**GEORGE MUNICIPALITY**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2018: BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF GEORGE MUNICIPALITY: ALDERMAN MELVIN NAIK**

It is indeed a great honour to stand here this morning and deliver my final Council speech for 2018. What an exciting year it was. I think some of you would agree that it would just be fitting to acknowledge God almighty for His grace upon us throughout this year.

When I reflect on the year, all the highs and the lows, the challenges faced and successes achieved, it made me realize that regardless of all, George is a great city to live, work and play in.

The progress made under very trying circumstances and the potential of the prosperity that lies ahead for this city is nothing short of exciting.

The friendly people of George, the passionate community partners and all role players involve the matters of Council, I believe we are well on our way to make George a vibrant, innovative, inclusive and sustainable city.

Yes, we do face the challenges of poverty and unemployment, slow economic growth and transformation yet I believe that even this we can overcome.

The reality of the potential to establish our own University makes it possible for our children to look forward to the future with so much hope become part of the global competition in information systems and technology. The fourth industrial revolution (IT) pose great challenges for all of us but also present great opportunities to implement innovative programmes to transform our economy.

Through all the challenges we have faced in 2018 I was inspired by the “never say die” attitude of this municipality. This put our city on the cusp of greatness, needless to say that Greatness does not come without hard work.

Yes, although some may differ, our employees do work hard and this is why it gives me pleasure to report on the following:

**ELECTROTECHNICAL SERVICES CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

The Electrotechnical Services Department has to date spend approximately 15% of the Capital Budget. This is slightly behind the planned SDBIP. When compared to the previous financial year the current progress has well surpassed the previous years” expenditure, which was 12 months ago only 3%.

A further R11 million of purchase orders have also been placed with various suppliers and service providers.

The following is a short overview of the main Electrotechnical Services projects

**66kV Network Reinforcement**

The Thembalethu / Glenwood 66kV line, which will provide a crucial 66kV bulk supply to Thembalethu in the future are nearing nearing completion.

The future Thembalethu 66/11kV substation’s designs are almost completed, with the tender to be advertised early 2019. Orders have been placed for the 11kV switchgear, which will be delivered by December.

Several 66kV switchgear have been ordered amounting to R 1 671 996. This will greatly reinforce the network by replacing old oil circuit breakers.

The refurbishment of two 10MVA transformers have also been completed with the project signed off.

**Energy Management**

Energy Efficient lighting: Streetlights amounting to R 2 076 019 have been purchased and will be installed by the appointed contractor. The advertisement of the tender for heat pumps and energy efficient cooling systems will go out in January 2019.

**11kV Upgrading**

The Municipality is investing a great amount into the reinforcement of the George Industrial area, with two new cables being installed between George Main substation and Industries substation.

At the same time the Municipality is further investing over R4million into the bulk electrical reinforcement of Thembalethu to allow for further housing projects: A new cable are being installed between Thembalethu main substation and Qhawa substation. The contractor are on site.

**Low Voltage**

Various low-voltage projects are currently being finalised, with the tenders to be advertised in due time.

**Electrification**

The Department is on track to appoint a suitable contractor for electrification project. Thembalethu Area 8C and 3, as well as Golden Valley to be electrified within the financial year.

**Streetlights**

The Municipality have purchased twelve high mast lights which are being installed at various locations as identified by the community. LED (Light Emitting Diode) streetlights have been purchased to replace the older conventional streetlights in various locations.

Civil Engineering Services

Capital projects in the Civil Engineering Department are progressing well with the total capital spending until end of October 2018 standing at 10.8%, although the planned R74m from a budgeted total of R332m did not realise and currently sitting at R38.5m.

The underspending can be mostly contributed to the lower than expected spending on the Outeniqua Waste Water Treatment Works’ Civils project and the effect it is having on the commencement of the mechanical project.

Another significant area of underspending is on the roads upgrading project where finality on the Vuk’upile is still pending and should be resolved before the looming holiday period.

The Outeniqua Waste Water Treatments works are just over 50% complete with the civil engineering works and the mechanical engineering works will be advertised for construction within the next month and the completed works are anticipated to be commissioned by June 2020.

