

224th Meeting**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Erskineville Town Hall
Erskineville**

Thursday, 15 April 1999

An Extraordinary Meeting of South Sydney City Council was held at the Council Chambers, Erskineville Town Hall, Erskineville, at 6.21 pm on Thursday, 15 April 1999.

PRESENT

His Worship, The Mayor, Councillor Vic Smith (Chairperson)

Councillors - John Bush, Sonia Fenton, Christine Harcourt, Jill Lay, Greg Waters

INDEX TO MINUTES

Subject	Page No.
Apologies	388
Minute by the General Manager - Storm Event Recovery Program	388

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Deftereos, Fowler and Macken.

Moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harcourt:-

That the apologies be received and accepted and leave of absence from the meeting be granted.

Carried.

The Mayor opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending and saying that few people in the South Sydney Council area escaped damages to their properties including a number of Councillors and himself. The Mayor reported that he called upon the State Government for assistance and by 4.30 pm this afternoon, the Premier announced he had declared South Sydney as part of the Natural Disaster Relief area and funding and support would be made available.

During this disaster period, Council has four properties available for families with hardship and these properties would be allocated through the Salvation Army or the Department of Community Services.

He also thanked the General Manager and all Council staff who helped in the recovery program.

MINUTE BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

15 April 1999

STORM EVENT RECOVERY PROGRAM - ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF HAIL STORM ON 14 APRIL 1999

COUNCILLORS

On the evening of the 14 April 1999, the South Sydney area and the main Council building complex at 136-140 Joynton Avenue, Zetland, was subject to severe hail storm that has caused significant damage. The damage has meant that Council has been unable to operate any services from the Administration Building and that it may take sometime before normal services can be restored.

I convened a meeting of the Disaster Recovery Committee at 8.00 am this morning. I have attached minutes of that Committee taken during the day and the decisions and actions taken.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Council note that contents of this report and endorse the actions taken.
- 2) That the Committee meetings due to be held on the 21 April 1999 be cancelled and that this be advertised in the press.
- 3) That further reports on progress regarding a return to normal services and on damage to Council properties be submitted to the Special Council meeting on the 28 April 1999.

JOHN BOURKE (SGD) **GENERAL MANAGER**

Moved by Councillor Lay, seconded by Councillor Harcourt:-

That the minute by the General Manager, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

Moved by all Councillors that the following recommendations be also adopted, namely:-

- 4) That the current delegation by the Mayor during Council's recess period up to the 24 April 1999 be extended to 12 midnight on the 4 May 1999, and that the delegated authority of the Mayor to deal with matters of this period be transferred to the General Manager.
- 5) That all Council's staff both wages and salaried divisions be paid during the period that it takes to have staff back on normal duties and that employees wishing to take leave during this period not be discouraged.
- 6) That all Council staff involved in the recovery program caused by the hail storm be congratulated on their efforts.
- 7) That the General Manager write a letter of thanks to all Councils' who offered to help South Sydney Council as a result of the hail storm. These being Bankstown, Rockdale, Randwick, Botany, Marrickville, Pittwater and Manly.

- 8) That the Community and staff of South Sydney Council be informed through the Mayor and Media of all the steps to be taken to get the Council fully functional.

Carried.

At this stage and at 6.55 pm, it was moved by Councillor Fenton, seconded by Councillor Lay:-

That the Council resolve to meet as a Committee of the Whole with Press and Public excluded to discuss an issue that Councillor Fenton wished to raise regarding the hail storm by way of a speech prepared by herself.

Carried.

Those present at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole were the Councillors present at the Council Meeting.

At 7.00 pm the Council Meeting resumed.

During the Committee of the Whole, Councillor Fenton read out the following speech in regard to the storm that occurred on the night of the 14 April 1999:-

Firstly, I would like to express my sympathy to the Mayor, the other Councillors and staff and our residents who suffered loss to their houses, personal properties or their work place and re-assure you of my continued support.

Secondly, I would like to sincerely thank the staff for the most incredible job they have done today and must continue to do for many days to come.

Thirdly, I would like to express my anger and shame - some Councillors are stupid, some are gutless, but all of you put your own political ambitions before the welfare and safety of our staff and residents. You can take a worn out old warehouse and call it an office and get away with it for a period of time 10 years, but eventually there is a day of reckoning, that day is today. On a day when our services and help are most needed by our residents we are struggling, we are trying to keep our own systems going at a time when our Planning and Building and Community Service staff are most needed they are without the most basic amenities. This is a direct result of Councillors voting against a new Administration Building.

I sincerely hope that all Councillors will pull together with the staff and do whatever we can to ensure that our services are back in order as soon as possible and that we take all steps necessary to ensure the relocation of our administration services to permanent and satisfactory premises - regardless of the expense. Please no politicking - lest just get on with the job.

When I undertook Red Cross Disaster Training, I had no idea I would be using it in my own back yard. The work that has been done today has been enormous and I'm proud to be associated with all who have been involved.

COUNCILLOR SONIA FENTON (SGD)

It was resolved this speech be included in these minutes.

The recommendation of the Committee of the Whole was then put and carried.

At this stage it was requested that approval be given to the ABC News to film part of the Council meeting in respect of the hail damage in the South Sydney area.

Carried.

The Council Meeting terminated at 7.20 pm.

Confirmed at a meeting of South Sydney City Council
held on 1999

CHAIRPERSON

GENERAL MANAGER