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MEDIA RELEASE

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Highlights from the Municipal Council of Windhoek ordinary council meeting held on Wednesday, 31 July 2024

The Municipal Council of Windhoek approved the following items amongst others:

1. Update on water supply to the Municipal Council of Windhoek

The Municipal Council of Windhoek has declared a Category D drought due to the worsening water scarcity situation since June 2023. According to the Water Management Plan's Water Demand Response Index, Category D (Severe Scarcity) requires a mandatory water savings of at least 15%. To address the current water availability issues, the Municipal Council is implementing water restrictions to achieve this reduction in demand.

The impact of this Demand Management Category on residents includes the following measures:

- Gardens may only be watered once a week,
- Vehicles may only be washed by certified commercial car washes,
- Swimming pools must be covered and not filled or refilled from public supply,
- Water features such as fountains are not allowed, and residents are encouraged to reuse water.
- Additionally, water tariffs will be adjusted to include penalty rates for high water consumption levels, and residents are expected to perform daily water meter readings to identify leaks.
- Please note that there will be no rebates for water lost due to leaks.

2. Application by Sport Turf Solutions CC to upgrade and modernize the Joseph Wood Playground on Erf 1337, Klein Windhoek

The Council has approved Sport Turf Solution CC's application for a 10-year lease of Joseph Wood Playground on Erf 1337, Klein Windhoek. The lease aims to upgrade the playground by installing artificial football pitches and managing the area as a pilot project. The proposed redevelopment involves revamping the entire play park, which is currently underutilized, to attract families and corporate sports and recreational teams. While the play park will remain accessible and free to the general public, the new artificial play area will be managed on a business basis with associated user fees. This upgrade is expected to enhance the park's appeal and add value for residents.

3. Recreational Facilities and Public Open Spaces Development Masterplan

The Council has approved the Recreational Facilities and Public Open Spaces Development Masterplan. This plan addresses the development of vacant erven zoned as 'public open spaces' that have been underutilized due to the lack of a comprehensive design or masterplan, compounded by rapid urbanization and evolving land use requirements. The masterplan is essential for creating a guiding framework for the design, development, and financing of functional public open spaces. It will also provide a platform for engaging with and receiving proposals from prospective investors interested in developing these spaces in accordance with Council standards.

Thirty-five public open spaces have been identified for implementation under the masterplan, along with six model designs for various categories of parks, including parks, playgrounds, and family parks. However, there is still a need to create additional recreational facilities to cater to the diverse interests of different demographic groups. The Municipal Council of Windhoek is committed to ensuring that residents have access to well-developed recreational amenities for leisure and relaxation, in accordance with the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992), Section 48(b) and (c).

Please take note that the above are only highlights of the council meeting. More details about all the items discussed are available on our website through this link: <https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/council-agenda/>

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ISSUED BY:
City of Windhoek
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Corporate Communications, Marketing, and Public Participation

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