Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 6 October 2016, commencing at 8.30am in the Manawatu District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT: Mayor Margaret Kouvelis  (Chairperson)  
Cr Steve Bielski  
Cr Barbara Cameron  
Cr Shane Casey  
Cr Wayne Ellery  
Cr Jo Heslop  
Cr Albert James  
Cr Tony Jensen  
Cr Andrew Quarrie  
Cr Alison Short  
Cr Howard Voss

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Templer  (Chief Executive)  
Shayne Harris  (General Manager – Corporate and Regulatory)  
Brent Limmer  (General Manager – Community and Strategy)  
Glenn Young  (Acting General Manager – Infrastructure)  
Frances Smorti  (General Manager – People and Culture)  
Tracey Hunt  (Strategy Manager)  
Janine Hawthorn  (Community Development Officer)  
Michael Hawker  (Project Delivery Manager)  
Paul Stein  (Communications Adviser)  
Doug Tate  (Community Facilities Manager)  
Colleen Morris  (Chief Finance Officer)  
Aimee Flanders  (Infrastructure Support Team Leader)  
Amy West  (Infrastructure Support Officer)  
Hayley Genet  (Infrastructure Support Officer)  
Georgia Hodgson  (Infrastructure Support Assistant)  
Lorraine Thompson  (Executive Assistant – Corporate and Regulatory)  
Ross Wheeler  (Strategic Accountant)  
Joanna Saywell  (Utility Asset Manager)  
Chris Pepper  (Senior Project Engineer)  
Veronique Lim  (Graduate Engineer Utilities)  
Jim Mestyanek  (Senior Project Engineer – Roading)  
Maria Brenssell  (Executive Assistant – Mayor)  
Allie Dunn  (Business Support Team Leader)

MDC 16/449 MEETING OPENING

Pastor Rodger Russ of the Lutheran Church opened the meeting in prayer

MDC 16/450 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 16/451 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no requests for leave of absence.
MDC 16/452 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 15 September 2016, and of the public excluded Council meeting held 15 September 2016, be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Councillor Tony Jensen
Seconded by: Councillor Jo Heslop
CARRIED

MDC 16/453 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jensen declared an interest in item 8.6 “Non-discharge of Committee”.

MDC 16/454 PUBLIC FORUM - QUOTABLE VALUE

The presentation from Quotable Value was postponed.

MDC 16/455 NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

It was agreed to include the following item of additional business:

• End of triennium speeches

MDC 16/456 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2016

Report of the General Manager – Corporate and Regulatory dated 21 September 2016 seeking formal adoption of the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2016. It was noted that following the approval by Council for the Chief Executive and Mayor to sign the Annual Report, some additional information had been included. A copy of the additional information was tabled and circulated to members. Clint Ramoo and Chris Webby, from Audit New Zealand, were in attendance and presented the Audit opinion on the Council's Annual Report. A copy of the independent Auditor’s report was tabled and circulated to members.

RESOLVED

That the Council adopts the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2016.

Moved by: Her Worship the Mayor Margaret Kouvelis
Seconded by: Councillor Tony Jensen
CARRIED

MDC 16/457 EMERGENCY WORKS JUNE 2015 EVENT: CARRY OVER OF EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Report of the Acting General Manager – Infrastructure dated 28 September 2016 seeking approval to carry forward the unspent Emergency Works budget from the 2015/16 financial year to the 2016/17 financial year.
RESOLVED

That $1,579,000 of the emergency works expenditure budget and associated funding for Roading be carried forward from the 2015/16 financial year to the 2016/17 financial year.

Moved by: Councillor Alison Short
Seconded by: Councillor Howard Voss
CARRIED

MDC 16/458 EFFLUENT STORAGE POND CONTRACT C4-16052

Report of the Acting General Manager – Infrastructure dated 26 September 2016 seeking acceptance of a tender for the construction of a second effluent storage pond at the Feilding Wastewater Treatment Plant.

RESOLVED

That Contract C4/16052 be let to Stringfellows Ltd for $517,369.00 plus a contingency amount of $70,000 (exclusive of GST) to construct an effluent storage pond at the Feilding Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Moved by: Councillor Tony Jensen
Seconded by: Councillor Shane Casey
CARRIED

MDC 16/459 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF IRRIGATORS CONTRACT C4-16025

Report of the Acting General Manager – Infrastructure dated 28 September 2016 seeking acceptance of a tender for the supply and installation of an irrigation system at the Feilding Wastewater Treatment Plant.

