

Date: 9 July 2024 at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, J M S Erwood, A M C Dudley, A K Harris, E E Hall, V R Jones, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets - Mrs V Araba the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mrs E Bishop, the Committee Secretary – Ms E Coulton, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Community and Economic Development Manager – Ms S Afzal, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, the Roding Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Roding Engineer Ms D Taplin, and one member of the public.

Via Audio/Visual Link – Ms P Thomson and Mr L van der Walt (part meeting)

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, members of the public, staff and the media to the meeting.

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 13

The opening karakia was read.

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 14

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

An Apology was received from the Deputy Mayor - M McKay and an apology noted from the Director – Environmental Services – B Sutherland.

Recommendation

THAT the apology be received.

TONGAAWHIKAU/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/24/81

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5. Attendance Schedule

Page 15

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 **Ordinary Meeting of Council – 11 June 2024**

D24/30017 Page 16

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/24/82

The Committee Secretary undertook to make the following amendments:

- Page 18 – incorrect spelling of The District Mayor's last name.

6.1.1 Public Forum – 11 June 2024

D24/30052 Page 21

The notes from the June public forum are attached for council's information.

6.2 **Policy and Services Committee (Hearing) – 11 June 2024**

D24/30048 Page 23

Recommendations

1. THAT the confirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2024, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Rates Remission and the draft Rates Postponement Policies, be received.

BOYDE/WATT
Carried
CL/24/83

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 11 June 2024, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Rates Remission and the draft Rates Postponement Policies, be adopted.

SANDFORD/HARRIS
Carried
CL/24/84

6.2.1 Updated Rates Remission Policy

D24/2230 Page 33

6.2.2 Updated Rates Postponement Policy

D24/3502 Page 42

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
CL/24/85

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting, including, held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 be adopted.

BECK/HALL
Carried
CL/24/86

Councillor Boyde noted the following:

- Councillor Boyde expressed that the last Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting was well attended and that the minutes reflected the fantastic year the farm has had. He noted that it was the last meeting of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee as the committee will now be known as the Council Farm Committee. Councillor Boyde gave a brief overview of the minutes and reiterated how successful the farm has been in providing rate mitigation and what the plan is for the allocation of the 2023/24 financial year profit.

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 20 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

ERWOOD/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/24/87

The Committee Secretary undertook to make the following amendments:

- Councillor Beck questioned as to why there was no mention of the potential of creating a 4 meter wide lane within the minutes as it was discussed and why have we not considered this. The Chief Executive Officer clarified that minutes are a reflection of a conversation and are not verbatim, the purpose is to record conversations that lead to a decision. He noted that legally our minutes are way above the legal requirements. As per his email response to Councillor Beck, the accrual road width is between 4.5 and 4.8 meters wide and thereby well exceeds the 4 meters asked for. The Chief Executive Officer further clarified that the design of the road corridor is not a governance matter, it comes down to design parameters stipulated by NZTA and applied by roading and safety engineers.

6.5 **Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 25 June 2024 (Fees and Charges)**
D24/32047 Page 58

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
Carried
CL/24/88

6.6 **Policy and Services Committee – 25 June 2024**
D24/32049 Page 62

Recommendations

3. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 be received.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Carried
CL/24/89

4. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, including those in the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 be adopted.

HALL/BECK
Carried
CL/24/90

6.7 **Taranaki Emergency Management Group Joint Committee – 6 June 2024**
Page 72

Recommendation

THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 June 2024 be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/24/91

Recommendation

THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Regional Transport Committee held on Thursday 13 June 2024 be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/24/92

7. **District Mayor's Report**
D24/33148 Page 79

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/WATT
Carried
CL/24/93

The District Mayor noted the following:

- At the Regional Transport meeting there was discussion surrounding the emergency funding policy changes that NZTA has proposed. It was noted that these changes are believed to have a significant impact on local government finances and operations.
- The updated policy changes local councils' access to emergency roading funding by updating the threshold for emergency funded events from a 1 in 10 year event to a 1 in 20 year event, predicting an annual saving of \$20 – 25 million for the NLTF. The District Mayor expressed that whilst the NLTF may be saving money, these events that no longer meet the threshold for emergency funding are still going to occur so therefore it will be an additional major cost to councils.
- Supplementary to the change in threshold to the access of emergency funding, once the 1 and 20 year event occurs and meets the criteria for funding, the subsidy will now be FAR + 10% premium when previously it was FAR + 20% premium. According to their figures, this will save them \$15 – 20 million a year.
- The updated policy also notes that councils will be eligible to receive subsidy on certain projects but only if the council is able to match a portion of the funding, therefore if a council cannot afford to do this it means that NZTA have the power to fund the project only partially or not at all. It was noted that it is predicted to be a \$35 – 50 million saving over a three year period.
- Stratford was used as an example in the submission, illustrating that if Stratford was to have a \$4.85 million event, it would cost SDC \$400,000 more than it currently does under the existing regime.
- Another area of concern is the proposed introduction of the Uneconomic Transport Infrastructure Policy. He noted that the policy allows for any transport infrastructure that is deemed uneconomic by NZTA, such roads and bridges that only service a few properties, to not receive funds or only be eligible to be partially funded. If adopted, this will now be an added cost to local government. He expressed that a submission has been prepared by the Committee and he endorses its content.
- Submissions closed June 19th and within 7 working days they had collated the submissions, analysed them, reported on them, made a decision and implemented them before July 1st, with no change.
- He expressed that collectively all the decisions that are being made are all bad news for local government. He noted that it is a concern as we have just adopted a long term plan that has figures based on what was available to us at the time and essentially now we have been informed that the emergency works figures we have been going off are no longer appropriate.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall shared that upon first reading this, she felt disheartened, which swiftly turned into feeling enraged. She noted that it's frustrating and saddening to see NZTA go against the shared expression from local government, which have collectively and consistently stated that the funding model is unsustainable. She noted that it feels as if no one is listening. Councillor Hall further expressed that whilst this may be a saving for NZTA and central government, the impact on local government will be significant and further impact rate payers. It is another decision that has been made in too short a time frame with little consideration for others. The District Mayor heard Councillor Hall's comments and agreed, he noted that it will be a large and ongoing cost to local government.
- Councillor Beck noted that if the projected figures of saving are added up, it equals to around \$100 million. He expressed that if that \$100 million was to be spread across the councils, especially a council like ours, how are we going to approach this? He asked if there is a contingency plan. The District Mayor noted that we do have a contingency fund for roading, but expressed that it may not be enough for the future. The Roading Asset Manager used an example of Stratford's experience with a previous major event to illustrate the potential costs of unexpected occurrences. He highlighted that the June 2015 storm incurred a total expenditure of \$5.4 million. He noted that to fund these events the main solution would be to reduce the programme of works, put projects on hold and half other projects, until we find our share to fund it.

Councillor Hall left the meeting at 4.12 pm.

- The District Mayor noted that all we can do is send a submission, which we have done.

8. Decision Report – Road Closure – Stratford Street Sprint – August 2024
D24/30369 Page 90

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/TONGAAWHIKAU
Carried
CL/24/94

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is hereby given that the Stratford District Council proposes to close the following roads on Sunday 11 August 2024 between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm for the purpose of the Westend Hire Stratford Street Sprint 2024

- Orlando Street from Warwick Road to Celia Street
- Romeo Street from Orlando Street to Cordelia Street
- Cordelia Street from Romeo Street to Warwick Road
- Warwick Road from Cordelia Street to Orlando Street

Recommended Reason

The South Taranaki Car Club have approached the Stratford District Council with the view of holding their annual Westend Hire Stratford Street Sprint Event on Sunday 11 August. This is their 34th year of running the event. The proposed road closure requires formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
CL/24/95

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Beck questioned if there had been any written submissions received expressing their objection to the event. The Roading Asset Manager clarified that he is unaware of any formal objections.

Councillor Hall rejoined the meeting at 4.14 pm.

9. **Decision Report – Adopt Long Term Plan 2024-34**
D24/33166 Page 105

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
CL/24/96

2. THAT the following supporting information, in relation to the Long Term Plan 2024-34, that was consulted on, be adopted as final, subject to any amendments required by Deloitte, the appointed auditors, and acknowledging the documents will undergo a full design process following adoption:

Documents contained within the Long Term Plan 2024-34:

- Vision and Community Outcomes
- Significant Forecast Assumptions
- Levels of Service and Non-Financial Performance Measures and Targets by Activity
- Financial Strategy
- Revenue and Financing Policy
- Development and Financial Contributions Policy
- Financial Statements
- Accounting Policies
- Funding Impact Statements
- Infrastructure Strategy

Additional Supporting Documentation:

- Parks, Reserves & Cemeteries Asset Management Plan
- Solid Waste Asset Management Plan
- Stormwater Asset Management Plan
- Wastewater Asset Management Plan
- Water Supply Asset Management Plan
- Property Asset Management Plan
- Roading Asset Management Plan

3. THAT the Long Term Plan 2024-34 is adopted, subject to any amendments required by Deloitte, the appointed auditors, and acknowledging the document will undergo a full design process following adoption.
4. THAT the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to approve any final edits and design changes prior to public distribution, or make any minor amendments as required for accuracy or as directed by Deloitte (auditors).

Recommended Reason

Council is required to adopt a Long Term Plan pursuant to Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
CL/24/97

The Auditors noted the following:

- There is nothing significant to note after the audit. Ms Thompson noted that there will be an emphasis of matter that will be included which will be used to draw the readers attention to the Brecon Road Bridge Project and the reliance that Stratford has on the NZTA funding for that bridge and the uncertainty around getting that funding, given that the funding hasn't been confirmed when the LTP was adopted.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked the auditors if there is anything that the council could do better for future auditing processes. Ms Thompson noted that the only recommendation they have passed on to management is in terms of models used for data collection. She noted that currently SDC utilises Excel for this but expressed that Excel documents are prone to errors and crashing. Ms Thompson clarified that SDC is not alone in this issue as this is a common challenge many councils face.

10. Decision Report - Setting of Rates, Due Dates and Penalties Regime for 2024/25

D24/17794 Page 1412

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/24/98

2. THAT the Stratford District Council sets the following rates, due dates, and penalties regime under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Funding Impact Statement, on rating units in the Stratford District for the financial year commencing 1 July 2024, and ending 30 June 2025.

Important: All charges are GST inclusive, and funds raised are stated GST exclusive.

GENERAL RATE

Council set a general rate under section 13 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 ("LGRA") calculated on the capital value of each rateable rating unit within the district.

The general rate is set with no differential.

The rate (in cents per dollar of capital value) for 2024/25 is 0.15936 cents, raising \$6,010,590.

General rates will be used to fund all activities that are not covered by the uniform annual general charge, targeted rates or other funding mechanisms outlined in the Revenue and Financing Policy.

UNIFORM ANNUAL GENERAL CHARGE

Council set a UAGC under section 15 of the LGRA in respect of every separately used or inhabited part of a rateable rating unit (SUIP) within the district.

The UAGC for 2024/25 is \$873 per SUIP, raising \$3,916,700.

TARGETED RATE – ROADING

Council set a targeted roading rate under section 16 in respect of roading and street services based on the capital value of each rating unit within the District as follows:

The Default category rate (in cents per dollar of capital value) under section 16 for 2024/25 is 0.10440 cents, with a differential factor of 1, raising \$3,879,400.

The Forestry category rate (in cents per dollar of capital value) under section 16 for 2024/25 is 0.65174 cents, with a differential factor of 6.24, raising \$350,000.

For the purposes of this rate the differential categories are defined as follows:

Default Category

All rateable land not in the Forestry Category

Forestry Category

This category includes:

- a) All rating units where the primary land use is exotic forestry; and
- b) All land used for exotic forestry with an area of greater than 10 ha in any rating unit where the primary land use is not exotic forestry.

The capital value of rating units to which b) applies will be apportioned between the Forestry category and the Default category.

For the purposes of this definition, "exotic forestry" does not include land that is categorised under the valuer general's rules as indigenous forests or protected forests of any type.

