

## MEDIA RELEASE

25 June 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WINDHOEK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 24 JUNE 2021

**Council approved the following items amongst others:**

#### **1. City to lease land to NamPower for construction of new Khomas Intake Substation**

The City of Windhoek approved an agreement to lease land to NamPower for the construction of a new substation for Windhoek, called the Khomas Intake Substation. The area earmarked for the new substation is a portion of Farm 508, Havana. In order for NamPower to take occupation of the identified site and start with the construction of the substation, they will pay the City a lease amount of N\$1.00 per month until all legalities around the transfer of the site are concluded. Ownership of the site will eventually transfer to NamPower at no cost.

The construction of the Khomas Intake Substation is necessitated by Windhoek's electricity needs beyond 2024. The existing NamPower infrastructure through which Windhoek receives its electricity demand has reached its physical design capacity and cannot be upgraded to accommodate the anticipated electricity demand growth. The City of Windhoek already paid NamPower N\$72, 500 000.00 in 2017 as a first contribution toward the project. An additional N\$135, 572 521.74 still needs to be paid to NamPower and the City is currently attempting to secure this amount from financial institutions.

#### **2. FNB to restore Post Street Mall clock tower as part of corporate socio-economic responsibility**

The First National Bank (FNB) of Namibia will restore the clock tower on Independence Avenue, at the eastern entrance of the Post Street Mall as part of a bigger project of N\$1.2 million to overhaul the area. The clock tower, currently branded by FNB and with an operating clock – albeit behind with approximately an hour - will be restored to its original state. It will also remain unbranded in the future.

The area surrounding the clock tower will also receive some upgrades, including a new traffic boom to control vehicle access, additional hardy trees and shrubbery and public benches to provide extra shaded areas, new refuse bins, repainting of lamp poles, replacing of all light bulbs, and the fixing of pavements and kerbs. The non-functioning water fountain in the area will also be removed.

The City of Windhoek welcomes the renovation of the area by FNB as a positive contribution to the revitalizing of Windhoek's central business district. The project will lead to improved safety and security for tourists and local visitors, provide additional green spaces to relax and socialise, and attract more potential customers to the enterprises of local traders in the area.

The Post Street Mall, an open-air shopping area in the heart of Windhoek's central business district, stretches from the clock tower in the east, all the way to the entrance of the Wernhil Park shopping mall. FNB has been operating a branch along the eastern entrance of the Post Street Mall for many years.

### **3. Inauguration of 2021/2022 Junior Council postponed due to COVID-19**

The Municipal Council of Windhoek agreed to postpone, until further notice, the inauguration of the 2021/2022 Junior Council of the City of Windhoek due to the new COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, which came into effect on 16 June 2021. The event was to take place on 29 June 2021. The acting strategic executive for Economic Development and Community Services, Chief Raymond Kapia, was tasked by Council to establish a new date for the inauguration event when it is safe to do so. A list of the Junior Council office bearers is available in the agenda of the council meeting of 24 June 2021, which is available on our website at [www.windhoekcc.org.na](http://www.windhoekcc.org.na).

### **4. Windhoek urban agriculture gets N\$1.92 million boost from UNDP**

The Municipal Council of Windhoek accepted a non-refundable grant of N\$1.92 million from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the development of Farm Okukuna - the City's urban agriculture project. Once ministerial approval is obtained for it, the donation will be used to fund activities at Farm Okukuna for a period of one year. The Farm Okukuna urban agriculture project aims to address food insecurity and unemployment among the city's disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, including the youth, women, people with disabilities, and the homeless. Council has developed a sustainability work plan for Farm Okukuna for the next year and beyond.

### **5. Extension granted until 31 October 2021 to continue with interim arrangement for rates and taxes, and waste management fees for Brakwater residential owners**

The Municipal Council of Windhoek approved a request by working groups of the City of Windhoek and Brakwater residents to continue with an interim arrangement for rates and taxes, and waste management fees for Brakwater residential owners, until 31 October 2021. The extension will allow additional stakeholder engagement to take place, to resolve outstanding issues regarding the levying of rates and taxes from residents within the extended boundaries of Brakwater. Brakwater properties zoned as "business" are excluded from the interim arrangement and normal rates and taxes apply to these properties. Ongoing consultations between the parties have been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that the above are only highlights of the latest council meeting. More details about all the items discussed are available on our website through this link:

[http://www.cityofwindhoek.org.na/coun\\_agenda.php?fbclid=IwAR3Eou5NOtCwZuS7v9OTsYgUBQHMPs\\_Vy83s3-1julyYBDOZIXzSbY4E0Hc](http://www.cityofwindhoek.org.na/coun_agenda.php?fbclid=IwAR3Eou5NOtCwZuS7v9OTsYgUBQHMPs_Vy83s3-1julyYBDOZIXzSbY4E0Hc)

**For further enquiries, please contact**

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