RESOLVED

That the Council accepts a tender for $1,426,852.97 from Waterforce Ltd, plus a $140,000 contingency amount (exclusive of GST), for the supply and installation of a centre-point irrigation system at the Feilding Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Moved by: Councillor Tony Jensen
Seconded by: Councillor Albert James
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned for a tea break at 10.25am and resumed at 10.52am.
MDC 16/460 CEDA ANNUAL REPORT


RESOLVED

That the Council receives for information the Central Economic Development Agency Ltd Annual Report for 2016.

Moved by: Councillor Howard Voss
Seconded by: Councillor Barbara Cameron

CARRIED

MDC 16/461 NON-DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Report of the General Manager – Corporate and Regulatory dated 22 September 2016 that advised Council on the operation of the District Licensing Committee during the period following the election of the new Council and the establishment of Council’s committees for the 2016-19 triennium. Councillor Jensen declared an interest, took no part in the discussion, and did not vote.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council notes that the District Licensing Committee is a committee established under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

2. That the Council notes that Clause 30 (7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 regarding discharge of committees on the coming into office of the newly elected Council does not apply to the District Licensing Committee.

3. That the Council notes that the members of the District Licensing Committee were appointed for a five year term, and remain as members of the committee until either their period of appointment ends, or they resign as members.

Moved by: Councillor Alison Short
Seconded by: Councillor Shane Casey

CARRIED

MDC 16/462 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS – END OF TRIENNIUM SPEECHES

Her Worship the Mayor spoke about the privilege of serving the community on Council, and highlighted achievements over this time. She thanked all Councillors, the Chief Executive, and through him the Council Officers, for their part in contributing to the success of Council. She thanked the Deputy Mayor for his support.
RESOLVED

That the report of the Mayor on the achievements of Council be adopted by Council and entered into the record of this meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Tony Jensen

Seconded by: Councillor Barbara Cameron

CARRIED

Councillors also gave speeches of thanks to Her Worship the Mayor for her leadership, and the Chief Executive and his officers for their work and commitment.

The Chief Executive noted it had been a pleasure working with the Council and highlighted the professionalism shown by members of Council. He thanked them for their dedication to serving the community and wished them well for the future.

MDC 16/463 MEETING CLOSURE

Her Worship the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 11.43am.

Approved and adopted as a true and correct record:

----------------------------------  ----------------------------------
CHAIRPERSON                       DATE

----------------------------------  ----------------------------------
CHIEF EXECUTIVE                   DATE
It has been a privilege to serve the people of the Manawatu District as your Mayor over the past five years. I believe our district is more connected more vibrant than ever before. We have real momentum for growth, for jobs and a more prosperous and inclusive community.

More people want to come and live here, grow up here and retire here. Our population has grown by over 5.3% in the last five years and 560 new homes have been built.

Employment has gone up nearly 6% in the last year outpacing the national average of only 2% and the number of people on a benefit has fallen by over 10% in the last three years.

We are a unique food basket of New Zealand with farmers increasing production sustainably off our high class soils. We have some of the finest farms in the country with landowners who have embraced this rich and diverse landscape in the spirit of kaitiakitanga, ensuring that this land is a rich legacy for future generations.

We have talented young people and innovative business leaders making their mark on the global stage. And we have a community of volunteers whose kindness and generosity make this a special place in which to live work and play.

I want to thank each of you for your part in contributing to an effective team of councillors who has learnt to interrogate information robustly and reach a consensus decision in the best interests of our ratepayers.

I want to thank you for your dedication to the task of being an elected member and the contribution each of you has made given your different backgrounds, experience and skills to the decision making process.

Your role as liaison councillors is where the opportunity for community engagement is at its best and each of you has added value to those communities you have served. You have generously given of your time way beyond the call of duty in meetings and community events. Our villages are flourishing and you should be proud of the role you have played in enabling that to happen.

To those of your with added responsibilities as Chairs and deputy Chairs I thank you for the way you have performed your roles with due preparation and fairness. I especially want to thank my Deputy Mayor for his unswerving loyalty and support of me as mayor. For the many times he has stood in for me representing our Council at local, regional and national civic functions and in appointing Chief Fire Officers in our district, I have always known that his integrity and wisdom would add value. His honesty, common sense, generosity and sharp wit has kept me grounded and ably supported and I thank him most sincerely.

You have excelled as a team, you have been loyal to decisions we have made and you have acted with humanity and compassion when our community and members within it have faced tragedy, loss and grief.

We have laughed a lot and enjoyed the unique humour that certain people around this table have displayed reminding us of our own shortcomings and preventing us from taking ourselves too seriously.

Together we have achieved some great things and I want to highlight some of them.
Firstly the appointment of our new CEO Dr Richard Templer in terms of building a more agile, responsive and business friendly Council. We are indeed fortunate to have a person of Richard’s calibre, experience and integrity.

- We delivered on time and on budget a refurbished Makino Aquatic Centre which has been 10 years in the pipeline and is a fine asset for the community.

- We encouraged and supported the Manawatu Community Trust through a lengthy and frustrating process at times to develop the Clevely site for a modern primary health care centre for our residents.

- We changed the Manfeild Board to enable better outcomes for the future viability of the park.

- We opened up the northern end of the district by sealing 9 kms of road thereby creating opportunities for tourism and development.

- Improving infrastructure has been a major focus for this Council over the past three years. Good quality infrastructure enables us to cater for growth. WE have improved the quality of treated effluent in our wastewater treatment plant and are soon to get our new resource consent which has been a long and difficult journey but will allow us to irrigate to land in keeping with our commitment to the Manawatu River Accord.

- We provided quality infrastructure to enable future development in terms of Rongotea water supply, Himatangi Beach Sewerage Scheme and broadband to the industrial area.

- We initiated community-led development plans for eight villages and four new community committees were added so we now have 14 community committees in our district.

- We reviewed our Community Funding policy which has had challenging outcomes for some community groups in terms of governance, financial accountability and performance and but has delivered better value I believe, for our community.

- We initiated a review of the library service which has seen double the number of users and already is fast becoming a modern 21st century library.

- We formed the Kitchener Park Trust and initiated a review of our parks and reserves taking on Recreation Services Limited who are making such a notable difference everywhere they go.

- We have strengthened our Maori representation on Council, naming our sub-committee Nga Manu Taiko and established a working party Te Kaunihera, to reflect Maori values in our community.

- We have partnered with our Mana whenua and I signed a Declaration with Sir Mason Durie on the Oroua River and established the Mana Whakahaere group to govern the oversight of the river.

- We established a Youth voice of over 30 Manawatu Youth Ambassadors in the last three years.

- We have been engaged in an extensive review of the District Plan resulting in a number of plan changes.

- We have kept rates at an affordable level with average rates increases 5.3% 2013/14, 4.95% 2014/15 4.6% 2015/16 (forecast 5.8%) dropping down to 2.7% in 2018/19.
Regionally

- We have played our part in the regional growth study that led to the buy in from central government and the eight neighbouring councils including the regional council and the resulting action plan this year Accelerate 25.

- We reviewed our own economic development resulting in “Grow Manawatu” our draft economic development strategy 2014-2024 which was the basis for our partnership with the city around improving regional economic development.

- This led to the development of CEDA a joint economic development agency with the city which would deliver economic development, events and tourism for the Manawatu district and Palmerston North.

- We facilitated the relationship which enabled Proliant to invest in our economy and other Spearhead initiatives around inward investment in the district and region.

- We formed an governance investigation group to look at shared services with Rangitikei District Council.

- You have supported me in developing Talent Central – the education to employment pathway for students in our secondary schools across the region.

- Through collaboration with Mayors of the city and Tararua we got the upgrade and sealing of the Saddle Road completed this year.

- With the Mayor of the city together we have brought forward the roading hierarchy for more effective freight distribution and commuter traffic from Palmerston North to Feilding, including a ring road, from 27 years to six years with a business case completed by next year.

- Together with the Mayor of the city, we bid for the Hilux NZ Rural Games and got it for two years 2017-18 and the FMG Young Farmer of the Year National Final Contest here also next year.

- We have assisted in developing Food HQ and led out the first NZ Agribusiness Investment Week prior to the CD Field Days

- Together we Signed an MOU with the Defence Force around greater community engagement with Ohakea and Linton.

As elected members our main purpose is

1. **To enable democratic local decision-making and action by and on behalf of communities**

2. **To meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost effective for households and businesses.**

I believe we have done that to the best of our knowledge and abilities and I want to thank you for the service you have given to this Council and the people of the Manawatu.
I wish you well in whatever the future may bring for each of you.

Finally I want to thank the Chief Executive and his staff, particularly the General Managers with whom we have had so many dealings and whose reports and advice we have valued and appreciated. We want to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to the people of the district and through them to thank each of their staff. We wish them all the best for the future.

Finally I wish to thank the Governance staff, particularly Allie Dunn for managing the Council agendas and business so professionally and Sonya for preparing the Council Chamber for our meetings. I also wish to acknowledge the personal support of Tineke Naylor and Maria Brenssell who have in turn been my executive assistants.

Margaret Kouvelis

Mayor JP