TARGETED RATE – SOLID WASTE (RUBBISH AND RECYCLING)

Council set a targeted rate under section 16 of the LGRA for refuse and recycling collection on the basis of the extent to which the property receives a refuse and recycling service in the Stratford and Midhirst domestic collection area. Refer to the maps of the collection area on Council's website, <https://www.stratford.govt.nz/our-services/rates-and-property/district-boundaries-and-maps>.

The Solid Waste rate under section 16 for 2024/25 is \$490 per extent of provision of service, raising \$1,161,700. An additional rate of \$490 per each additional refuse and/or recycling container provided will be charged to eligible properties that have had approval by council for additional containers.

The Solid Waste rate will be used to fund the urban domestic refuse collection activity.

TARGETED RATE – WASTEWATER (SEWERAGE)

Council set a targeted rate under section 16 of the LGRA for sewerage as a fixed amount per SUIP, and a targeted rate as a fixed amount per rating unit for serviceable properties. Serviceable properties are properties that have Council wastewater reticulation services adjacent, contiguous or nearby to the serviceable properties, and the property boundary is within 30 metres of a public wastewater drain, but are not connected.

For all non-commercial properties the differential factor is 1 (base), and the Wastewater rate for each rating unit is \$380 per SUIP, and for serviceable properties is \$190 per rating unit, being 50% of the targeted rate.

Commercial properties are rated separately based on the number of toilets, and serviceable properties are not charged. Commercial properties are defined as properties that are used for a commercial purpose under the valuer general rules, and are connected to the Wastewater network.

Commercial properties are differentiated by use as follows:

Commercial base category (all commercial rating units not included in any other commercial category) and the differential factor is also 1 (base) and the amount is \$379 per SUIP

- Commercial 2 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 2 toilets) differential factor 150% of base and the amount is \$569 per SUIP.
- Commercial 3 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 3 toilets) differential factor 200% of base and the amount is \$758 per SUIP.

- Commercial 4 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 4 toilets) differential factor 225% of base and the amount is \$853 per SUIP.
- Commercial 5 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 5 toilets) differential factor 250% of base and the amount is \$948 per SUIP.
- Commercial 6 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 6 toilets) differential factor 275% of base and the amount is \$1,042 per SUIP.
- Commercial 7 (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 7 toilets) differential factor 300% of base and the amount is \$1,137 per SUIP.
- Commercial Large (commercial rating units used for an activity requiring 8 or more toilets) differential factor 325% of base and the amount is \$1,232 per SUIP.

The sewerage system rate for 2024/25 is to raise \$979,200 and will be used to fund the Wastewater activity.

TARGETED RATES - WATER SUPPLY

Council set a targeted rate under section 16 of the LGRA for water supply on the basis of the number of connections, per rating unit, to the Stratford, Midhirst, or Toko Water Supply, under Schedule 3, Clause 8 of the LGRA, and a targeted rate as a fixed amount per rating unit for serviceable properties. Serviceable properties are properties that have Council water reticulation services adjacent, contiguous or nearby to the serviceable properties, and the property boundary is within 100 metres of a water main, but are not connected.

The Water Supply rate for properties connected is \$634 per connection, and for serviceable properties is \$317 per rating unit, being 50% of the targeted rate, and raising \$1,752,000.

In addition, Council set a targeted rate for extraordinary water supply under section 19 of the LGRA on the basis of an amount per unit of water supplied in the Stratford Water Supply Area, the Midhirst Water Supply area, and the Toko Water Supply Area to any rating unit which has been fitted with a water meter.

The Stratford water supply rate under section 19 for 2024/25 is \$2.26 per cubic metre of supply in excess of 250 cubic metres per annum, raising \$578,113.

The Midhirst water supply rate under section 19 for 2024/25 is \$2.26 per cubic metre of supply in excess of 250 cubic metres per annum, raising \$20,706.

The Toko water supply rate under section 19 for 2024/25 is \$2.26 per cubic metre of supply in excess of 250 cubic metres per annum, raising \$3,922.

The water supply rates will be used to fund the water supply activities in the Stratford, Midhirst and Toko areas.

