MUNICIPALITY OF WALVIS BAY

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES — DOLPHIN PARK

Wednesday, 19 August 2026 -| 18:00

Date & Time	Wednesday, 19 August 2026 at 18:00
Venue	Dolphin Park Beachfront Area, Walvis Bay
Chairperson	Cllr Johannes Shimbilinga (Mayor of Walvis Bay)
Purpose	Municipal service updates, tariff adjustments, public safety, and community engagement

1. Attendance and Apologies

1.1 Present Councilors

- **Cllr Johannes Shimbilinga**
- **Cllr Miina Hangula**
- **Cllr Sharon Roodt**
- **Cllr Jo-Ann Kamaundju**
- **Cllr Adolf Kahmann**

1.2 Present Municipal Officials

- **Mr. Van Wyk**
- **Mr. Theo Potgieter**
- **Mr. Gotlieb Nghinongelwa**
- **Ms. Krischka Stoffels**
- **Mrs. Lelanie Coetzee**
- **Ms. Anita Kaihiva**
- **Ms. Johanna Monde**
- **Ms. Florencia**
- **Ms. Grace Amunyela**
- **Mr. Asser**
- **Mr. Roger**
- **Mr. Eugene**

1.3 Leave of Absence

- **Cllr Ndapewa Johannes**
- **Cllr Ephraim Shozi**
- **Cllr Patricia Munyala**

1.4 Others in Attendance

- **Members of the Public:** ?
- **Members of the Media:** 0

2. Opening and Welcoming Address

The meeting officially commenced with a opening prayer led by a community member. The Mayor, Cllr Johannes Shimbilinga, welcomed the community and apologized for the venue's lack of lighting.

Key highlights from the Mayor's opening remarks include:

- **Non-Political Civic Platform:** The Mayor emphasized that the Council's mandate is to serve the entire Walvis Bay community at large, regardless of political affiliations. He reiterated that local governance is strictly non-partisan and focused on practical community solutions.
- **Inclusivity of Language:** Residents were encouraged to express themselves in whichever language they felt most comfortable (English, Afrikaans, etc.), without hesitation, to ensure clear and uninhibited feedback.
- **National Oil & Gas Landscape:** Having just returned from the national Oil & Gas Conference in Windhoek, the Mayor noted that while global eyes are on Namibia, local authorities must manage this incoming industry carefully. He warned against neglecting established sectors in favor of speculative energy industries.

3. Structured Discussion Points

3.1 Housing and Decongestion Programme

Presented by Deputy Mayor Miina Hangula and Mr. Gotlieb Nghinongelwa, this point addressed regional housing backlogs and informal settlement management:

- **Kuisebmond Backyard Decongestion:** Council has identified Extensions 11 and 13 in Kuisebmond to temporarily relocate residents from overcrowded backyard structures. These temporary placements do not carry land title deeds.
- **Farm 37 Services Policy Shift:** While solar electrification has successfully been installed for residents at Farm 37, a government-led project to construct 230 houses faced massive delays because the land lacked water and sewer linkages. Consequently, Council has established a strict policy: no housing structures will be built (including government initiatives) unless the underlying land is fully serviced beforehand.
- **Development Workshop Trust MoU:** The Walvis Bay Municipality has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Development Workshop Trust of Namibia (DWN), a non-profit organization helping local authorities eradicate informal settlements. The partnership targets low-to-middle income groups. Council will provide the bulk infrastructure up to selected extensions (one in Narraville and two in Farm 37 Green Valley), while DWN will complete internal servicing using donor/sponsorship funds.
- **Foreign Land Ownership Policy:** In light of industrial developments, Council is encouraging a policy requiring land applications from foreign entities to feature local Namibian partnerships to prevent complete foreign ownership.

3.2 Solid Waste Management & Litter Enforcement

The Mayor and Solid Waste General Manager, Mr. Van Wyk, updated the meeting on landfill ownership and routine waste collection challenges:

- **Landfill Ownership Transfer:** The Cabinet has approved transferring ownership of the local landfill/rubbish dump site (formerly owned by the Ministry of Environment) to the Walvis Bay Municipality. The official gazetting is currently being completed, which gives the municipality full custodial rights to combat tyre-burning and illegal scavenger activities.
- **Skips and Equipment Procurement:** To combat hotspots, Council acquired 30 skips. Namport donated an additional 10 skips, and Council purchased 2 new skip trucks to improve collection efficiency.
- **Illegal Dumping and Tariff Adjustments:** Illegal littering and dumping remain severe issues. Residents are urged to photo-document violations and submit registration numbers to senior officials. Past cooperation has led to immediate traffic enforcement, with violators fined N$ 2,000. Due to heavy operational losses in routine collection, a 3% tariff increase has been approved specifically for waste management services.

3.3 Sewerage Infrastructure & Management Updates

Aging infrastructure and severe community abuse have pushed the local sewer system past its designed capacity:

- **Aging Pump Stations:** The Kuisebmond pump station currently undergoing reconstruction was built in 1966 and is entirely overcapacitated. Contracts for upgrading the Lagoon pump station are scheduled to be awarded shortly.
- **Financial Deficits:** Rehabilitating the entire municipal sewer system requires an estimated N$ 1.3 to 1.4 billion, which is nearly equivalent to the municipality's entire annual capital and operational budget (N$ 1.6 billion). The national government has committed N$ 400 million, with negotiations ongoing to increase this funding.
- **System Abuse & Business Compliance:** A massive portion of blockages are caused by foreign objects (mattresses, blankets) and food-industry oil/grease. A compliance campaign targeting businesses (such as KFC, Shoprite, and local fish factories) will strictly enforce the installation and maintenance of grease/oil traps, backed by a N$ 21,000 fine for non-compliant discharge.
- **Trenchless Sewer Replacement Technology:** With 60% of the town's 300 km sewer network requiring urgent intervention, Council is seeking trenchless pipeline replacement technology. Because this technology does not exist in Namibia, an international tender has been advertised. Once awarded, this technology is expected to cut replacement times by up to 80% (compared to the current average of 18 months per kilometer).

3.4 Informal Trading & Illegal Stalls

Council has finalized the Informal Trading Regulations to ensure the town remains governed and clean:

- **Removal of Illegal Doorstep Stalls:** Street vendors blocking retail doorsteps in town are being systematically removed. Council is setting up designated formal informal markets to house these traders.

- **Registration and Fees:** All informal traders (including those using wheelbarrows) must be registered and pay a basic formalization fee (determined at N$ 10) to operate legally, helping the municipality regulate and maintain public spaces.

3.5 Road Management and Infrastructure Development

Presented by Cllr Adolf Kahmann and Mr. Theo Potgieter, the discussion focused on structural challenges, tender delays, and community cooperation:

- **Sustainability & Deficits:** Cllr Kahmann highlighted that older roads in Rehoboth are exceptionally durable because they were built sustainably. Current budgets are completely consumed by maintaining failing, poorly built roads, leaving zero room for tarring existing gravel roads in areas like Narraville, where some residents have waited 60 years.
- **Rehabilitation & Pothole Contracts:** Unicorn Construction has been awarded an 8 km road rehabilitation contract covering 5 major town streets. The routine pothole contract was delayed for months due to a rigorous procurement dispute that went to the High Court, which Council ultimately won.
- **Independence Road Damage:** The Independence Road (running to the Navy) is less than 10 years old but is already ruined. This is primarily caused by illegal truck ports and car washes dumping wastewater directly onto the tarmac.
- **Street Sweeping Program:** To tackle the severe backlog of sand buildup from east winds, Council appointed 100 temporary workers for a year, organized into 5 teams, to rotate through streets and parks.
- **Self-Repair Insurance Policy:** Under an official Council resolution, residents who wish to repair potholes themselves must apply for approval and carry third-party liability insurance to protect against worker injuries or vehicular accidents during the works.

3.6 New Municipal Tariffs (Traffic Services)

The Traffic Department presented new, gazetted municipal tariffs approved by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, aimed at aligning Walvis Bay with other national municipalities. These tariffs are exclusive of 15% VAT:

Service Description	Tariff (Excl. 15% VAT)
Abnormal Low Loads Escort (Harbor to nearest point)	N$ 750.00
Funeral Escorts (per event)	N$ 500.00
Street Processions, Schools, Matric Farewells (per event)	N$ 300.00
Political Rallies	N$ 800.00
Bikers Associations Escorts	N$ 500.00

Peaceful Demonstrations Escorts	N$ 550.00

3.7 Public Safety and Security Infrastructure

Presented by Cllr Sharon Roodt, this point outlined community crime prevention and municipal compliance:

- **Langstrand CCTV Cameras:** The coastal security cameras have been highly successful. Notably, a reckless driver (who turned out to be an off-duty police officer) was tracked via CCTV, allowing the police chief to coordinate his arrest upon arrival in Usakos.
- **Security Cluster & Community Policing:** A new Security Cluster is being launched under the Community and Economic Development department. This umbrella body aims to unite neighborhood watches from Dolphin Park, Aphrodite Beach, and Langstrand to replace the Community Police Forum.
- **Vandalism of Beach Toilets:** Public toilets near the Boma/Lapa are locked in the evenings due to severe drug use, prostitution, and vandalism. New public toilets are under construction at the Esplanade swimming pool, but will require physical guarding.
- **AirBnB Fitness Certificates:** All AirBnBs must register with the Namibian Tourism Board and hold a municipal fitness certificate. Residents are urged to report loud, disruptive parties; non-compliant operators will have their fitness certificates revoked.
- **Quad Bike & Quad-Access Violations:** Illegal quad-biking, driving without helmets, and illegal B2 road crossings remain rampant, especially among visitors. The Council, together with the Police Commissioner, actively intervened in a major incident where tourists repeatedly removed sand-maintenance boundary poles near the MTC tower. Red cat's eyes were installed near Langstrand's B2 entrance, but Council is pressing the Roads Authority for more prominent warning signs.
- **I Globe Public Mapping:** Residents were encouraged to use the 'I Globe Walvis Bay' (or I Spatial) app to check property dimensions, erf numbers, and utility lines directly.

4. Questions and Answers Session

Q. *Inquiry on the Nankuuse Hotel Project (Long Beach):*

A. A resident asked about the approval status of the proposed Nankuuse Hotel. Mr. Theo Potgieter clarified that the developer recently purchased and successfully rezoned adjacent property (approved two weeks prior) to facilitate basement parking access. While Council cannot force a developer to construct, submitted architectural plans indicate a firm intention to proceed.

Q. *Langstrand Water Security during Peak December Season:*

A. A resident expressed concern over water pressure drops and past 5-day outages during the December holidays. The Water Department representative explained that a telemetry-based SCADA system was recently installed to maintain reservoir levels automatically. Additionally, NamWater is connecting the system to a pipeline at Mile 7 to supply Walvis Bay and Swakopmund reservoirs, and local reservoir expansions are planned.

Q. *Proposals for Kuisebmond Toilets & Yard Relaxation:*

A. Addressing the open-air toilet issues near the sand dunes, a resident proposed relaxing building regulations to allow backyard toilets. Mr. Potgieter highlighted that 60% of the 300 km sewer network is failing, and yard overpopulation is a critical factor. Council is piloting 2 public toilets featuring adjacent managed kiosks; if successful, more will be rolled out. Council is also launching an 'Extra Bin' campaign to provide additional drums for yards with multiple structures.

Q. *Neglected Road Paving after Water Pipe Repairs:*

A. A neighborhood watch member complained that municipal maintenance teams dig up roads to fix water leaks but leave the sand and interlocks unpaved for months or years, forcing residents to fix it. The Mayor and Council acknowledged this supervision failure. It was resolved that Council would look into an interdepartmental scheduling system (using 'blockchain'-style technical tracking) where water repair teams automatically log and schedule restoration works with the Department of Works immediately upon completing pipe repairs.

Q. *B2 Speed Limits and Large Mine Buses:*

A. A resident raised concerns about large mine buses speeding at 06:00 on the B2, creating dangerous dust trails. The Mayor confirmed that mine buses are subject to weight limits and that the traffic department would notify the Roads Authority to monitor B2 compliance.

During the public Q&A session toward the end of the meeting, several residents spoke up to give the council and municipal workers explicit credit and a round of applause. The positive feedback highlighted several areas where the community felt the municipality was performing exceptionally well:

- **Exceptional Beach Cleaning during Holidays:** A resident highly commended the municipality for its hard work during the festive season, noting it was "amazing" to see how beaches that looked like "a rubbish heap" one day were completely clean the very next day.
- **Rapid Response to Emergency Water Leaks:** Members of the neighborhood patrol group praised the municipal emergency teams for their rapid response times. They noted that whenever they reported water leaks in the middle of the night, the emergency teams consistently arrived to repair them within 30 minutes to an hour.
- **Pothole Repairs and Street Sweeping:** Residents expressed gratitude for the visible commencement of pothole repairs and the cleaning of local streets.
- **24-Hour Policing:** The community thanked the council for establishing a 24-hour policing presence at Aphrodite Beach.
- **Consistent Weekly Waste Collection:** Praise was given for the reliable weekly emptying of household waste bins.

- **Drain and Infrastructure Maintenance:** The municipal team was thanked for responding quickly to repair burst pipes, drains, and securing drain covers.

- **A "New Zealand" Comparison and Round of Applause:** One resident shared that his brother lives in New Zealand, and based on their conversations, he felt Walvis Bay's local services are "doing good" by comparison, prompting him to lead the room in giving the municipality a well-deserved round of applause.

The Mayor and council members expressed their sincere gratitude for these compliments, noting that it is highly encouraging for the staff and the council when the community recognizes their hard work

5. The Way Forward and Adjournment

The Mayor closed the meeting by thanking the community for their active participation and positive feedback, particularly praising the water repair teams' 24-hour response time (under 30-60 minutes) and the excellent beach cleaning teams. He committed to keeping the community updated on budget spending and execution at the end of the financial year.

The meeting officially adjourned at 20:21.