

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 30 April 2024

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 25 April 2024

1. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR - COUNCILLOR JOSEPH UAPINGENE

Last week we concluded our annual strategic and budget review cycle where we evaluated the progress to date and challenges encountered in the implementation of our Strategic Plan (2022-2027) for the period 2023/24. We also deliberated on our budget priorities for the 2024/25 financial year which commences on 1 July 2024.

During the workshop Council members prioritised the following key items for the 2024/25 budget:

- Markets;
- High mast lights per constituency;
- Upgrading of bus stops;
- Paving of streets;
- Land delivery and affordable housing;
- Basic Services (for example sanitation, water, and electrification projects)

Other priorities included the development of new soccer fields, youth, and social development programmes, renovation of the Greenwell Matongo library, SME development programmes, preserving the old council chambers as a heritage site, and consideration of using the Ramatex space as a uniform factory.

While our performance evaluation indicates that we are on course, the challenges underscore the need for continuous improvements in organisational capacity which includes a work study or productivity audit and economic development strategies. The nature of our operating environment is dynamic. In recognising that, we also identified strategic risks and devised mitigating strategies for the upcoming years. The alignment between our strategic plan and budget is crucial to fulfill our service delivery mandate. That said, I want to stress the necessity for innovative approaches and stakeholder engagement for long-term sustainability.

In her opening remarks during the said workshop, Her Worship, Queen Omagano Kamati, the Mayor of Windhoek, stressed the imperative for Windhoek to adapt to the changing landscape and embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution. She also emphasised the need to report on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance. She reminded us that the goal is to ensure that every dollar spent brings maximum benefits to the community. As we prepare the final budget for tabling at Council and onward submission to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, we remain committed to ensure sound financial stewardship and propose the requisite funding modalities for implementation.

Lastly, our deliberations also emphasised the need to see a growth budget which implies that movements and concerns raised require more evidence-based analysis for informed decision-making. Details of the final budget will be communicated in due course.

The deputy mayor's full statement, as presented at the recent council meeting, is available on our website for further information.

2. THE CITY OF WINDHOEK TO RECEIVE N\$15 MILLION IN FUNDING FROM THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY FOR PERI-URBAN ELECTRIFICATION

The Windhoek Municipal Council is to receive N\$15 million from the Ministry of Mines and Energy to accelerate the rate of electrification in Windhoek's informal areas. For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Ministry has committed to providing financial support to co-fund electrification initiatives with the Municipal Council of Windhoek. Over the past five years, the council has invested in distribution network upgrades to enable electrification in the peri-urban areas around Windhoek. Currently, the Council is working on several upstream upgrades on the Distribution Network such as Babilon and Havana Distribution Stations, which cost the council around N\$30 million, and the construction of Lafrenz Load Centre, which cost the council around N\$45 million, to accommodate new electricity connections in the peri-urban areas.

The electrification projects funded by the Ministry will be executed within the Fiscal Year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Municipal Council of Windhoek is expected to use its internal capacity to efficiently complete the electrification projects, including engineering designs, project management, and procurement of materials where feasible. The council will select peri-urban areas for electrification in line with its best practices and prioritization framework, as approved in the five-year Electrification Plan from 2023 to 2028. The final localities for electrification funded by the Ministry will receive final approval from the Minister before implementation.

3. THE ONGOS VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA ROAD FROM SAM NUJOMA DRIVE TO ENEAS PETER NANYEMBA ROAD INTO A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved the proposal of Ongos Valley Development (Pty) Ltd to upgrade Winnie Madikizela Mandela Road to a dual carriageway and to enter into a Development Agreement. The development will provide an opportunity for the Council to upgrade its current road infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated increase in traffic flow demands. This proposal aligns with the Council's vision to modernize and optimize the existing infrastructure.

By converting Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Road into a dual carriageway (including tie-in sections on adjacent streets), the Developer aims to alleviate current traffic congestion, enhance connectivity, and create a safer environment for the residents of Windhoek and visitors. All households located within the road reserve of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Road will be relocated as per the standing arrangement in the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and Addendum to the signed Development Agreement.

Additionally, the Developer will work closely with the Council to assist in engaging with the affected communities through the process of stakeholders' engagement. The Developer will also support the Council to ensure that a grievance mechanism is established as early as possible in the project development phase. This will allow the Developer to receive and address specific concerns about relocation raised by displaced individuals in a timely manner. The Developer will be responsible for all financial and technical risks associated with this project, and the Council will not bear any financial liability.

Due to time constraints, items 9.2.8-10 on the agenda were not discussed and will be discussed in the next meeting, to be scheduled.

Please take note that the above are only highlights of the council meeting. More details about all the items discussed are available on our website through this link:

https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/coun_agenda.php

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ISSUED BY:

City of Windhoek

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Corporate Communications, Marketing and Public Participation

For more information about this statement, please contact our Corporate Communication Section at Tel.: 061 290 3797 /2044, or email: cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na