TARGETED RATES - COMMUNITY CENTRES

Council sets targeted rates under section 16 of the LGRA for community centres on the basis of an amount per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit in the listed community areas. This rate uses a fixed charge based on the location of the rating unit.

The community centre rates for 2024/25 are:

- A fixed charge of \$23.00 within the Wharehuia Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$2,000.
- A fixed charge of \$23.00 within the Te Popo Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$1,000.
- A fixed charge of \$13.80 within the Pembroke Road Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$1,968.
- A fixed charge of \$34.50 within the Toko Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$4,500.
- A fixed charge of \$17.25 within the Pukengahu Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$825.
- A fixed charge of \$17.25 within the Midhirst Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$5,685.
- A fixed charge of \$11.50 within the Makahu Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$510.

- A fixed charge of \$30.00 within the Cardiff Community Centre area per SUIP collecting \$2,791.

The community centres rate will be used to fund the operating costs of the community centres and will raise \$19,279.

Refer to the boundary maps for each Community Centre area on council's website, <https://www.stratford.govt.nz/our-services/rates-and-property/district-boundaries-and-maps>.

PAYMENT DUE DATES AND PENALTIES

All rates, except those for metered water supply, will be payable in four equal instalments due on:

1st Instalment: 28 August 2024
 2nd Instalment: 27 November 2024
 3rd Instalment: 26 February 2025
 4th Instalment: 28 May 2025

Pursuant to Sections 57 and 58 of the LGRA the following penalties on unpaid rates (excluding metered water rates) will be added:

- A charge of 10% on so much of any instalment that has been assessed after 1 July 2024 which remains unpaid after the due date for that instalment. The penalty will be added on the following dates:
 - 1st Instalment 4 September 2024
 - 2nd Instalment 4 December 2024
 - 3rd Instalment 5 March 2025
 - 4th Instalment 4 June 2025
- A charge of 10% on so much of any rates assessed before 1 July 2024 which remain unpaid on 16 July 2024. The penalty will be added on 23 July 2024.
- A continuing additional penalty of 10% on so much of any rates assessed before 1 July 2024, to which a penalty has been added under the immediately preceding bullet point, and which remain unpaid six months after the previous penalty was added. The penalty will be added on 23 January 2025.
- Penalties imposed are exempt from GST.

Payment Due Dates for Metered Water Supply

The due dates are set out in the table below. A charge of 10% on any amount outstanding for the quarter which remains unpaid on the following dates will be added on the dates below:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Penalty Date</u>
1 July to 30 September 2024	27 November 2024	04 December 2024
1 October to 31 December 2024	26 February 2025	05 March 2025
1 January to 31 March 2025	28 May 2025	04 June 2025
1 April to 30 June 2025	27 August 2025	03 September 2025

EARLY PAYMENT

Sections 55 and 56 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 empowers Council to allow for the early payment of rates.

- Council proposes to accept early payment of all rates assessed for the 2024/25 year, but no discount will be applied for early payment. (Section 55).

- Council proposes to accept early payment of all rates assessed for the 2024/25 and subsequent years, but no discount will be applied for early payment. These payments will be applied to general rates or individual targeted rates if requested by the ratepayer, otherwise they will be applied against future general rates. (Section 56).

PAYMENT LOCATIONS – ALL RATES AND CHARGES

Direct Debits are the preferred method of payment. Direct Debit Authority Forms are available at our Council office, or online.

Payments can be made online by going to www.stratford.govt.nz and clicking on “Pay Online”.

Mail and electronic payments shall be deemed to be received at the Council Office on day of receipt. The Council accepts payments by cash, eftpos or credit card between the hours of 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday, at the Council offices, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford.

Recommended Reason

The Long Term Plan 2024-34 contains the activities and associated costs of Council and the funding mechanisms, including rates, to meet those costs. The Rates to be set above are consistent with the Funding Impact Statement in the Long Term Plan 2024-34, as required by law.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/24/99

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following:

- This report is what gets completed after a Long Term plan and dictates the next set of rates, the report includes the detailed numbers that make up the long Term plan. She noted that after the report gets accepted invoicing can begin.

11. Questions

There were no questions.

12. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 1420

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.16 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 13th day of August 2024.

N C Volzke
District Mayor