



Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Held on Monday 13 December 2021

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.04 pm and welcomed Elder, Uncle Andrew Gardiner to the meeting to conduct a welcome to country.

7.06 pm Cr Helen Davidson joined the meeting.

The Mayor acknowledged that the Council meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and acknowledged them as Traditional Owners. The Mayor thanked Elder, Uncle Andrew Gardiner for his welcome to country and paid his respects to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Elders, past, present and emerging, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Present	Time In	Time Out
Cr Mark Riley, Mayor	7.04 pm	8.09 pm
Cr Lambros Tapinos, Deputy Mayor	7.04 pm	8.09 pm
Cr Adam Pulford	7.04 pm	8.09 pm
Cr Angelica Panopoulos	7.04 pm	8.09 pm
Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan	Leave of absence	
Cr Helen Davidson	7.06 pm	7.59 pm
Cr Helen Pavlidis	7.04 pm	8.09 pm
Cr James Conlan	7.04pm	8.09 pm
Cr Milad El-Halabi	Apology	
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	7.04 pm	7.59 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	7.04 pm	8.09 pm

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Carli Hannan has approved leave of absence - 9 December 2021 to 2 March 2022 inclusive.

Cr El-Halabi was an apology to the meeting.

OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer – Cathy Henderson
Director Business Transformation – Sue Vujcevic
Director City Infrastructure – Anita Curnow
Acting Director City Futures – Phillip Priest
Director Community Development – Eamonn Fennessy
Director Engagement and Partnerships – Joseph Tabacco
Manager Governance and Strategy – Yvonne Callanan
Team Leader Governance – Naomi Ellis

DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

COUNCIL REPORTS

4.1 PROPOSED RENAMING OF MORELAND CITY COUNCIL

Executive Summary

In November 2021, information was presented to Council by Elders from the Traditional Owner community and other community representatives, showing that Moreland City Council was named after land, between Moonee Ponds Creek and Sydney Road, that Farquhar McCrae acquired in 1839. He named the land 'Moreland' after a Jamaican slave estate his forebears had operated.

The land which forms part of the Moreland local government area was sold to Farquhar McCrae without the permission of the Traditional Owners, who were suddenly dispossessed from their land.

In 1994 the local government areas of the City of Brunswick, the City of Coburg and part of Broadmeadows were amalgamated and the Victorian Government named the new council Moreland. The name Moreland City Council is therefore 27 years old.

Council has a long history of proactive leadership on issues of racism, inclusion and reconciliation and has for many years used the description of 'one community, proudly diverse'. In 2021 Council signed a Statement of Commitment to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. Council also supports a process towards self-determination and local, regional, or national Treaty or Treaties that enshrine the rights of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

In the light of this, retaining the name Moreland City Council conflicts with the Council's history and aspirations.

This report recommends that Council support in principle changing the name of the municipality, that is, changing Moreland City Council's corporate name.

It's recommended this be supported by a name selection and community engagement process in 2022 that will be co-designed with stakeholders, including the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The timing for such education, engagement and truth telling at a local level aligns well with Treaty and truth telling activities underway across Victoria.

Ultimately the decision to change Council's corporate name rests with the Victorian Government who can choose to make an Order in Council under s 235(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). Once a suitable name has been selected following community engagement a preferred name will be presented to the Minister for Local Government for consideration in 2022.

The Minister for Local Government has encouraged Council to work closely with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation throughout the proposed

renaming process. The Minister also confirms his support and has offered to facilitate renaming of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Act if the proposal is supported by Council and the local community.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Supports in principle changing the name of the municipality.
2. Partners with stakeholders, including the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, to co-design a process to select a new name during 2022 including arrangements for community engagement.
3. Plans and commences in 2022 a community information and education program that acknowledges the impacts and consequences of dispossession and racism and encourages respectful understanding through truth telling and reconciliation.
4. Receives a report in February 2022 detailing the proposed community information and education campaign, recommendations from the name selection process co-design activity, including plans for community engagement.
5. Following community and stakeholder engagement, selects a preferred suitable name for the municipality to present to the Minister for Local Government for consideration in 2022.

Resolution

Cr Riley moved, Cr Tapinos seconded -

That Council:

1. **Supports in principle changing the name of the municipality.**
2. **Partners with stakeholders, including the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, to co-design a process to select a new name during 2022 including consideration of arrangements such as community nominations and a consultative survey.**
3. **Plans and commences in 2022 a community information and education program that acknowledges the impacts and consequences of dispossession and racism and encourages respectful understanding through truth telling and reconciliation.**
4. **Receives a report in February 2022 detailing the proposed community information and education campaign, and recommendations from the name selection process co-design activity, including plans for community engagement with such matters as nominations, shortlisting processes and surveys.**
5. **Following community and stakeholder engagement, which includes consideration of matters such as nominations, and surveys, receives a further report with survey results and other considerations, and selects a preferred suitable name for the municipality to present to the Minister for Local Government for consideration in 2022.**
6. **Notes and refers to the budget process an additional \$250,000 per year for two financial years (\$500,000 total) to update Council's digital platforms, signs at significant Council buildings and facilities and municipal entry signs and notes updating Council assets such as street and park signs, smaller facilities signage, staff uniforms and vehicles will be addressed incrementally within existing budget allocations and asset renewal programs over a 10-year timeframe.**

7.33 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting during the debate.
7.33 pm Cr Davidson returned to the meeting during the debate.
7.34 pm Cr Conlan left the meeting during the debate.
7.34 pm Cr Conlan returned to the meeting during the debate.
7.39 pm Cr Tapinos left the meeting during the debate.
7.52 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting during the debate.
7.54 pm Cr Tapinos returned to the meeting during the debate.

Procedural Motion

Cr Yildiz moved -

That the motion now be put.

Lost

Cr Davidson returned to the meeting at 7.54 pm during the debate.

Carried

Cr Yildiz called for a division.

For

Cr Bolton
Cr Pulford
Cr Panopoulos
Cr Conlan
Cr Riley
Cr Tapinos

Total For (6)

Against

Cr Davidson
Cr Yildiz
Cr Pavlidis

Total Against (3)

Statement from Cr Carli Hannan

Cr Carli Hannan is on a leave of absence and submitted a statement supporting the renaming of Moreland and requested the Mayor read it to the meeting on her behalf.

Motion

Cr Tapinos moved, Cr Panopoulos seconded -

That Cr Carli Hannan's statement in support of the renaming of Moreland be read to the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Carried

7.59 pm Cr Davidson and Cr Yildiz left the meeting.

Cr Carli Hannan's statement

Moreland Council was formed 27 years ago as part of the Kennett government's Council amalgamations. The community was asked by the Local Government Board to contribute names. They included names in Woi Wurrung. Locals were disappointed and critical of the imposition of the name Moreland. It was not considered an adequate name to represent us and there were concerns about the relationship it had to a Jamaican slave plantation. There were much better options suggested at the time.

The Wurundjeri Council have come to Moreland after we signed a Statement of Commitment to work towards healing and treaty and advised us of their grave concern at us continuing to have the name Moreland due to its slave origins. My position is that the name Moreland does not define us as a community or the work we have done as a Council. What defines us is our diversity, inclusivity and actions to create a fairer society. With these principles in mind I endorse changing the name.

At the Mayor's invitation, Elder, Uncle Andrew Gardiner made concluding remarks.
The meeting closed at 8.09 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Mark Riley
MAYOR