

CITY OF MASVINGO

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, MUNICIPAL OFFICES ON TUESDAY, 8 MAY 2025 AT 4.43 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor R. Musekiwa (Chairman)
His Worship the Mayor Councillor A. Tabe
Councillor W. Sitemere
Councillor S. Chikwangwani
Councillor B. Hwata
Councillor S. Manyanga

APOLOGY: Councillor E. Zishiri

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Muteshe- Local Governance Student

OFFICIALS: Chamber Secretary
Director of Housing and Social Services
Chef Environmental Health Officer
Chief Internal Auditor
Senior Health Officer
Water and Wastewater Engineer - W. Madzivadondo
Public Relations Officer
Committee Officer

N.B *Before the meeting the Committee toured;*

- a) *The Truck Stop site along Masvingo Beitbridge Highway after Exor Shopping Centre.*
- b) *Pangolin (Chesvingo) Light Industrial Stands.* The Committee noted the site earmarked for the creation of additional light industrial stands opposite Chiwororo Beerhall. The Committee toyed with the idea of constructing Factory Shells at the site for leasing to entrepreneurs which would also generate income for Council.
- c) *Runyararo West Swimming Pool construction site.*

130. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Before the confirmation of the minutes, a correction was made on the attendance list for members being initial for "Councillor B. Hwata" which had been recorded as "S".

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

*Proposed by Councillor W. Sitemere
Seconded by Councillor S. Chikwangwani*

131. REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

A. WATER SUPPLY

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Consideration was given to the report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services on water supply covering water treatment chemicals stock levels, status of the intake tower, treatment works, pumping mains, water supply situation, cost of water treatment chemicals procured, water quality and activities of the Water Fitting Section for the month of April 2025.

(i). Water Treatment Chemical Stock Levels

It was reported that Aluminum Sulphate would last for 53 days, hydrated lime was stocked to meet requirements for the next 6 days, Chlorine Gas lasting 9.5 days, and adequate stocks of Chlorine HTH and Activated Carbon were available for use when needed. The report was noted.

(ii). Intake Tower

It was reported that raw water pumps number 4 and 6 were operational during the period under review. Pump number 5 had been sent for repairs. The electric motor (standby) was awaiting testing.

(iii). Treatment Works

On treatment works, it was reported that pumps number 1, 2 and 3 were functional. Electric motor number 3 had been installed on 18 March 2025 and was on a seven-month warranty.

(iv). Chemical Dosing Pumps

It was reported that one chemo-feeder was operational with a backup in place.

(v). Water Supply situation

On water levels, it was reported that Lake Mutirikwi was 100.27 % full as at 30 April 2025 with a capacity of 1381 Megalitres. On the water supply situation, the Committee deliberated at length the need to expedite the installation of pressure reducing valves in the reticulation network to address water losses arising from water pipe bursts. *[The Combined meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee by Minute 060(A)(2) of the meeting held on 5/03/2025 which considered non-revenue water losses recommended the installation of pressure reducing valves in the water reticulation system].*

(vi). Water Quality

It was reported that the treated water met the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) standards.

(vii). Water Fitting

The Section recorded seventy (70) pipe bursts, effected five (5) water connections, fifty-one (51) water meter replacements and ten (10) sewer connections during the month of April 2025. The report was noted.

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D. SEWAGE RETICULATION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL.

Consideration was given to the report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services on sewage reticulation, treatment and disposal covering the status of the raw pump station and Rujeko Pump Station, Effluent Pump Station, and Biological-Nutrient Removal Plant for the month of April 2024.

(i). Sewage Reticulation

It was reported that three hundred and eighty-nine (389) sewer blockages had been recorded and attended to during the month of April 2025, whilst eight hundred and forty-nine (849) wheelbarrows of grit have been removed from the grit channels. Two hundred and ninety-five (295) bins of waste were removed from the grit screens. The report was noted.

(ii). Raw Pump Station

It was reported that pump number 2 was operational during the month of April 2025 and 107 998m³ of raw waste water was pumped to the treatment plant which was down by 4.78% as compared to the previous month. The report was noted.

(iii). Rujeko Pump Station

It was reported that Rujeko Pump station resumed pumping on 10th April 2025 having been down due to floods. 2x90kW electric motors were installed and tested and pump number 2 which is currently operational was tested whilst pump number 3 failed tests. Grit removal was undertaken with one hundred and fifty-nine (159) wheelbarrows removed and seventeen tonnes (17tonnes) of grit removed from the sump.

(iv). Primary Settling Tanks (PST)

It was reported that all Primary Settling Tanks were operational during the month under review following the installation of a new desludging valve on PST No 4. The need to replace three valves for PST 1,2 and 3 which had already been procured was noted.

(v). Digesters

It was reported that Digester Number 2 was ready for sludge disposal into the drying beds. Digester number 1 used by the Zimbabwe Open University required some repair and attention on some leakages and minor malfunctions.

(vi). Effluent Pump Station

It was reported that Effluent Pump Station was not operational due to broken down effluent pumps which have been taken for repairs

(vii) Trickling filters

It was reported that trickling filter number 2 was operating well despite the fact that the arms required attention on balancing and leakages.

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(viii) Biological Nutrient Removal Plant (BNRP)

Anaerobic Zone

It was reported that all stirrers need attention since they were not operational. The report was noted.

Anoxic Zone

It was reported that three stirrers were operational during the month of April 2025 following fitting of new bearings.

Aeration Zone

It was reported that 6 aerators were operational during the month of April 2025. Two electric motors had been sent for repairs.

RAS Pumps

It was reported that two RAS pump were operational for the month of April 2025 though the output of pumper number 2 had been reduced indicating need for repairs. The procurement of the bearings had been initiated.

Clarifiers

It was reported that both clarifiers had been operating well despite some indications of bulking being experienced following the high inflow of solids from the aeration zone hence the need for wasting

Cascade

It was reported that the Cascade was operating well

E. TOWN PLANNING, SURVEY AND TRANSPORT

i) MASTER PLAN REVIEW- PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to the report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services on the progress on the Master Plan Review process. It was reported that the Council complied with the timelines as directed in the Call-to-Action Blueprint on submission of the adopted Master Plan Document which was done on 25th April 2025. It was reported that a workshop would be held to present the adopted Master Plan to Council by the Lead Consultant.

C. BUILDING INSPECTORATE

It was reported that 20 building plans were approved in the month of April 2025 for Victoria Ranch, and a total of US\$10,650.00 was raised from plan fees whereas for the rest of town 25 building plans were approved and plan approval fees of USD 24,359 were received.

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D. WORKSHOP

The report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services on the state of the Council fleet by Department for the month of April 2025 was considered. It was reported that an aggregate of fifty-one (51) vehicles were functional during the month which translated to 72% availability. The Committee deliberated on the need for Management to explore various funding options to equip the Municipal Fleet including acquisition of yellow equipment which would drive Council infrastructure development projects. His Worship the Mayor reported that he would follow up on the handover of the vehicle to the Society for the Prevention to Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to enhance their operations.

E. ROAD MAINTENANCE

The activities of the Road Maintenance Section for the month of April 2025 covering gravel patching, drainage maintenance, signage installation, silt hauling, ZINARA Fund projects. The Committee expressed serious concerns on current road maintenance programs and highlighted the need to budget for resurfacing/reseals and tarring of roads that had been damaged by the rains. The Committee explored the idea of discussing road maintenance funding with ZINARA.

On progress regarding the acquisition of a Grader, it was reported that the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) had advised Council to seek cabinet approval to procure the equipment from the sole supplier Barloworld Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd. The letter had been sent to the Ministry. The Committee also debated at length the need to construct adequate drainage systems to reduce damage to roads during the rainy season.

F. FIRE SECTION

The activities of the Fire Section for the month of April 2025 covering provision of air cover, Independence Day Celebrations and training of staff was noted.

G. PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY COUNCIL

(i). Rujeko Secondary School

It was reported that classroom block number 8 had been painted and glazing for block 9 was at 90% completion.

(ii). Oliver Street Commercial Stand Servicing

It was reported that Water and sewer reticulation had been completed and roads construction was 10% complete. The overall project completion status was 70%.

The Committee noted with concern the failure by Council to implement outstanding projects including Rujeko D housing Project, Exor Medium Density Residential Scheme, Rhodene Extension among other key projects. Management explained the challenges faced in obtaining funding to implement the projects. It was reported that calls for expression of interests for funding various projects were being flighted for procurement.

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(iii). Mucheke Light Industry

It was reported water and sewer services had been completed, road opening done and dumping of base 2 gravel ongoing and stormwater drainage construction at 40% with culverts installed. The overall project status was 45%.

(iv). Mazorodze and Pangolin Light Industrial Stands

It was reported that provisional bill of quantities was done, project costing was done and production of design for road, sewer and water was in progress. The Committee requested the Acting Director of Engineering Services to also report on public lighting in reports to the Public Works and Planning Committee.

(v) Truck Stop

It was reported that clearing of 150mm organic materials had been done. The next step would involve cut and fill, compaction, paving, fencing and facilities construction. The Committee having visited the project, noted the works carried out so far and the need to expedite civil works which would include excavation, dumping gravel and levelling up the site. The Committee emphasized the need for speed in implementing the project and also the need to avoid cost overruns from equipment hiring. It was noted that after levelling the site interlocking blocks would be installed and fencing.

The Committee noted that most Council project implementation deadlines would not be met if Council does not have its own heavy equipment. In that regard Management was tasked to explore funding options to acquire yellow machines (dozer, grader, front end loaders).

(vi) Runvararo Swimming Pool Project

Following the visit by the Committee it was noted that concrete works had been done successfully and the project was expected to be completed within the set timeframe. The Committee was advised that Council would construct ablution facilities and a swimming pool for children. The report was noted.

I. Adoption of Report

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

THAT the report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services be approved and adopted subject to the resolutions passed in relation thereto.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2025

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK