

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICES, 50 VOORTREKKER STREET, CERES ON WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2014 AT 10:00

PRESENT

Councillors

TT Godden (Speaker)
JNED Klazen (Executive Mayor)
K Adams (Deputy Executive Mayor)
R Badela
JJ du Plessis
WJ Hanekom
P Heradien
BC Klaasen
S Louw
JS Mouton
SM Ndwanya
JT Phungula
MI Saula
E M Sidego
RJ Simpson
HJ Smit
D Swart
JJ Visagie
P Waterboer

Officials

Mr D Nasson (Municipal Manager)
Ms J Krieger (Director: Community Services)
Mr M Mpeluzi (Director: Corporate Services)
Mr A Hofmeester (IDP Manager)
Mr CG Wessels (Acting Manager: Administration)
Mr C Titus (Committee Clerk)

Other representatives

Mr Albert Links (Transnet Freight Rail)

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Speaker welcomed everyone and requested Councillor P Waterboer to open the meeting with prayer.

NOTED.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE, IF ANY
(3/1/2/1)

Applications for leave of absence from the meeting were received from Councillors MC du Toit, BJ Chaaban, L Salmon and JA Veschini.

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from the Director: Finance and the Head: Internal Audit.

RESOLVED

- (a) *That the applications for absence from the meeting, received from Councillors MC du Toit, BJ Chaaban, L Salmon and JA Veschini be approved and accepted.*
- (b) *That cognisance is taken of the apologies for absence from the meeting, received from the Director: Finance and the Head: Internal Audit and same be accepted.*

3. INTERVIEWS WITH DELEGATIONS

3.1 Revitalisation of the Wolseley/Ceres/Prince Alfred's Hamlet railway line
(17/19/2/28)

Mr Albert Links from Transnet made a presentation on the revitalisation of the Wolseley/Ceres/Prince Alfred's Hamlet railway line. The following were highlighted:

- An executive summary on the Prince Alfred's Hamlet/Wolseley branch line.
- The approach of Witzenberg Municipality and Derick du Toit on behalf of Ceres Golf Estate to Transnet.
- The establishment of a working group to focus on infrastructure, operations, safety, real estate, heritage, agreements and compliance.
- Preliminary work such as cleaning, vegetation control, off-track work.
- Looking forward:
 - Comprehensive assessment
 - Customer and stakeholder engagement plan
 - Business model
 - Working group to come up with a comprehensive executable plan and timelines.
 - Peg-in-the-ground: During second quarter 2014.
- The partners:
 - Ceres Rail Company (Pty) Ltd, Atlantic Rail, Witzenberg Municipality and Transnet SOC Ltd.
- Freight demand and operations.
- Transport of containers, export through the port of Cape Town.
- Steam train, tourism, passengers, arts and culture, movie set.
- Freight operations operated by Transnet.
- Passenger operations operated by Atlantic Rail.
- Freight operations: Diesel hauled trains; may include passenger coaches over weekends.

- Passenger operations: Steam hauled trains; turn around at Prince Alfred's Hamlet.

Questions and answers

Mr Albert Links embarked on how the project came about and councillors were invited to raise questions of concern of which he mostly answered to the satisfaction of Council. He indicated that the following six questions need some research and that he will respond on it as soon as possible. The questions were:

- (a) Who invited Ceres Rail Company, Ceres Golf Estate and Atlantic Rail to become partners in the project?
- (b) Who are the directors and/or shareholders of Ceres Rail Company?
- (c) Who are the directors and/or shareholders of Atlantic Rail?
- (d) What is the status of the above companies?
- (e) Who is the Working Group (names) mentioned in point 5 of the executive summary of the presentation?
- (f) Who is the BEE group in the project?

NOTED.

4. RESERVED POWERS

4.1 Revitalisation of the Wolseley/Ceres/Prince Alfred's Hamlet railway line (17/19/2/28)

The following memorandum, dated 11 April 2014, was received from the Municipal Manager:

"Background

A delegation comprising of the Speaker, Councillor W Hanekom, the Municipal Manager and the Manager: Projects and Performance engaged with Transnet during late 2012, requesting Transnet to consider the revitalisation of the railway line from Prince Alfred's Hamlet to Wolseley.

The motivation for the opening of the railway line was that it will contribute to the migration from road freight, stimulating economic activity, ensure road safety, job creation and stimulation of the tourism industry. At the meeting Transnet committed to a follow-up meeting in Ceres and did so on a number of sessions where it encouraged that relevant stakeholders be involved in order that a consolidated approach be followed in response to the objectives endorsed.

The presentation to be made by Mr Albert Links is a direct response to the above. The presentation is attached as **annexure 4.1.**"

The following recommendation was tabled to Council:

- (a) That the proposed business case for the revitalisation of the rail transport network between Prince Alfred's Hamlet and Wolseley, be supported as presented and provided that there are no financial obligation from Witzenberg Municipality at this stage.
- (b) That the Witzenberg Municipality is fully on board as supported by Council in pursuing its spatial planning and broader objectives contemplated in its IDP's and other relevant Government Policy, Legislation and Directives that it is required to respond to from time to time.

RESOLVED

- (a) *That Council will consider the revitalisation of the Wolseley/Ceres/Prince Alfred's Hamlet railway line project when supplied with the requested information from Mr Albert Links.*
- (b) *That the matter with regard to the revitalisation of the Wolseley/Ceres/Prince Alfred's Hamlet railway line be held in abeyance until the next meeting.*

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Approved on _____ .

COUNCILLOR TT GODDEN
SPEAKER

/MJ Prins