



SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPALITY

MAYORAL REPORT 2007

Fellow Councillors, Governor, Chief Executive Officer, General Managers, Managers, Officials, Members of the Community, Media, Ladies & Gentlemen:-

1. INTRODUCTION

In my last Mayoral Report a year ago I made mention that a meeting was scheduled for early 2007 to update Council's Long Term Plan in preparation for the 2007/2008 budget.

This meeting took place in February this year and was ratified by Council in March. I would like to make use of this opportunity to give a short report back on the progress made with the implementation with the latest Long Term Plan.

2. GENERAL OVERVIEW

RAILWAY STATION

Council resolved that with regard to the current position of the Railway Station, the Chief Executive Officer enters into negotiations with TransNamib to move the railway eastwards towards the airport as soon as possible, as Engineering Services are already busy with the planning of the Industrial Area.

The Chief Executive Officer and the General Manager : Engineering Services obtained a date for a meeting with the technical staff of TransNamib on 21 August during which TransNamib were briefed as to the rationale of moving the current railway station further east.

The idea was met with enthusiasm and was supported by the technical staff who in turn then submitted the matter to their Board of Directors for further consideration.

Currently we are awaiting the outcome of the Board's decision, but we are confident that the Board will support Council's application.

THE PUBLIC COASTAL EDGE

That an investigation be launched, with the involvement of the public at large, to determine what development would be the most suitable/appropriate in the area.

And that the Public Coastal Edge only be developed by Council for recreational purposes and no proposals for any development be called for by any private developer.

The Office of the GM:ES prepared a layout with proposals for development along the beach for the use of the public at large. A number of public meetings were recently held, the last one a week ago which was well attended by 32 members of the public.

Generally the public is in support of Council's proposals. Counter and additional proposals are still welcome to be submitted to the office of the CEO.

The only concern repeatedly raised was the noise disturbance at night at public facilities and the concern that such investments will always be subject to vandalism. These concerns will be given consideration on how best to address them to accommodate the concerned residents.

THE SWAKOPMUND RIVER MOUTH & ADJACENT LAND

That the future of this area be determined after the finalization of the legal matter with Gull's Cry or until the current lease period has ended in 2009.

The case was heard in the High Court of Namibia and Council is currently awaiting the judgment.

FUTURE SEWERAGE WORKS

That an urgent investigation be started with a view of establishing a new site in the next 3 years in order to finalize the project in the next 5 years.

Tenders were called for consultants to submit offers to perform specialist consultancy services for the investigation, analysis, feasibility study, design, calling for tenders, construction, project management and commissioning of a new Sewage Treatment Plant and related infrastructure for the town of Swakopmund.

A compulsory site meeting was held on 27 July 2007. The tender closed on Friday 31 August 2007 at 11:00, and four offers were received.

The tender was awarded in September to Messrs Windhoek Consulting Engineers who have since started to work on the project in line with the tender specifications.

THE AREA BETWEEN KRAMERSDORF, THE GOLF COURSE & SMALL HOLDINGS

That the Swakop River Bridge Plan be revisited to establish if it is still applicable to the above guidelines.

The matter was discussed and debated at the Planning Forum and then submitted to Management Committee for consideration that provision be made for the appointment of consultants to revisit the Swakop River Bridge Plan as well as the areas adjacent to the town in the next financial year, which was accordingly approved.

THE RECREATIONAL AREA NORTH OF THE REFUSE SITE

That in principle the proposed recreational area north of the current Refuse Site be utilized primarily for motor sports related activities.

Based on the above resolution this area is now earmarked for motor sports. However one exception was made by Council, based on convincing arguments by the applicant, and that was to accommodate the Go-kart racing track to the east of town in the vicinity of the airport.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD SOCCER FIELD AT PALM BEACH

That the area around Erf 245, the old soccer field, and the old Putt-putt course be developed into a public parking area and a public park with street furniture (benches and tables).

Management Committee in October approved a layout for a formalized parking area on Erf 245, the old soccer field below Café Anton, which will provide 148 parking bays. The old putt-putt course and nursery area will be transformed into a proper hawkers area where the hawkers that are currently accommodated below Café Anton be moved to. Garden furniture will also be placed under the trees and on the lawns to provide some facilities to those who stay in town during the lunch breaks.

DEVELOPMENT OF ERVEN 266A, B & C (WOERMANN STREET PARKING AREA)

That the possible development of erven 266A, 266B and 266C be investigated.

Developers were invited to a site inspection for the purpose of submitting development proposals on erven 266A 266B and 266C on 12 November 2007.

27 interested parties attended the meeting and the closing date for the submission of the proposals is 25 January 2008.

DESALINATION PLANT & WATER/ELECTRICITY (BIOGAS) PLANT

That Council's representatives on the Coastal Bulk Water Forum convey Council's concerns with regard to the progress of the development of a desalination plant in terms of NamWater's development plan for the Central Namib Area to NamWater.

Council's representatives on the Coastal Bulk User's Forum conveyed Council's concern and were informed that NamWater is dealing with the matter.

That the feasibility of a bio-gas plant as proposed be investigated.

This matter will be considered together with the management of the new refuse site, which will be submitted by the GM:H early in the next year to Council in terms of the latest resolution in this regard.

GENERAL

That a date be determined for Councillors to conduct a site visit with regard to the matters discussed to familiarize themselves with the issues discussed.

Councillors were taken on an extended site visit through town to familiarize themselves in loco of the conditions of each of the matters that are under consideration.

That public meetings be held to inform the public at large of the intended Long Term Plan discussions for further input by the public before finalizing the Long Term Planning.

Public meetings were held on 7, 8 and 9 August in the Meduletu Hall, Town Hall and the Council Chambers and Council's proposals were generally well received by the public.

3. CONCLUSION

The year 2007 is fast coming to an end and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their contributions throughout the year by working as a united team to the benefit of our entire electorate.

My fellow Councillors, you stood in for me when I needed it, you went out of your way to make sure that our collective objectives are achieved and for that I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

A special word of gratitude to my Deputy Mayor and other Councillors who stood in for me at various occasions, thanks to the Chief Executive Officer, General Managers and Managers and officials for their diligent work throughout the year.

To the Honorable Governor of the Erongo Region, without your support and commitment, the strong working relationship that exists between the Erongo Regional Council and the Swakopmund Town Council, would not have grown over the past year. May we continue to grow in partnership for the benefit of the residents that we both serve.

Last but not least, a special thanks to my husband and family who continue to support me even though my job as Mayor of Swakopmund and President of ALAN had me being away from home very often. Without your support, I am sure; the job would have been much harder!

May I now take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2008!

Drive safe and see you back here next year

I thank you!

**R //Hoabes
MAYOR**