

GEORGE MUNICIPALITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 25 JULY 2019: BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
GEORGE MUNICIPALITY: ALDERMAN MELVIN NAIK**

SPEAKER

ALDERMEN

COUNCILLORS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

THE PUBLIC IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

THE MEDIA

GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL AND WELCOME TO THIS COUNCIL MEETING.

As I am standing here I am reminded of the saying and I quote Mountaintops inspire leaders, but it is the valleys that mature them. Servanthood is never about what one gets out but its about what we eventually become. We are all being measured by our commitment to deliver on our primary objectives as contained in the constitution of our country as well as in meeting and addressing our strategic goals that form the basis to ensure George being a city for a sustainable future. I want to use this opportunity to welcome Cllr Regina Windwaai the newly elected councillor for ward 20 in our fold and want to urge her to serve the community well and allow them to journey with her. I wish you all of the best Cllr Windwaai.

Our Municipality has over the past two years experienced deteriorating financial audit outcomes and have regressed from a Clean Audit report, then an unqualified with no findings to a qualified opinion with findings. This finding must be addressed and turn around as it holds the potential to bleak and stifle possible economic investment and growth. As a collective we need to ensure that we restore and boost the confidence of possible investors, our current businesses and our citizens in the governance of our city. We should ensure that we implement adequate compliance monitoring controls to improve our audit finding thus ensuring

good governance. At this juncture I need to reiterate my commitment to Good Governance that will enable us to continue to deliver quality basis services to all our citizens. In my view the audit outcomes is a reflection on how business is conducted in the administration and they expressed their opinion on the financial statements.

It is within this context that the Municipal Manager in conjunction with all the directors were tasked to study, dissect and interpret the management report of the Auditor General and compile a measurable working document ensuring that we effectively address our internal control weaknesses and risks that were identified. Mr Speaker, I can report today that an Audit Action Working Plan was drawn up in line with the audit findings and addresses sixty matters ranging from compliance, detailed record keeping, internal control mechanisms and others.

I need to emphasise that this is a working document that will be updated and reported on, on a regular basis to ensure that we stay committed and focussed not only on improving our audit outcome, but strengthen our ability to grow George to the city we all envisage. I need to remind us as Councillors about our oversight and policy role as well as our wide range of responsibilities which includes community leadership, representing our communities, being collectively responsible for decisions that affect the lives and livelihoods of individuals, organisations and businesses.

In effectively fulfilling our oversight role we have to use all reports and reviews as a tool to ensure effective oversight. It is within this context that I want to call on all councillors to adequately perform their respective oversight roles. I said it in the last Mayco and want to say it here again. Never again will it happen that this municipality receive a negative audit outcome.

We are all aware that George Municipality is being challenged to not only maintain but deliver good services to all our citizens. An area of concern is illegal dumping which has become a common sight and is negatively impacting the view of citizens and visitors alike as it pertains to upholding our demonstrated record of keeping George Clean and Green. We have to make a concerted effort to improve co-operation and especially collective responsibility with improved law enforcement to address this challenge.

Community Services

Pamphlet drop on illegal dumping

The following number of pamphlets were distributed in the training session for applicants for Home Composting Pilot Project, Eco brick project at Heidedal Primary School. Phase two of the project: Building of structure out of eco-bricks, Eco brick presentation at George Prep. School: Phase one of project, No tobacco day: Part of the Garden Route Municipality silent walk and display of illegal dumping information in an outdoor exhibition and Education/ awareness project for World Environmental Day in Syferfortein:

April: X50

May: X300

June: X600

Total: 950

Vordering van die bou by Uniondale oorlaaistasie

Die Oorlaaistasie word teen bedrag van R4 700 000 gebou. Die projek is meer as 80% voltooi en sal teen 15 Augustus 2019 voltooi wees.

Human Settlements

The amount of structures provided for July 2019 (up until today 24 July 2019) are:

- 8 in Thembaletu
- 1 in Rosedale
- 1 in Pacaltsdorp
- 6 in Uniondale
- 1 in Borchards
- 1 in Parkdene

Total of 18 structures of which 12 were fire cases, 2 Evictions, 1 Relocation (Aurecon), 1 Structural, 1 Elderly Person Relocated, 1 Medical.

A total of 177 Water leakages in terms of indigent cases have been completed during the period of 1 to 23 July 2019.

Human Resources

Between July 2018 and June 2019 (124) appointments was made of which 86 was external applicants and 38 internally filled positions.

The Recruitment and Selection Project reported the following:

16 positions – In offer phase – Appointment letters to be signed.

51 positions – Practical and Interview phase.

3 positions – Shortlisting phase.

37 positions – to be advertised.

As part of expanding and renewing our existing infrastructure, I can report that the rising of the Garden Route dam wall is progressing as scheduled. It is of cardinal importance that we make strategic infrastructure investment in water provision, waste management, maintenance of roads and public transportation as they are critical prerequisites and crucial service delivery elements that pave the way for economic growth.

In closing: In the midst of and being confronted by limited and decreasing resources let us never lose hope as it is not only the source of our very existence, but what we need to ignite and unlock that which we have not applied or used before. We dare not deviate from the journey that are set before us, neither from the objectives that we are envisaging for our growing city.

Thank you.