

Minutes of the 1st Special Council Meeting of the Local Council for Beaufort West held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, 15 Church Street, Beaufort West

on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 at 09:00

Present:

Alderman JJ van Der Linde
Councillors TCJ Prince [**Executive Mayor**], LV Piti [**Executive Deputy Mayor**], N Constable [**Speaker**], N Abrahams, EF Botha, CL De Bruin, S Essop, BJ Mdudumani, SM Meyers, JDK Reynolds [*virtual platform*] and R Skuza

In service: **Acting Municipal Manager** [RR Links], **Director: Corporate Services** [AC Makendlana] and **Acting Director: Financial Services** [NP Mabhena]

Apologies

Councillor D Slabbert

Councillor Piti opens the meeting with prayer.

With the opening of the meeting the Speaker welcome all Councillors and management and special welcome by the Mayor to the Acting Municipal Manager, Dr. Links. The Speaker also acknowledges the presence of the members of the public in this meeting.

The Speaker informs the meeting that he will grant opportunity to the member of public to address Council in terms of the Rules of Order before continuing with the agenda items as distributed.

Mr. Lyon informs the meeting that today he will speak on behalf of the Proudly Beaufort Movement.

Mr. Lyon thanked the Speaker and Council for the opportunity to address Council on matters affecting the community.

Mr. Lyon further informs the meeting that their primary concern is *lack of communication to the residents* in matters pertaining the service delivery.

He further expressed a view that Council needs to improve and enhance its communication.

Mr. Lyon highlighted to Council that the intention of this movement is to ensure that there is accountability not only at Beaufort West Municipality but also in other state departments. Furthermore Mr. Lyon congratulated Dr. Links for his appointment as Acting Municipal Manager and emphasised the notion of appointment of local talent in critical senior positions. Mr. Lyon also states that he held discussions with the Acting Director: Financial Services and is very humble by his commitment and the nature of efforts he brings in resolving matters affecting the community.

Mr. Lyon further raised the issue of electricity which is the main reason for the movement to have requested a meeting with Beaufort West Council.

Mr. Lyon states that as Proudly Beaufort West they request an urgent meeting with Council and relevant officials to deliberate on the issues of electricity blockages. The movement is of the view that credit control is not communicated enough to the residents. The issue of electricity blockages has been the main cause of frustration in the community which is also exacerbated by loadshedding. For example, he alluded to the fact that some household's electricity has already been blocked despite the fact that 16 January 2023 has not passed which is a normal cut off date.

Mr. Lyon informs the meeting that their movement should not be seen as an opposition to Council rather a partner. Further that Proudly Beaufort West is not affiliated to any political party.

In conclusion Mr. Lyon states that the challenges can be address by collectively working together and maximize public participation and requested that the blocking of electricity be put on hold.

The Speaker thank Mr. Lyon for the inputs and states that the meeting on Thursday will be arranged and Proudly Beaufort West to be informed accordingly by the Administration.

1. VACANCY: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

10/3/2/3/4; 4/3/1

The Speaker give councillor opportunity to deliberate on the item.

- Councillor Essop raised her concern with regard to the fact that there were objections receives from aspirant applicants which are not part of this agenda. Further raised questions on how, and who informed the candidates that they were not shortlisted.
- Director: Corporate Services advised the meeting that there was correspondence received from three (3) applicants who objected and Administration did not inform any of the shortlisted candidates or not shortlisted candidates of the process.
- The Speaker emphasises the fact that the re-advertisement is motivated by the fact that the recruitment and selection process of the Municipal Manager is outside the timeframes of the Regulations and not by the objections received.
- Alderman Van der Linde is of the view that the items be postponed and the objections be first tabled to Council. He further states that the MEC could be requested to extend the acting period for few weeks, if necessary, in order to allow Council to deliberate more on the matter of leakage of information by the previous Selection Panel.
- Councillor Essop seconded the proposal of Alderman Van der Linde and is also of the view that this will be a fruitless and wasteful expenditure and will abstain from this process. However, Councillor Essop withdrew her secondment and stated that she will abstain from this matter.

