

CITY OF MASVINGO

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, MUNICIPAL OFFICES ON THURSDAY 10 JULY 2025 AT 4.24 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor R. Musekiwa (Chairman)
Councillor E. Zishiri
Councillor B. Hwata
Councillor S. Chikwangwani

IN ATTENDANCE: E. Ndlovu: Development Studies Student: GZU

OFFICIALS: Chamber Secretary
Director of Housing and Social Services
Acting Director of Engineering Services (Mr Madzivadondo)
Chief Internal Auditor
Public Relations Officer
Assistant Committee Officer

188. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as correct records and signed.

*Proposed by Councillor E. Zishiri
Seconded by Councillor B. Hwata*

189. MATTERS ARISING

(i). Minute 160 (C) (ii): Request for additional Land for Expansion of the Sports Field and Car Parking, Stand 30588 Lundi Star Drive, Rhodene, Masvingo: Junior High School.

After the tour of the premises by the Committee, the request by Junior High School, for additional land measuring 1.046 hectares adjacent their premises on Stand Number 30588 Lundi Star Rhodene for expansion of the existing sports field was considered. The motion to grant the application was moved by Councillor B. Hwata, seconded by Councillor S. Chikwangwani.

Some members raised the view that Council should donate the land to Junior High School since the land was on ZESA wayleaves thereby rendering it unsuitable for any development. It was further argued that the donation would be in appreciation for the high value developments that the investor had made in the City..

The Chamber Secretary advised the Committee that a donation of public land for private use would not be feasible but Council may consider making concessions on the price of the stand. The Chamber Secretary added that donation of public land would be subject to advertisement in the press and expressed concerns that such action may not be in the public interest.

Debate ensued.

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The Committee explored the idea of leasing the piece land to the developer, outright purchase and price concessions in place of donating the piece of land. The Chairman insisted that a donation would be justified in appreciation for the notable contributions to the city developments made by the applicant in the city, and also that the piece of land in question was a ZESA wayleave and therefore unsuitable for any other purpose. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

1. THAT the request by Junior High School, for additional land of 1.046 hectares adjacent Stand Number 30588 Lundi Star Rhodene for expansion of the Sports Field and Car Park be granted.
2. THAT the proposal to donate the piece of land measuring 1.046 hectares adjacent Stand Number 30588 Lundi Star Drive, Rhodene Masvingo, to Junior High School for expansion of their sports field and car park be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. **ADES**

190. REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

A. WATER SUPPLY

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 June 2025.

Concern was raised that houses along Chibi Street and Mostafa area in Mucheke, Ward 1 were not getting water supply. It was reported that the main delay was due to lack of funding but requisitions for the works had been made. It was suggested that the Acting Director of Engineering Services should discuss the matter with the Finance Director and the Town Clerk so that the project could be allocated funding to rectify the problem.

(i). Water Treatment Chemical Stock Levels

It was reported that stocks of Aluminum Sulphate would be adequate for about 59 days, hydrated lime was stocked to meet requirements for the next 67 days, Chlorine Gas lasting 40 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 Pump number 4, 5 and 6 were operational during the month of June 2025.

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(iii). Treatment Works

It was reported that Pump Number 1, 2 and 3 were operational during the month under review. All other pumps had been serviced. The report was noted.

(iv). Chemical Dosing Pumps

It was reported that dosing equipment was operating well. The report was noted.

(v). Water Supply situation

It was reported that the water level of Lake Mutirikwi as at 30 June 2025 was 96% with capacity of 1 323 011 Mega litres. The report was noted.

(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

It was reported that the Section recorded 52 pipe bursts, 4 water connections, 89 water meter replacements and 9 new sewer connections during the month of June 2025. The report was noted.

B. 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 June 2025.

(i). Sewage Reticulation

It was reported that Seven hundred and fifty six (756) blockages had been recorded and attended to during the month of June 2025, whilst six hundred and eleven (611) wheelbarrows of grit were removed from the grit channels. Three hundred and sixteen (316) bins of waste were removed from the grit screens. The report was noted.

(ii). Raw Pump Station

It was reported that Pump No.2 had been operational during the month of June 2025 and 89 668m³ of raw waste water had been pumped to the treatment plant. The need to install a standby pump was highlighted.

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(iii). Rujeko Pump Station

It was reported that Pump No. 2 had been operational during the month of June 2025 and 138 810 m³ of raw wastewater had been pumped to the Treatment Plant.

(iv). Primary Settling Tanks (PST)

It was reported that four Primary Settling Tanks (PST) were operational during the month of June 2025.

(v). Digesters

It was reported that Digester No. 1 being used by the Zimbabwe Open University for biogas operation required some attention since it was leaking and other malfunctions. The report was noted.

Drying beds

It was reported that the broken delivery pipe was being maintained, and that all the 28 drying beds required repairs on cracked walls. The report was noted.

