



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006, AT 5:19 pm.

PRESENT Cr Bolger (Chairperson) Crs Davis, Dore, Harvey, Hellier, McFadzien, McIntyre, McLennan, Sutherland and Turnbull.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roothing Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and one member of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGIES His Worship the Mayor and Cr Ogg apologised for absence.

1. PRESENTATION OF CIVIC AWARD (47.8)

A memo from the Chief Executive had been received about the proposed change to the style of the Council's Civic Awards. It had been thought that the Civic Awards could be combined with other awards that take place in the District in order that a formal function could be held to celebrate and acknowledge excellence in a variety of areas in the community. A copy of the scoping paper for the proposal which had been sent to service organisations had been circulated with all but the Mataura Lions Club supportive of the concept in principle.

Cr Sutherland thought it was a good idea but he could understand the Mataura Lions Club's reluctance to be included.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr Harvey, THAT the Council endorse in principle the holding of an annual community awards gala dinner to present a range of community awards with the Council's Civic Award being afforded premiere status,

AND THAT the Council note that it is intended to finance the event via sponsorship and attendance fees.

The Chief Executive said the Chamber of Commerce preferred to retain its own Customer Service Awards but it was interested in an entrepreneurial award being included. He confirmed that the Mataura Lions Club was not involved at this stage but it was still interested in meeting with himself and His Worship. He advised that a large corporate was interested in sponsoring the event and with its endorsement the event would be secured.

Cr Bolger was supportive of the proposal and felt proud to be a Southlander.

Cr Hellier agreed with the format, however he was concerned that if it was too large, it might result in rates being used to pay for it. He believed the event needed to be “user pays”.

Cr Bolger hoped it would not be a burden to the ratepayer but he felt the Council needed to recognise the people who were beneficial to the community and not always think of the cost.

Cr McIntyre had reservations about the event and wondered if the people associated with the person receiving the award would miss out as she assumed there would need to be a cap on the numbers attending.

Cr Bolger said it was something to bear in mind when in discussion with the sponsors to ensure those people were included.

Cr McIntyre was concerned that some of the nominees for the awards were not financial enough to be able to afford to attend a big event.

Cr Hellier said that was why he did not want ratepayers money involved.

Cr Bolger did not believe the awards dinner would be for the elite only; it needed to include as many people as possible.

The Chief Executive said that was why sponsorship was crucial to make the event affordable and added that the recipient of the Civic Award could still hold a more intimate afternoon tea if wished.

Cr Turnbull agreed with Cr Harvey that there needed to be strict guidelines to the nominations.

Cr Davis fully supported the event in principle and wanted the Council to be updated on how it was going to work.

The Chief Executive advised the Council would be kept updated at all stages, but it was necessary to get its endorsement now otherwise there was no reason to proceed any further. His intention was to have a refreshed policy in place prior to the event and there was a lot of work that still needed to be completed with regard to costs, entry fees and what funding the Council required.

Cr McFadzien felt the Council needed to contribute a small amount to the event.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2006 (1.1.3)

A financial report for the three months ended 30 September 2006 had been circulated from the Chief Financial Officer.

The Chief Executive advised a more comprehensive report would be provided at the six month stage which would determine trends.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Hellier, THAT the financial report for the three months ended 30 September 2006 be received.

The Chief Executive added that administration expenses were starting to track downwards and these would improve towards the end of the financial year.

The meeting concluded at 5:32 pm.