Speaker request for proposal.

dcs/hr

Councillor De Bruin seconded by Councillor Mdudumani proposed that:-

- 1.1 That Council takes note that the selection and recruitment process of the Municipal Manager embarked upon is outside the timeframes as per Regulation 14 and should thus be discontinued.
- 1.2 That approval be granted that the vacancy of Municipal Manager should be re-advertised as per the short version attached as **Annexure 001** of the agenda to minimize advertising costs.
- 1.3 That the shortlisted applicants and those who submitted objections be advised to re-apply when the post is re-advertised should they wish to do so.

Councillor Van der Linde seconded by Councillor Meyers proposed that the item be postponed and discussed later to allow Council to deliberate more on the issue and also highlight the issue of information leakage by the previous Selection Panel.

Speaker brought both proposals to a vote –

3 Votes for Alderman Van der Linde seconded by Councillor Meyer

7 Votes for Councillor De Bruin seconded by Councillor Mdudumani

1 Vote abstain [Councillor Essop]

Councillor R Skuza did not participate in the voting process.

THUS RESOLVED

2. APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION PANEL: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

10/3/2/3/4

The Speaker requested for proposals –

dcs

- Councillor De Bruin seconded by Councillor Abrahams proposed that the Selection Panel consists of the following –
 1. Deputy Mayor, Councillor V.L. Piti
 2. Councillor E.F. Botha
 3. Acting Municipal Manager from Theewaterskloof Municipality, Mr. Ngubo
- Alderman Van der Linde seconded by Councillor S.M. Meyers proposed that the Selection Panel consists of 5 members and e.g. 4 Councillors and specialist in the field and namely -
 1. Councillor C.L. de Bruin
 2. Councillor S. Essop
 3. Councillor N. Abrahams
 4. Alderman J.J. van der Linde
 5. Municipal Manager from Laingsburg Municipality, Mr. J. Booysen

Speaker brought both proposals to a vote –

4 Votes in favour of Alderman Van der Linde seconded by Councillor Meyers

7 Votes in favour of Councillor De Bruin seconded by Councillor Abrahams

Councillor Skuza did not participate in the voting process.

THUS RESOLVED

**3. APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION PANEL AND APPROVAL OF ADVERTISEMENT:
 DIRECTOR: INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

10/3/2/3/4; 4/3/1

The Speaker requested for proposals.

dcsh/hr

Deputy Mayor seconded by Councillor Mdudumani proposed that the Selection Panel for the appointment of Director: Financial Services consists of the following –

1. Acting Municipal Manager: Dr. R.R. Links
2. Chairperson Portfolio Committee: Councillor N. Abrahams
3. Acting Municipal Manager: Central Karoo District Municipality: Mr. G.Z. Nyathi

Alderman Van Der Linde seconded by Councillor Meyers proposed that the Selection Panel consist as follows –

1. Alderman J.J. van der Linde
2. Councillor S. Essop
3. Councillor C.L. de Bruin
4. Councillor N Abrahams
5. Municipal Manager from Laingsburg Municipality, Mr. J. Booyesen

Speaker brought both proposals to a vote

4 Votes in favour of Alderman Van der Linde seconded by Councillor Meyers

7 Votes in favour of Councillor Piti seconded by Councillor Mdudumani

Councillor Skuza did not participate in the voting process.

THUS RESOLVED

4. VACANCY: DIRECTOR: FINANCIAL SERVICES

10/3/2/3/4; 4/3/1

The Speaker requested for proposals.

Councillor Meyers seconded by Councillor Mdudumani proposed –

1. That Council takes note that in terms of Regulation 15(2) the Selection Panel for a specific post must remain the same throughout the screening and interview process.

2. That due to the fact that the Selection Panel previously appointed to finalize the recruitment and selection process of the Director: Financial Services, must be altered, approval be granted that the position of Director: Financial Services be re-advertised on a permanent basis in terms of Section 57(7) of the Municipal System Act as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

5. APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION PANEL: DIRECTOR: FINANCIAL SERVICES

10/3/2/3/4; 4/3/1

The Speaker requested for proposals.

Councillor Prince seconded by Councillor Piti proposed that the Section Panel for the appointment of the Director: Financial Services be constituted as follows:-

1. Acting Municipal Manager: Dr. R.R. Links
2. Speaker, Councillor N. Constable
3. Acting Municipal Manager: Central Karoo District Municipality: Mr. G.Z. Nyathi

Councillor Meyers seconded by Alderman Van der Linde proposed that the Selection Panel be consisted as follows –

1. Acting Municipal Manager: Dr. R.R. Links
2. Alderman Van der Linde
3. Municipal Manager from Laingsburg Municipality, Mr. J. Booysen

Speaker brought both proposals to a vote

4 Votes in favour of Councillor Meyers seconded by Alderman Van der Linde

7 Votes in favour of Councillor Prince seconded by Councillor Piti

Councillor Skuza did not participate in the voting process.

THUS RESOLVED

6. MATTER ARISING IN THE MEETING: COUNCILLOR REYNOLDS

3/4/1

The Speaker indicates that he would give opportunity to Councillor Reynolds to raise an issue that he requested to be discussed in this meeting.

Council Reynolds read into the record an e-mail dated 24 October 2022 received from which he has distributed to the Executive Mayor. The content of an e-mail is quoted below:-

“Good day Mayor.

Please find attached letter from concerned resident and property owner’s attorney.

I would please ask the speaker to bring this matter on to the agenda as a urgent matter. For too long we have complained in council meetings about accounts of residents and property owners not being addressed properly by the relevant department.

I would like council to please consider debating this matter and get to a working solution.

For too long we as council have entertained the incompetency of this department without making a proper decision on how to resolve this.

Kind regards
 Sias Reynolds

- The Speaker emphasise the importance of understanding the Credit Policy and how it is implemented and mentioned that the issue of communication is the main concern.
- Councillors have highlighted various individual cases of concern that lead to dissatisfaction by the residents on the issue of blocking of electricity which they requested need attention.
- Councillor Botha highlighted the lack of synergy that came be as a result of the systems that the Municipality uses.
- The Executive Mayor informs the meeting that the numerous attempts are being made to engage the Service Provider to address the problems.
- Alderman Van der Linde highlights the issue of water and the fact that the residents of Murraysburg were without water and that this mater needs to be addressed urgently. Alderman Van der Linde also emphasises the issue of communication which is lacking in Murraysburg and Merweville.
- Speaker explained that some of the water problems are self-inflicted by workers who do not understand their responsibilities. Speaker also informed the meeting that the Murraysburg problem will be addressed towards the end of February as new boreholes will be made active.
- Speaker also re-emphasise the enhancement of communication.
- Councillor Essop requested that the St. Matthew's sewerage issue must be addressed before the schools' re-opens on 18 January 2023 as the situation will be unpleasant for the learners.
- The Acting Municipal Manager informs the meeting that he had a meeting this morning, 10 January 2023 with the water and sewerage section and is also mindful of the challenges they have raised that are more personnel in nature.
- Acting Municipal Manager reiterates the fact that the municipal communication is pathetic and will work on mechanisms to enhance and improve it.
- Furthermore, the Acting Municipal Manager informs the meeting that the issue of blocking of electricity is beyond human errors only. The Municipality's financial

system and the billing system are not integrated. The Acting Municipal Manager is of the view that as long as this persists the problems will still be experienced.

- The Acting Municipal Manager also states the Credit Policy need to be workshopped.
- The Acting Director: Financial Services informs the meeting that the Acting Municipal Manager has covered everything in his response and just wanted to highlight Eskom as the biggest creditor of the municipality at this stage.
- Furthermore, he will give a comprehensive report during the meeting on Thursday, 12 January 2023 in relation to the blocking issues.
- The Director: Financial Services also put on record that he does not have a Revenue Manager at this stage and is also fulfilling those responsibilities.

The Speaker thanked all for attending the meeting.

The meeting closes at ____:____.

Minutes approved this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Clr. N Constable
[Speaker]