

## **MINUTES**

### **OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT IMMANUEL RUITERS PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL, WALVIS BAY ON TUESDAY 08 JULY 2025 AT 18:00**

#### **Present: Councillor**

Cllr Trevino Forbes  
Cllr Ephraim Shozi  
Cllr Ryan Gordon

#### **Officials**

Mrs Victoria Kapenda  
Mr. Frans !Gonteb  
Mr. Theo Potgieter  
Mr. Henok Shikongo  
Mr. Erikson Mwanyekange  
Mr. Lelanie Coetzee  
Ms. Anita Kaihiva  
Ms Krischka Stoffels  
Ms. Shirley Tjaveondja

#### **Others**

Members of the Public:  
Media: 1

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#### **1. OPENING**

Mayor Forbes welcomed and thanked everyone who came and asked a member of the public to open the meeting with a prayer. Mayor Forbes registered his disappointment in the turnout, taking into account how many issues there are in town.

#### **2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cllr Olivia Andrews  
Cllr Richard Hoaeb  
Cllr Buddy Bramwell  
Cllr Saara Mutondoka  
Cllr Albertina Nkoshi  
Cllr Paulus Kauhondamwa  
Cllr Leroy Victor

#### **3. SUMMARY FROM LAST MEETING**

Feedback on road matters, compactor trucks, sewage system, weekly cleaning and the National housing project.

#### 4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Happy to see the unity amongst the councilors. Things were going well until last month, and then some bins were not being collected. What is the progress on the skips? Is there no way to arrest those dumping refuse in open public spaces (Area of the new Engen Service station)? People should not be allowed to put up structures. What criteria are being used to select people for the new houses being constructed at Farm 37? Houses are occupied by people who are renting because the owners can not afford them, and in 2/3 years, those houses will be sold.

##### Response by the Mayor

There was a problem with one of the trucks, which caused the delay in refuse collection. Criteria for the selection of those who can apply for the new houses being constructed will be given at the next public meeting. The bylaws are there, so Council must just enforce them. We must just find the capacity.

- Contractors that were appointed for the road repairs, he feels that the contractors are not sufficient as the roads are in a very bad condition, perhaps they can appoint an additional three contractors. The sewer problem is showing signs of improvement, but there are still areas that need to be looked at. Can Council provide skips at hot spots, as currently there are only skips at Shop 4 and one at Twaloloka. Perhaps they can increase these.

##### Response by Mayor

Areas where refuse is being dumped are next to the skips. The contractors are only for pothole repairs and not for the rehabilitation of the roads. These are still to be appointed.

- What went wrong? Why are the halls so empty? Perhaps the council is not using the correct channels of communication to inform the public about these meetings. Feedback is good, and it is the responsibility of the Council to serve the public.
- Who are the 200 houses on farm 37 being built for? Why have people not been identified so they can declare if they can afford these houses or if the houses can be bigger, etc? Can the Council enforce the bylaws? Why is the auction of old cars taking so long? They are just rustig. Why is the Council not paying for 10 compactors trucks instead of only 5, seeing they have money?
- How can we stop Illegal dumping? If the peace officers appointed can not do their job, they must look into having a section for peace officers. How can the council help the government acquire land for the Ministry of Education so that more schools can be built?

##### Response by the Mayor

Council has no problem allocating institutional land; they just need to be approached. Peace officers should be capacitated.

- Farm 37 has come a long way. The resident is happy that it has come to a point where services and houses are being built. She mentioned that they perhaps should look at the criteria for allocation so "baainaars" can get priority. Why is there no one from Erongo RED present to explain the tariff increase? Red Force is also a big issue in town. She would like to congratulate the Council on the sewer issue, as it has improved greatly. Why is information not reaching the people? The multi-purpose centre needs to be taken back and made to work for the community, as children are deep into drugs.
- Budget of the Municipality. Why is it not consulted with the public? He believes that it should be brought to the public. What happened to the employees who were doing debt collection since Red Force came in? Same question for the truck drivers since Rent-a-Drum came on

board. Is the website of the Municipality working? If so, why can't minutes of meetings be loaded on there? Why were contractors hand-picked? Some companies are involved in road repairs and are also on the list for the construction of houses. Why is Cllr Hoaeb or Cllr Victor not around to explain the tariff hike for Erongo RED, as they sit on the board?

- Why can't potholes be fixed internally? Why is everything outsourced? The fleet supervisor is overwhelmed as the work is too much for one person. Are we able to point out how much fuel is being used by the council monthly? Budget presentation to the public is crucial; perhaps the council can give feedback on how the previous budget was spent, etc.
- Farm 37 came forth because of a lack of housing for people like factory workers. We should be careful not to allow property developers to take over. People are grabbing land in that area of !Nara Primary School. There are no services in that area. Since the CEO took over, what is the road ahead with Red Force?
- Except for backyard tenants, are there any other people in line for the allocation of land? Can't the council use that money to service the land so people can build their houses?
- What are the selection criteria for the allocation of hoses on Farm 37?
- What is the plan around Farm 37? How is the Council going to do the allocation? Are there any bylaws in place to ensure that shacks don't mushroom again? Shack tariffs, what is the progress on this? People are not aware of public meetings. In the future, the council can inform schools and churches of such.

#### Response by CEO

Baainars to get preference.....the question is, is that the normal way of doing things? We are trying to balance things. Creating a database for temporary employment, besides the ID, we can additionally add a voter's card on the Municipal bill. She explained how vacancies are advertised. People are claiming that Contractors who are appointed for pothole repair are not experienced. We had contractors for years who could be part of the problem. We don't have the money to fix all the roads in one financial year. The CEO explained the reason why the process took so long.

One contractor who is part of those who got allocated a contract for the construction of houses is also doing pothole repairs. For the sewer and water works, the restricted bidding process will be followed. Regarding the issue of non-consultation of the budget, it is the right thing to do to consult. The first round of the meeting council did call on the public to submit their suggestion. The time might not have been sufficient. Not everything suggested will be attended to in each budget.

Red Force was contracted by the Council. It's a valid contract for five years. We have received all the complaints from the public, and the council takes note. A decision was made regarding Red Force. We cannot terminate the contract, although the Council tried last year. Debt collection is not always a bad thing. Council has a mandate to collect. The contract with Red Force will remain, but conditions will be reviewed. 25% down payment for residents and 35% for business. Some cases will be dealt with on an individual basis (merit). The Policy will have to be amended and taken to Council, which will be next month. Red Force will be engaged. CEO urges the community to please come and make arrangements. The question of what the employees doing debt collection are doing, the reason why Red force was brought in was due to a capacity issue. 8 people need to be appointed by the Council in the next three years for debt collection. Rent-a-drum did not come with employees. Council is making use of their Trucks and a driver; the rest are employees of Council. Also, the council is not able to buy too many trucks in one financial year. Decimation of minutes, Council takes note, and the minutes will be loaded on the website. Management of the fleet/workshop has been budgeted for four positions for fleet management. The CEO appreciates the public engaging with them and sending through information, but employees are also told to improve their conduct.

The auction will take place in the next 3 months. The process took long due to the listing of items. The N\$200 Shack levy that was suggested was not well received. People were not happy about this; however, shacks are causing the waste problem that the town is going through. Council is now going

to amend its bylaws. This will be done and implemented in this financial year. Homeowners will have to pay penalties for having additional structures on their erf. This will be based on square meters. Criteria for selection. There is a list, but the council will not be using that said list. They will start afresh. They will consider the following: Baainaars, those who have been living in Walvis Bay for a very long time, and those who are being evicted. 200 houses are the 1st phase. Phase 2 will also come once the 1st phase has been completed. Land to be allocated to others and not just the backyard tenants. Council is open to it.

- Community hall, what is the progress or feedback on that?
- Community facilities such as the bus stop have been standing there with ablution facilities, etc. There is no security overseeing it. CED to see how they can make this facility work for the community. The community hall is in a bad condition.
- Temporary employment – the council can look at a criteria to take in school drop-outs. Public health – Serious problem in Walvis Bay. Community Policing – Municipality has a mandate, and Council should start looking at it and not leave it in the hands of the police only.
- Truck Ports, what is the feedback on this? If we don't find a solution for the trucks, all the road repairs will be in vain. Is there any way to control trucks? Youth budget and youth engagement, can this be done through the Council?
- She was in a council meeting that was discussing Red Force, and the divide was clear. It was not a very good scene. Is the email for suggestions not correct? Drug abuse is on the rise, and it is very concerning. Policies of the Municipal Bay are good, but they are not being implemented.
- Temp employees are just dropped off to work, and half are on their phones. Supervision is a problem.
- Tracking of the Municipal fleet is not working.
- What is the feedback on the break-in that happened 2 months ago at the Municipal offices in Kuisebmond? The public deserves to hear the progress and feedback.
- Local Authorities should allow shacks and regulate them. In 2004, there were enough public toilets; what happened? People are now relieving themselves everywhere.
- Why can the Council not absorb the 12% instead of the residents? Does the Municipality not have a fuel tracking system?

#### Response by the CEO

The hall has not been used for the past few years due to maintenance issues. It is in the current budget for renovations. The aspect of vandalism is a community problem. The public engagement and information campaigns will be considered.

#### Response by Erikson (GM: CED)

The bus stop was donated to Council 7 years ago. Any donation to the Council needs to be declared to the state. Ministerial approval was only obtained last month, and the relevant stakeholders will be engaged. Three Truck port developers have been allocated and the necessary approvals have been sought and await the go-ahead.

**5. CLOSING**

Closing remarks by Cllr Shoz

Cllr Shoji called on all to work together as the town needs all of us. He quoted "Business as usual" and said it can not be business as usual for administration. He might not agree on everything, but those are internal issues. The issue here is service delivery for our residents. He gave his gratitude to those who attended the meeting.

**6. Closing**

Meeting adjourned at 21:00.