(vi). Effluent Pump Station

It was reported that Pump No. 1 was operational during the month of June 2025. The pump stopped after producing noise on the electric motor. A total of 106 086m³ of raw wastewater had been pumped to Standard farm in June 2025.

(vii). Trickling filters

It was reported that Trickling filter No. 2 was operational during the month of June 2025. The other two filters required attention on the distribution pockets and arms. The report was noted.

(viii). Biological Nutrient Removal Plant (BNRP)

Anaerobic Zone

It was reported that all the 4 stirrers were not operational and required replacement of the bottom bearings on the gear boxes. The need for repairs in this section was highlighted.

Anoxic Zone

It was reported that two stirrers were operational during the month of June 2025.

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Aeration Zone

It was reported that eight (8) aerators were not operational during the month of June 2025 (numbers 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14).

RAS Pumps

It was reported that two RAS pump number 1 and 2 were operational in the month of June 2025.

Clarifiers

It was reported that both clarifiers were operating without the rotating bridge for sludge consolidation.

Cascade

It was reported that the Cascade was operating well with clear effluent being disposed into the river course.

On wastewater quality, it was reported that Council was still in the RED category according to the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) standards. It was highlighted that Council should repair the broken components on the Biological Nutrient Removal Plant (BNRP) such as the Stirrers and Aerators to improve the quality of wastewater. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

THAT Acting Director of Engineering Services be instructed to refer the repair of broken down Biological Nutrient Removal Plant (BNRP) components being Stirrers and Aerators to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for funding.
DHSS

C. TOWN PLANNING, SURVEY AND TRANSPORT

(i) CHANGE OF USE APPLICATIONS

It was reported that following the Ministerial conditional moratorium on change of use and change of reservation applications, Council was not processing or issuing permits on any application for change of uses. The Committee raised fears that if the moratorium was not lifted anytime soon, it would result in an outbreak of illegal developments in the cities. It was explained that the moratorium was not a permanent position and would be lifted upon fulfilling laid down conditions.

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(ii). MASTER PLAN REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT.

It was reported that the Master Plan approved by Council had been submitted for Ministerial approval. It was also reported that a three day workshop had been organised by the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, where presentations on the Master Plan were done. It was explained that the presentations focused on Report of Study, Written Statement, overview of the Proposed Master Plan Infrastructure projects and cost, Display of the main Master Plan Map, Public exhibition objections and how they would be addressed. The report was noted.

D. BUILDING INSPECTORATE

It was reported that twenty two (22) Building Plans were approved for Victoria Ranch in the month of June 2025 and a total amount of USD10 086.75 was raised in plan fees. For the rest of town, 28 Building plans were approved and a total of USD 28 219.60.00 was raised in plan fees. The report was noted.

E. WORKSHOP

The report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services on the state of Council fleet by Department for the month of June 2025 was considered. It was reported that 44 vehicles were operational out of a fleet of 73, which translated to 60% availability for service delivery.

F. ROAD MAINTENANCE

The report of the Acting Director of Engineering Services on the activities of the Road Maintenance Section for the month of June 2025 covering gravel patching, tar patching, drainage maintenance, signage installation, silt hauling and ZINARA Fund projects were considered

(i) 2025 ZINARA Programme

It was reported that request by Council for for permission to make a direct procurement of a Grader using the 2025 ZINARA funds was in the office of the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development for approval. It was highlighted meanwhile Council hired a grader from CMED for 50 hours to carry out the road maintenance works.

G. FIRE SECTION

It was reported that the Section recorded and attended to one road traffic accident, six building fire accidents, and five veld fires during the month of June 2025. On special services, the Section supplied water across the City for Council projects and funerals during the month under review. It was reported that one hundred and eighteen (118) patients were transferred by Council Ambulances during the same period. The report was noted.

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H. PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY COUNCIL.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN COUNCIL SCHOOLS

(i). Runyararo Maternithy Ward.

It was reported that excavation works had been completed, and that footing had been done and brick work for the substructure had been completed. Backfilling was in progress. The project was at 30% completion stage.

(iii). Oliver Street Commercial Stands 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%.

(iv). Mucheke Light Industry Road Construction

It was reported that the project was at 45% completion. Water and sewer connection had been completed, road opening had been done and dumping of base 2 gravel was underway. The culverts had been installed and stormwater drainage system was at 40% completion. The report was noted.

(v). Truck Stop

It was reported that clearing of 150mm organic materials had been completed, the road had been cleared and was partially accessible. The outstanding works were compaction, paving fencing and construction of ancillary facilities. It was reported that material requisitions were in progress for ablution facilities. The report was noted.

(vi). Runyararo Community Swimming Pool.

It was reported that construction of walls had been completed, and that materials requisitions were in progress for ablution facilities.

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. 20 p.m.

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CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2025

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK