

CITY OF BELMONT
Locked Bag 379
Cloverdale
Western Australia 6985

Council Ref : 154/001
Customer Ref :
Enquiries : 9477 7222

215 Wright Street
Cloverdale
Western Australia 6105

9 October 2020

Ms L Hollands
Chair
Belmont Residents and Ratepayers Action Group Inc.
PO Box 73
CLOVERDALE WA 6105

Emailed to: lisa@caninecancer.org.au

Dear Ms Hollands

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AT
THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 22 SEPTEMBER 2020**

In relation to the Belmont Residents and Ratepayers Action Group Inc. Questions Taken on Notice below please find the following responses.

Question 1a):

As I've previously been told we have no senior employees and those that have got gratuity payments are retirees, why does the policy allow such huge gratuity payments, recently on of \$125,000 and for the previous five years, amounts of around \$1m when the Regulations state that it should not exceed \$5,000?

Response:

Council Policy does not give legal effect to this condition of service for City staff. This arrangement is given legal standing through the existence of the City's two Certified Agreements which are in turn governed by federal industrial laws. It should be noted that there has never been a payment of \$1M to any individual.

Question 1c):

An Officer's report would have been written in relation to gratuity payments. Do the Councillors just follow the recommendations of the Officers, which in this case I assume would have supported these excessive payments or do they question and understand them and were they told they are not to be more than \$5,000?

Response:

Please refer to the answer to question 1a) on this topic.



Question 2:

Earlier this year, I asked how much money the City of Belmont was saving due to not holding events because of COVID-19 and I was told that up until June 30 2020, the amount was around \$120,000. Is the City having events as yet and if not, how much further money has been saved since June to date?

Response:

Council as part of its budget for 2020/2021 adopted a reduced budget for events during this time of COVID-19. With ongoing advice from Federal Government and State Government agencies a range of smaller events are presently being planned for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. The City will continue to monitor the State of Emergency accordingly.

Question 3:

Now that the City has a better idea of the impact of COVID-19, are we able to look at providing subsidies with these savings on not holding events for security for residents, in a similar type programme to the Town of Victoria Park?

Response:

Council as part of its budget for 2020-2021 adopted a reduced budget for events during this time of COVID-19, as such there are no savings as mentioned in your question. In view of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic the budget for 2020-2021 did not include funding for a similar scheme. The City will however investigate a number of security initiatives for potential future funding.

Question 5:

When can we expect to see the Tree Preservation Orders report?

Response:

Matters to be considered in relation to serving Tree Preservation Orders on private property is scheduled to be workshopped among Councillors in November. The outcomes from the workshop is expected to inform development of guidelines, and it is anticipated that the matter will be presented to Council in early 2021.

I trust the above information has clarified the City's position.

Yours sincerely



JIM OLYNYK JP
ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE