## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

⋈ 5980 Independence AvenueWINDHOEK, NAMIBIA



The Gateway to Sualess Opportu

Tel: (+264) 61 290 2615

Fax: (+264) 61 290 2344

www.cityofwindhoek.org.na

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

13 August 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WINDHOEK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST 2021

Council approved the following items amongst others:

1. The utilization of the Rhino Garment main warehouse for the establishment of an emergency care centre

Council has approved the application by the National Emergency Care Centre (NECC) to lease the Rhino Garment main warehouse for the establishment of an emergency care centre. According to the application, dated 05 July 2021, the applicant will set up a Section 21 Entity and will be filling the gap between the public and private healthcare facilities in the quality and cost of services. The project is expected to start in three phases depending on the pandemic behaviours. The first phase will consist of establishing 200 admission beds and 50 ICU beds. The second phase shall be an additional 250 beds, bringing the total bed capacity to 500. The third phase shall consist of another 250 beds, once again depending on the epidemic behaviours and consideration shall be given to human and material resources.

The application was approved with the following conditions:

- That the Section 21 Company registration documents be submitted to Council within 30 days from the date of this resolution.
- That the applicant obtains necessary approvals from the Ministry of Health and Social Services and apply for a Fitness Certificate at the City of Windhoek.
- That the applicant implements an appropriate Health Care Risk Waste Management system to ensure that all the waste generated at the facility is properly disposed of.
- The applicant will be responsible for running expenses including water, electricity and security services.
- The applicant will not pay rent, as this will be offset as Council's contribution towards the noble project.
- The applicant is expected to return the facility to its original state after the duration of the agreement.

### 2. Revision of the 5-year electrification plan

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved a review of the 5-year electrification plan, which was implemented in 2017 and reviewed in 2019 and 2020. Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the project were successfully implemented resulting in a total of 3 200 households being electrified in Moses Garoeb, Tobias Hainyeko, Samora Machel and Khomasdal

**constituencies**. The approved review aims to incorporate lessons learned during the implementation of the previous phases, which include:

- Challenges associated with the electrification of land which is already occupied because of the mismatch between the township layouts and the actual situation on the ground.
- The congestion of people in some informal settlements, which remains a challenge because there are no areas to move them.
- If the budget allocation is not utilized due to challenges/difficulties on the ground, it is reduced during the City's budget review period in September/October.
- A mismatch between the City and government financial years.

The 2021/2022 electrification project plans to provide electricity to 1500 individual connections and 11 markets in Moses Garoeb, Tobias Hainyeko, Samora Machel and Khomasdal constituencies.

# 3. City of Windhoek to approach financial institutions for the financing of the electrification of informal settlements

There has been a high increase in the urban population due to the migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. Informal settlements have been there for many years, some for up to 20 years. Living conditions in informal settlements are often poor. These informal, low income and often illegal settlement areas are normally not covered by infrastructure planning of the Government nor the City of Windhoek. As a result, the actual informal settlements electrification backlog in Windhoek has been on an upward trajectory. The City of Windhoek electrification program has a goal of reaching universal access to energy. The rate of electrification needs to be accelerated to catch up with the rate of informal settlement growth.

According to the Constitution of Namibia, every citizen has a right to basic services, and this includes electricity, and this is regardless of location. It is the responsibility of the City of Windhoek to ensure that people living in informal settlements are also provided with basic services as they form part of its Windhoek borders. This means the City of Windhoek, as an extension of the Government, has a responsibility to ensure the electrification of all citizens within their respective boundaries.

A financial model prepared as part of the collaboration agreement between the Municipal Council of Windhoek and the USAID Southern Africa Energy Program (SAEP) shows that the City will require over N\$700 million, over eight years, to complete the electrification of Windhoek's informal settlement areas. This means that the City of Windhoek needs N\$100 million annually over the next eight years. In light of this, the City's strategic executives for Electricity and Finance were granted approval to approach financial institutions on behalf of the City of Windhoek for the financing of the electrification in Windhoek's informal settlements.

# 4. Grant of N\$1.6 million by Roads Authority and Road Fund Administration for the provision of new traffic lights

A grant of N\$1.6 million from the Roads Authority and the Road Fund Administration (RFA) for the provision of new traffic lights, was approved and accepted by the Municipal Council of Windhoek in terms of section 30(1)(z)(i) of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) (as amended). The new traffic lights will be erected in the north-western suburbs of Windhoek. To save on costs, the majority of the work will be done in-house by the City of Windhoek.

Traffic lights are an invaluable tool for the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The traffic lights will assist the City Police in controlling traffic in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner. The provision of new traffic lights will benefit the traveling public in those areas of Windhoek by providing orderly movement of vehicles, improved safety, reduced travel times, and increasing the amount of traffic that an intersection can handle.

### 5. Windhoek - Walvis Bay - Swakopmund inter-municipal co-operation agreement

Inter-municipal cooperation is when two or more municipalities agree to work together on any of the tasks assigned to them in order to gain mutual benefits and to enhance the effective provision of services to citizens. The aim is to cut costs and achieve economies of scale and scope, which becomes increasingly important in addressing challenges facing the local authorities.

A proposed inter-municipal co-operation agreement between the three municipalities was approved. The agreement aims to address local government challenges, strengthen municipal service delivery and facilitate co-operation between the municipalities. The agreement will operate within economic, political, and cultural contexts and as defined by the national, regional and local realities.

The agreement aims to strengthen co-operation in the following areas:

- Funding models for the delivery of social services;
- Human resources development, capacity building and related matters;
- Policy development, strategy formulation, and drafting of municipal regulations;
- Technical co-operation and knowledge sharing;
- Experience sharing on urbanisation, land and housing delivery;
- Lead the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices with other towns and villages around Namibia and lead the national agenda of inter-municipal collaboration; and
- Promote sound corporate governance and accountability.

The date and the venue of the signing ceremony will be communicated once established.

### 6. General revaluation of the rateable properties

Council has approved the change of the Windhoek valuation roll date, which was supposed to be 1 February 2020 to 1 February 2021 as the effective date. This is because the general revaluation of all rateable properties in Windhoek could not start on 1 February 2020 due to delays caused by Covid-19. The Council has also approved for a private evaluator to be appointed, through a bid process, to value farms within the municipal areas.

7. Resubmission request for approval for the City of Windhoek to sign a loan agreement with the Development Bank of Namibia for the construction of the second electricity bulk supply point (Khomas intake substation)

Council has approved for the City of Windhoek to enter into a loan agreement with the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) for a loan amount of N\$135 572 521.74 (VAT exclusive) to fund the Khomas Intake Substation. The Council will request ministerial approval before the signing of the agreement. The forecasted power demand for Windhoek will exceed the current Notified Maximum Demand of 190 MVA by 2024 and the existing Van Eck Substation cannot be upgraded to accommodate the anticipated demand as it has reached its physical design capacity. The proposed Khomas intake substation will ensure additional capacity to support the forecasted demand. The development of the new substation is being done in partnership with NamPower.

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

<a href="http://www.cityofwindhoek.org.na/coun">http://www.cityofwindhoek.org.na/coun</a> agenda.php?fbclid=lwAR3Eou5NOtCwZuS7v9OTs

YgUBQHMpS Vy83s3-1julyYBDOZIXzSbY4E0Hc

For further enquiries, please contact

City of Windhoek

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Corporate Communications, Marketing, and Public Participation

Tel.: +264 61 290 3797 /2044

cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na