

UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HELD AT MARGATE HOTEL, ON THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2021, AT 15H00.

PRESENT:

Cllr SR Ngcobo - Speaker

Cllr PH Mthiyane (Exco Member), VM Chiya (Exco Member), D Nciki (Exco Member), SP Mthethwa (Exco Member), GD Henderson (Exco Member), SN Caluza (Exco Member), NA Njenga (Exco Member), MA Manyoni, FM Ngwane, MP Shoji, LMR Ngcobo, P Breedt, X Nkasa, BE Machi, MP Mteshane, TH Msabala, LS Zungu, BE Majola, MV Vezi, MP Tenza, EV Baptie, ST Khathi, SHE Mngoma, BN Shoji, B Nyuswa, N Mweshe, MZ Luthuli, PC Shange, GS Shange, SA Ngcece, SP Ntuli, TT Hlopho, SE Khawula, JS Ngwane, J Schmidt, and N Ndovela.

BY INVITATION:

Inkosi EZ Jali
Ms N Zamisa - Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr EMS Ntombela	-	Acting Municipal Manager
Mr V.O Mazibuko	-	General Manager: Corporate Services
Mr S Mbewu	-	General Manager: Water Services
Ms D Rankin	-	General Manager: Economic Development and Environmental Services (EDES)
Dr T Mwelase	-	Senior Manager: Water Services Operations
Mr M Sakha	-	Acting General Manager: Budget and Treasury Office
Ms F Mbili	-	Senior Manager: Corporate Strategy and Shared Services
Mr F Zama	-	Senior Manager: Mayoralty and Communications
Mr S Kati	-	Manager: Risk and Internal Audit
Ms N Mbambo	-	Manager: Legal Services
Ms N Surajbally	-	Administrative Officer
Ms B Malishe	-	Committee Co-ordinator
Ms T Kikine	-	Acting Committee Co-ordinator

OPENING AND WELCOME

The Speaker welcomed all to the meeting. He advised members that those Councillors who could not attend the meeting physically would join the meeting via Microsoft Office Teams Video Conferencing using the link. He then requested Cllr BE Machi to open the meeting in prayer.

C37/12/21 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

It was noted that Cllr P Breedt (*council business*), Cllr EV Baptie (*council business*) and Cllr S Khathi (*council business*) had requested leave of absence from the meeting.

Following which,

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That Cllr P Breedt (*council business*), Cllr EV Baptie (*council business*) and Cllr S Khathi (*council business*) be and are hereby granted leave of absence from the meeting.

C 38/12/21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were none.

At that stage of the proceedings, Inkosi Jali enquired as to when the members of Council would be issued with the tools of trade.

Responding, the Speaker confirmed that the tools of trade have been secured for both Amakhosi and (PR) Councillors and that same would be issued in due course.

C39/12/21 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Speaker took members through the confirmation of the agenda.

Following which,

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

(a) That the agenda convening the Ugu District Municipal Council meeting be and is hereby **CONFIRMED**, subject to the inclusion of the following items on the agenda, namely:

- Item 5.10: Peak Season Plan under Items for Consideration; and
- Item 5.11: Acting Appointment for the Municipal Manager under In-Committee Matters.

(b) That Item 5.1: Establishment of Committees be deferred to the first meeting of the Ugu District Municipal Council to be held in January 2022.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

C40/12/21

Election of Representatives to SALGA Provincial and National Conference

The Acting Municipal Manager took members through the item.

He apprised members that the item was submitted in order for Council to elect the Councillors who would serve as members of the SALGA and National Conference. He explained that each Municipality should be represented by the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Speaker and the Municipal Manager.

Cllr Manyoni nominated the name of Cllr SN Caluza to serve as an alternative member of the SALGA Provincial and National Conference and was seconded by Cllr Ntuli.

Following which,

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report regarding the election of representatives to SALGA Provincial and National Conference be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That the following Councillors be and are hereby nominated to attend the SALGA Provincial Conference, namely:
 - Cllr PH Mthiyane (Mayor);
 - Cllr V Chiya (Deputy Mayor);
 - Cllr SR Ngcobo (Speaker); and
 - Cllr SN Caluza (Alternative)
- (c) That, it be noted that the Municipal Manager would be serving on both the SALGA Provincial and National Conference.

C41/12/21

Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors, and Delegated Powers

The Speaker took members through the item.

Following which,

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report regarding the roles and responsibilities of Councillors, and delegated powers be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That the current Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors remain applicable.

- (c) That the current Roles and Responsibilities of each Political Structure and Political Office Bearer remain in force as per their Terms of Reference.

C42/12/21 Declaration of Interest

The Speaker took members through the item. He emphasized that all Councillors should complete and submit their Declaration of Interest Forms.

Cllr Nciki enquired whether a Councillor should declare if one of their children was awarded a tender with a certain government department and not the Municipality.

Cllr Ngcobo advised that Councillors should declare any work that was done by their close relatives with any government department.

Following which,

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report regarding the Declaration of Interest be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That, it be noted that all Councillors must complete and sign the Declaration of Interest form and deliver same to the Office of the Municipal Manager by no later than 31 December 2021.

C43/12/21 Councillors Remuneration

The Speaker took members through the item.

Cllr Henderson proposed that the Government Gazette No. 43246 dated 24 April 2020 should be adopted as it was. He then referred members to the gazette item (c) on page 34 and enquired if the 50% could be implemented as stipulated on the gazette and was seconded by Cllr Ngcobo.

Following which,

It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report regarding the Councillors Remuneration be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That, it be noted that Government Gazette No.43246 dated 24 April 2020 be **ADOPTED**.

C44/12/21 Close-out Report

The Speaker took members through the item.

Following which,

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Close-out Report be and is hereby **NOTED**.

C45/12/21 IDP and Budget for the 2021 / 2022 Financial Year

The Speaker took members through the item.

Following which,

It was

RESOLVED:

That the report regarding the IDP and Budget for the 2021 / 2022 Financial Year be and is hereby **NOTED**.

C46/12/21 Annual Report for the 2019 / 2020 Financial Year

The Speaker took members through the item.

Following which,

It was

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Annual Report for the 2019 / 2020 Financial Year be and is hereby **NOTED**.

(b) That, it be noted that the Draft Annual Report for the 2020 / 2021 Financial Year be submitted to Council after being considered by the Municipal Public Account Committee.

C47/12/21 Recess Committee

The Speaker took members through the item.

He stated that the rationale of the report was to request that the Recess Committee be in operation from 17 December 2021 to 11 January 2022. He informed members that all the Executive Committee members including the Speaker would form part of the Recess Committee.

Following which,

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the report on the Recess Committee be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (d) That, it be noted that Council be on recess from 17 December 2021 to 11 January 2022.
- (e) That, it be noted the Executive Committee members including the Speaker would form part of the Recess Committee.

URGENT MATTERS

C48/12/21 The Peak Season Plan

The Acting General Manager: Water Services took members through the item.

She apprised members on the Peak Season Plan.

Cllr Ngcobo emphasized the importance of communication and to get an update within 24-hours regarding the status of water provision. He also raised a concern with the issue of the Call Centre that the customers could not get the reference numbers.

Cllr Mthethwa had also requested that the water tankers should be increased in Area North. He pointed out with concern the issue of the imbalance in terms of the proper plan in the supply of water in Wards 20, 19, 16 and 12. He raised a concern that there was no water tankers and no running water and that there were only four (4) water tankers supplying water. He also proposed that Management should supply the new Leadership with their contact details in case they wanted to address the issues of water.

Cllr Zungu stated that there was a slight improvement in Ward 3 in terms of water supply; however, the issue of sewer that was flowing in Ward 11 on the street for months had not been resolved. He pointed out that the Minister of Water and Sanitation raised the issue, but the matter had not been addressed and sought clarity on the plans to sort out the said problem.

Inkosi Jali informed members that the water issues had just started in Wards 7 and 9 after the former Mayor told the communities that same was sorted. He raised a concern that the communities were not informed when water was going to be opened and closed. He then requested that the Municipality should have a way of communicating with the communities using the loudhailers. He sought clarity on the status quo regarding the water issues in Ezingoleni that resulted to protests.

Cllr GS Shange appreciated the attempt to supply water with the water tankers but raised a concern that the community of Ezingoleni had been owed an explanation on what was happening. He added that they were once told that the engineers were going to explain what was happening.

The Mayor was not happy with the information that was reported by Cllr Zungu and stated that same was an insult that the Harding issue had not been dealt with. She added that the Ugu officials stated that they had the capacity to deal with the matter. She pointed out that the office of the Minister wanted to intervene.

Cllr Mthethwa had requested that Councillors should be furnished with contact details of the officials that were dealing with water. He then requested that the issue of the Wards that were mentioned by Inkosi Jali had to be attended to.

Responding to the concerns that were raised by Cllr Ngcobo, Dr Mwelase assured members that the daily updating would be implemented.

Dr Mwelase also stated that the issue of Ezingoleni would be addressed. She further mentioned that the challenges of the decreased water tankers was due to finances as well as the July 2021 unrest, which also added to the issue of the shortage of the resources.

She reported that there was a plan to decommission Assisi plants when the Umhlabatshane Plant was decommissioned hoping that the supply of water was going to be adequate. She added that the Department of Water Services was planning to recommission the Assisi plant.

Concurring with Cllr Mthethwa, she stated that the supply of water in certain Wards had to be increased and that the Communications Unit had to improve their communications including the Local Municipality.

Regarding the sewer spillage in Harding, Dr Mwelase informed members that the Municipality had responded to the Office of the Minister. She added that a long-term plan for funding and the business plan had been done and that CoGTA was part of same.

She assured Inkosi Jali and members that the issue of communication with the communities would be improved.

With regards to the points that were raised by Cllr GS Shange, she stated that the KwaXolo System was expected to be commissioned in February 2022; however, the power supply had an impact on what was happening at Ezingoleni. She further mentioned that a meeting with the Leadership regarding the illegal connections also caused the lack of supply of water.

Following which,

It was

RESOLVED:

(a) That the presentation on the Peak Season Plan be and is hereby **NOTED**.

(b) That the issue of the sewer spillage in Harding be attended to urgently.

C49/12/21 IN-COMMITTEE MATTERS

[At that stage of the proceedings, Cllr Khawula moved for the meeting to move in-committee and was seconded by Cllr Caluza]

C50/12/21 Acting Appointment of the Municipal Manager

The Speaker took members through the item.

Following which,

It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report regarding the Acting Appointment of the Municipal Manager be and is hereby **NOTED**.
- (b) That the appointment of the Acting Municipal Manager: Dr EMS Ntombela be extended for a period of three (03) months effective from January 2022 to end of April 2022.
- (c) That the Recruitment and Selection processes for the position of the Municipal Manager be and is hereby **APPROVED** and that same commence on 03 January 2022.

[At that stage of the proceedings Cllr Mthethwa moved for the meeting to move out of committee and was seconded by Cllr MP Shoji.]

CLOSURE

There being no further items for discussion, the Speaker declared the meeting closed at 16h10.

CHAIRPERSON: ----- DATE: -----