The Rosemoor Tartan track project was finally approved on 12 November 2018 and construction are planned to commence early in the new year. The Garden Route Dam project is at a stage where a Contractor can be appointed and the plan is to finalise the appointment before 14 Dec 2018 with construction to start in March 2018.

Lastly, notice was served on the Contractor of the Nelson Mandela Boulevard project for possible breach of Contractual conditions and feedback from the Contractor is required by the end of November 2018 where after a decision will be made if the Contract should be terminated. The latter will however not deter from completing the project within acceptable quality parameters and before the planned GIPTN role out of Phase 4.

**Human Settlements**

**Golden Valley Housing Project**

The project consists of 165 housing opportunities of which a total of 136 are top structures and 29 Enhanced Service Sites. The installation of services is 100% completed and two contractors were appointed for the construction of the top structures. The site handovers for the two contractors took place on the following dates:

* PHP Building Supplies – 22 October 2018
* Makhare Holdings – 10 October 2018

**Ext 42 & 58 EPHP**

Approval was received for the construction of 100 top structures. The beneficiaries selected two contractors for the building of their houses.  The first phase of fifty (50) houses has been completed.

The second phase of the project has commenced. The beneficiaries selected the same contractors to build their houses. The consultants are currently busy with the NHBRC Registration.

**Upgrading of Informal Settlement Programme (UISP) Housing Project**

Lawula/Marnol JV was appointed for the following:

* 150 top structures – completed
* 50 TRA – completed
* 251 top structures – 140 completed (111 in different stages of completion)

Nokhanya Services (Pty) Ltd. has been appointed for 101 top structures and Makhare Holdings for 33 top structures. The contracts had been signed and the site handover took place in September 2018.

**Metro Grounds Housing Project**

The procurement processes for the services has commenced.

**Erf 325 Pacaltsdorp East**

The following contractors has been appointed.

**Raubex Infra (Pty) Ltd.**

Construction of civil services for 359 erven and the building of 173 FLISP Housing Units

**ASLA Construction (Pty) Ltd.**

Construction of civil services for 736 erven and the building of 679 BNG housing units.

The construction for the civil services has commenced.

**Erf 329 Wilderness Heights Project**

The Professional Resource Team are busy with the feasibility study for the development of Erf 329 Wilderness Heights.

**Youth Development**

Youth Services for the City of George remains a top priority.it can be reported that since my last report the youth café together with our youth office has done significant Civic Engagement and Training. The youth office informed me that our rich Diversity made them focus on Social Inclusion, and Safety, Strong, Supportive Friends and Family and Coordinated and Youth-Friendly Communities.

Their aim is to establish a vibrant, youth-friendly city which is a place where youth are engaged, have strong connections, and a meaningful voice in shaping the community around them.

I have made it known that I have one big concern and that is that we do not have a Community Drugs Strategy. I have proposed that our community service section engaged with the Police Services, and the Department of Health to embark on such a strategy.

The strategy will also recognize that our municipality will play an important role in addressing substance use through the provision of social services, housing, early learning, and recreation programming, as well as providing communications and coordination support to large scale community planning efforts. Our focus is on helping people improve their health and prevent youth from becoming affected by drug use.  Everyone in this community has a role to play in this effort

It is high time that we as municipality takes a firmer stand on social ills that is busy crippling our communities and especially our youth.

**EPWP**

Speaker I need to report that it took me really some time and effort to engage with personnel to try and fix our EPWP system.

Information supply to me is that we only have R770 000 left for this financial year. From the report it is evident that some projects were extended past it’s due date, this in turn had the effect that projects listed on the 2018/19 financial year could not commenced due to insufficient grant funding. For reporting purposes to national Government we busy amending some projects.

Municipal support funding for temporary employment in civil engineering, electrical services, fire service, corporate service (halls), parks & gardens and street cleaning amounts now to R15,4m to date.

Temporary employment in the municipality is a real challenge, we have currently approximately 470 temporary employees in the municipality and continuous efforts are being made to fill vacant positions.

In closure speaker it is evident that we still have a long way to go but I’m staying positive that we have the potential to become a great municipality.

I thank you