

Friday 30 October 2020

CITY OF RYDE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER MEETING

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 22 September 2020 and reconvened the meeting on 20 October 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

Clr Dr Peter Kim elected as Deputy Mayor

Clr Dr Peter Kim was [elected as Deputy Mayor](#) of the City of Ryde for a one-year term.

Clr Dr Kim and Clr Christopher Gordon nominated for the Deputy Mayor role. Both councillors received six votes each, with Clr Dr Kim elected as Deputy Mayor after a draw by lot was undertaken.

City of Ryde shows support for Armenian-Australian community

The City of Ryde [acknowledged](#) its long connection with, representation of and advocacy for the local Armenian-Australian community following the resumption of hostilities in the Republic of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh.

The City of Ryde also called on the Federal Government to request an immediate ceasefire and end to the hostilities. Council also held a minute's silence in honour of those who have lost their lives in the conflict and resolved to donate \$5,000 to [Himnadram.org](#) for the purposes of humanitarian aid.

Focus on electric and hydrogen vehicles

The transition from fuel-based cars to electric vehicles (EVs) and hydrogen cars will be made easier after Council resolved to investigate the feasibility of installing vehicle chargers across the local government area.

Surveys undertaken by the City of Ryde have found that the community finds that the lack of charging infrastructure to be one of the biggest impediments to EV and hydrogen car uptake.

In response, Council will prepare a report identifying funding options and possible locations for public electric and hydrogen vehicle chargers. The report will consider the possibility of installing charging sites in town centres, publicly accessible Council-owned land and Council-owned car parks at sportsgrounds and parks across the City.

Community Garden approval process to be created

A dedicated community garden approval process will be created by Council to make it easier for residents to create new community gardens on public and private land. A draft Verge Gardening policy will also be developed to allow residents to plant on the verge while maintaining pedestrian, vehicle and utility access.

Changes to committee meetings

The Ryde Central Committee has been abolished, with any major matters concerning Ryde Central to be reported to councillors. In another change, the Finance and Governance Committee was given the same level of delegation as the Works and Community Committee.

Annual Rate Receipt System

A summary of the City of Ryde's 2020/21 budgeted income and expenditure will be provided to all ratepayers via the 2020 November Rates Instalment Notice. The summary will also be made publicly available on the City of Ryde website.

Updates to the code of conduct

Updates to the Council's Code of Conduct have been adopted following the release of a new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures by the Office of Local Government. The updates relate to standards of conduct by councillors and council officers as well as changes to the complaints procedure.

Friendship Agreements policy

The City of Ryde will maintain its current [Friendship Agreements policy](#) for the immediate future following a review.

The City of Ryde currently has an active friendship agreement with the City of Jongno-gu in South Korea and a partially active agreement with the Central Darling Shire in Far West NSW. Any future agreements under the policy will be considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.

Community Grants Program to be advertised in cultural newspapers

Council's 2020/21 [Community Grants Program](#) will be advertised in cultural newspapers following an increase in the number of applications submitted from culturally specific groups.

In addition, the Community Grants Program web page on Council's website will be made available in common community languages.

Planning Proposal seeks to amend Ryde LEP

A planning proposal to amend the *Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014* (LEP) has been forwarded for Gateway Determination.

The proposed amendments implement actions outlined in the *Planning Ryde: Local Planning Statement 2020*. They include the provision of new controls for design excellence in town centres, the protection of the threatened ecological Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest community on and adjoining the Ivanhoe Estate.

The planning proposal also seeks to address administrative issues identified in the operation of the LEP.

New fee for Dunbar Park use

A new fee of \$7.40 per hour will be charged to City of Ryde based groups for half-field use of [Dunbar Park](#) in Marsfield for athletic activities. A fee of \$14.80 per hour will be charged to groups based outside the City of Ryde.

The new fee was established after a period of community consultation and following discussions with the Ryde Athletics Club.

Council reaffirms commitment to asylum seekers and refugees

The City of Ryde reaffirmed its commitment to all asylum seekers, including political refugees. Council will write to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and other Federal Members of Parliament encouraging them to put the interests of refugees and asylum seekers at the heart of a renewed immigration policy.

Register of interest to be published on website

Council resolved to publish the councillors' register of interests on the City of Ryde website.

Study to look at feasibility of a new pavilion at Ryde Wharf Reserve

A feasibility study of the construction of a potential pavilion-style venue at Ryde Wharf Reserve in Meadowbank will be undertaken by Council. The study will also look at the possibility of increased parking at Parsonage Street public car park.

The Weekly Times recognised for centenary

A City of Ryde recognition of service plaque and framed certificate will be presented to The Weekly Times to acknowledge 100 years of local reporting.

Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council meeting took place on Tuesday 27 October 2020.

[Click here for the minutes of the September Ordinary Council meeting.](#)

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