS

**TIMESTAMP 24:35**

### 11.1 **Te Hononga ki Te Awanui (Memorial Park to Elizabeth Recreation Connection)**

**Staff** Barbara Dempsey, General Manager: Community Services  
Amanda Davies, Manager: Spaces & Places Project Outcomes  
Andrew Hough, General Counsel  
Hemi Leef, Associate Counsel

**External** Rebecca Ryder, Boffa Miskell & Craig Batchelar, Cognito Consulting

Rebecca Ryder and Craig Batchelar, through a powerpoint presentation, outlined the project background, objectives, timeline, engagement, avenues connection, risks and options as set out in the report.

Staff confirmed that \$400,000 cost had been spent to date and there was no budget provided for this project in the Long Term Plan.

### Requests from Councillors

- Information on the amount of money spent to date on Te Hononga ki Te Awanui over 20 years.

The meeting adjourned at 11.22 am and resumed at 11.36 am.

### RESOLUTION CO/25/2/2

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

Seconded: Cr Glen Crowther

That the Council:

- Receives the report "Te Hononga ki Te Awanui (Memorial Park to Elizabeth Recreation Connection)".
- Approves:
  - Option i – Suspends all non-committed work on the project.
- Rescinds parts (b), (c), (d) and (e) of resolution CO14/23/5 made at the council meeting of 21 August 2023.

Reasons for the decision:

- The Council agreed to suspend all non-committed work on this project, as the project was seen as a "nice to have" and at an \$28.2m estimated cost, did not provide good value for money.
- The Council believed there were other projects that had greater priority.
- The Council noted that there was no intention to commit further funds to the project in the Long Term Plan and Option 1 was the logical outcome of that decision.

**For:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Rick Curach, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom

**Against:** Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor

**CARRIED**

### Attachments

- Presentation - Te Hononga ki Te Awanui - Council 24 February 2025

## 11.2 2025/26 User Fees and Charges: Policy Alignment and Changes

**Staff** Paul Davidson, Chief Financial Officer  
Kathryn Sharplin, Manager: Finance  
Sarah Holmes, Corporate Planner  
Sarah Omundsen, General Manager

**TIMESTAMP:2:13:37**

Staff advised that Attachment 1 was on the website in the html version of the agenda but was not included as a separate attachment in a PDF format.

**RESOLUTION CO/25/2/3**

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Mayor Mahé Drysdale

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "2025/26 User Fees and Charges: Policy Alignment and Changes".
- (b) Revokes the Funding Depreciation and Use of Deprecation Reserves Policy 2009.
- (c) Agrees the Draft User Fees and Charges schedule forms the basis of the schedule to be adopted at the 3 March 2025 Council meeting, subject to any updates agreed through reports to 3 March Council meeting or changes agreed by Council at this meeting.

**CARRIED**

**11.3 Rating Policy Review 2025/2026 Annual Plan**

**Staff** Paul Davidson, Chief Financial Officer  
Jim Taylor, Manager: Rating Policy & Revenue  
Kathryn Sharplin, Manager: Finance

**TIMESTAMP:2:46:24**

Refer to tabled document – Alternative examples of rating impact on residential, commercial and industrial properties - residential 66.3% - Rating Policy Review - Council 2025-02-24 which was provided in response to a request for further information.

**Changes to recommendations:**

- Recommendation (c) in the report was put and lost. A new (c) was proposed which retained the proportion for residential rating at 65% and requested a report for the 11 March 2025 Council meeting providing options for consideration of the commercial/industrial split.
- Council resolved in (d) that a report be provided to a future meeting for consideration in the next Long Term Plan process, relating to the "Urban Growth – Wide Benefit" targeted rates.

**RESOLUTION CO/25/2/4**

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Rick Curach

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Rating Policy Review 2025/2026 Annual Plan".
- (b) Changes the definition of Industrial rating category to exclude any rating unit with a land area less than 250m<sup>2</sup>, (*or exclusive use area less than 250m<sup>2</sup> for cross lease or unit titles*), which will be classified in the commercial rating category.

**For:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Rick Curach, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler and Cr Rod Taylor

**Against:** Cr Glen Crowther

**CARRIED**

**A MOTION WAS PROPOSED**

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Rick Curach

That the Council:

- (c) Continues with the Long-term Plan decision to move to a fixed proportion of the general rates for each rating category and change the proportions for the residential rating category to 66%, the Commercial rating category to 15% and the industrial rating category to 19% by the 2027/28 rating year.

**For:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Cr Rick Curach, and Cr Marten Rozeboom,

**Against:** Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Kevin Schuler and Cr Rod Taylor

**LOST**



## AN AMENDMENT WAS PROPOSED

**RESOLUTION CO/25/2/5**

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Cr Rick Curach

That the Council:

- (d) Requests that a paper be brought to a future Council meeting for consideration in the next Long Term Plan process, relating to the "Urban Growth – Wide Benefit" targeted rates.

**CARRIED**

## A MOTION WAS PROPOSED

**RESOLUTION CO/25/2/6**

Moved: Cr Glen Crowther

Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Council:

- (c) Continues with the Long-term Plan decision to move to a fixed proportion of the general rates for each rating category and retain the proportion for the residential rating category at 65%, and at the 11 March 2025 Council meeting bring back options for the commercial/industrial rating split.

**For:** Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Rick Curach, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Kevin Schuler and Cr Rod Taylor

**Against:** Mayor Mahé Drysdale

**CARRIED****Attachments**

- 1 Tabled item 11.3 - Alternative examples of rating impact on residential, commercial and industrial properties - residential 66.3% - Rating Policy Review - Council 2025-02-24

The meeting adjourned at 1.25 pm and resumed at 2.00 pm

**11.4 Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 - Decision Making**

**Staff** Paul Davidson, Chief Financial Officer  
Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Growth & Governance  
Barbara Dempsey, General Manager; Community Services  
Nic Johansson, General Manager, Infrastructure  
Kathryn Sharplin, Manager: Finance

**Timestamp:4:34****Requests from Councillors**

- Provide information on the cost of use of consultants for City Waters.
- Provide a breakdown of the cost of \$338,000 of the new Bay Venues facility at Cameron Road.
- Re-send the Revenue & Funding Policy.
- Provide information on difference of the allocator activity for customer service, with the libraries

& community hub.

### **Change to Resolution**

- Removed recommendation (c) as sought more information on the costs of the \$338,000 for the new Bay Venues to come to the 3 March 2025 Council meeting.

### **RESOLUTION CO/25/27**

Moved: Cr Rod Taylor

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 - Decision Making".
- (b) Confirms the 2025/26 capital programme as agreed in December with the following adjustments which reduce the total programme to \$506m as detailed in Attachment 1:
  - (i) Deferral of \$6.8m of expenditure on Turret Road to later year
  - (ii) Bring forward \$1.5m of Taurikura Drive upgrade
  - (iii) Other minor timing adjustments
- (d) Approves the baseline budget that achieves a maximum rates increase after growth of 12.5%, based on activity budgets as set out in Attachment 2 with further budget adjustments to be considered by Council on 3 March 2025.
- (e) Notes the revised net debt at year end June 2026 is \$1.65b, which is consistent with the Long Term Plan.

**CARRIED**

## **12 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

## **13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**Resolution to exclude the public**

**RESOLUTION CO/25/2/8**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<b>13.1 - Asset Realisation Reserve - 376 No.1 Road, Te Puke (Orchard Block) Divestment Objectives and Disposal Classification</b>	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
<b>13.2 - Asset Realisation Reserve - Kairua Road - Divestment Objectives and Disposal Classification</b>	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

**CARRIED**

The public were excluded at 3.18pm.

The meeting resumed in open at 5.01 pm.

**14 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Councillor Baker closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 5.02 pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 March 2025.**

.....  
Mayor Mahé Drysdale  
**CHAIRPERSON**

UNCONFIRMED