

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY,
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, VOORTREKKER STREET, CERES ON WEDNESDAY,
28 JANUARY 2026 AT 10:00**

**NOTULE VAN DIE RAADSVERGADERING VAN MUNISIPALITEIT
WITZENBERG, GEHOU OP WOENSDAG, 28 JANUARIE 2026 OM 10:00 IN DIE
STADSAAL, VOORTREKKERSTRAAT, CERES**

PRESENT

Councillors

Alderlady EM Sidego (DA) (Speaker)
Councillor TE Abrahams (DA) (Executive Mayor)
Councillor JF Nel (ICOSA) (Deputy Executive Mayor)
Alderman K Adams (DA)
Councillor WJ Alexander (PA)
Councillor P Daniels (DA)
Councillor S de Bruin (DA)
Councillor GJ Franse (DA)
Councillor JP Fredericks (FF Plus)
Councillor AL Gili (ANC)
Councillor GG Laban (Witzenberg Aksie)
Councillor JS Mouton (ANC)
Councillor N Nogcinisa (ANC)
Councillor N Phatsoane (ANC)
Councillor KA Robyn (GOOD)
Councillor J Rooi (Witzenberg Party)
Alderman HJ Smit (DA)
Alderman D Swart (DA)
Councillor IL Swartz (EFF)
Alderman JJ Visagie (DA)
Councillor K Yisa (ANC)
Councillor J Zalie (ANC)

Officials

Mr D Nasson (Municipal Manager)
Mr HJ Kritzinger (Director: Finance)
Mr S Swartz (Director: Community Services)
Mr J Steyn (Director: Technical Services)
Mr M Mpeluza (Director: Corporate Services)
Ms N Oerson (Chief Internal Audit Executive)
Mr A Hofmeester (Manager: IDP)
Ms L Nieuwenhuis (Senior Manager: Legal Services)
Ms M Arendse-Smith (Acting Manager: Administration)
Ms J du Toit (Intern: Administration)

1. OPENING AND WELCOME / OPENING EN VERWELKOMING

The Speaker welcomed everyone present and requested Councillor G Laban to open the meeting with prayer.

Die Speaker heet almal teenwoordig welkom en versoek raadslid G Laban om die vergadering met gebed te open.

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

2.1 Consideration of application for leave of absence
Aansoeke om verlof tot afwesigheid
(3/1/2/1)

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

2.2 Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Declaration
Vertroulikheid en Botsing van Belange Verklaring
(3/2/1)

The Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Declaration was duly signed by all Councillors. No conflict of interest was declared.

Die Vertroulikheid en Botsing van Belange Verklaring is deur alle Raadslede onderteken. Geen botsing van belange is verklaar nie.

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

3. STATEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENT OR MATTERS RAISED
MEDEDELINGS, AANKONDIGINGS OF SAKE GEOPPER

3.1 Gratitude, Congratulations and Commiseration
Waardering, Gelukwensing en Meelewing
(11/4/3)

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

3.2 Matters raised by the Speaker / Sake deur die Speaker geopper (9/1/1)

The Speaker conveyed the following:

- Gratitude expressed to the Executive Mayor, Executive Deputy Mayor, Municipal Manager and officials for being on standby during the Council recess.
- The motion submitted by Councillor K Robyn at the previous meeting will be dealt with at the next Council meeting.
- Appreciation expressed to the ICT officials for their hard work and commitment in recovering and restoring the municipality's network after the cyber-attack that had taken place.
- Congratulations and best wishes conveyed to the matriculants who had successfully passed grade 12 and gratitude expressed to the educators for their hard work towards the learners' success. Those who were unsuccessful are encouraged not to give up as the biggest room, is room for improvement.
- A moment of silence was requested for reflection and to remember all those who have lost loved ones.
- The item related to birthday wishes will be dealt with at the next Council meeting.

NOTED

**3.3 Matters raised by the Executive Mayor
Sake deur die Uitvoerende Burgemeester geopper
(9/1/1)**

The Executive Mayor conveyed the following:

- Appreciation was expressed to the Municipal Manager and the Administration at a staff meeting in January 2026, for all their hard work and dedication to the municipality.
- The Executive Mayor wished all Councillors a prosperous and fruitful 2026.
- Councillors were urged to take notice of the contents of the 2024/2025 Annual Report and Spatial Development Framework as it is two important documents with very valuable information.
- Concerns were raised regarding the financial sustainability of the municipality, thus requiring all to be conscious of cost savings. For this reason, consideration was given to the following:
 - (a) provision of bottled water at meetings and to Councillors' offices be phased out and that savings solutions on stationery, travel costs and accommodation be determined.
 - (b) more effective ways be sought to save on fuel consumption by municipal vehicles.

- (c) Financial contributions for the provision of refreshments.
- (d) that agenda packs not be distributed to Councillors via both Dropbox and hard copies, but only via Dropbox, with the aim of saving paper as Councillors possess electronic devices.

- Councillors were urged to check whether there were any email queries from the public related to service delivery after the cyber-attack, which require urgent attention.

NOTED

3.4 Matters raised by the Municipal Manager
Sake deur die Munisipale Bestuurder geopper

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

4. MINUTES / NOTULES

Minutes for approval will be tabled at the next Council meeting.

NOTED

5. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF SUGGESTIONS
MOSIES EN KENNISGEWING VAN VOORSTELLE

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

6. INTERVIEWS WITH DELEGATIONS
ONDERHOUDE MET AFVAARDIGINGS

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

7. DELEGATED POWERS / GEDELEGEERDE BEVOEGDHEDE

**7.1 Minutes: Committee meetings / Notules: Komiteevergaderings
(3/3/2)**

Minutes of Committee meetings will be tabled at the next Council meeting.

NOTED

8. RESERVED POWERS / GERESERVEERDE BEVOEGDHEDE

8.1 Directorate Finance / Direktooraat Finansies

8.1.1 Section 71 Monthly Budget Statement Reports of Directorate Finance: November and December 2025

Artikel 71 Maandelikse Begrotingsverslae van Direktooraat Finansies: November en Desember 2025 (9/1/2/2)

The following Section 71 Monthly Budget Statement Reports of the Directorate Finance are attached:

- (a) November 2025: **Annexure 8.1.1(a)**
- (b) December 2025: **Annexure 8.1.1(b)**

The Executive Mayoral Committee resolved on 26 January 2026 to recommend to Council:

- (a) that notice be taken of the Section 71 Monthly Budget Statement Reports of the Directorate Finance for November and December 2025.
- (b) that the Section 71 Monthly Budget Statement Reports of the Directorate Finance for November and December 2025 be referred to the Portfolio Committee for Corporate and Financial Services, the Performance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to take notice or to advise Council if deemed necessary.

Councillor G Laban requested that the Annual Reports and Budget Statements of the Directorate Finance be workshopped by Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (a) *that notice be taken of the Section 71 Monthly Budget Statement Reports of the Directorate Finance for November and December 2025.*
- (b) *that the Section 71 Monthly Budget Statement Reports of the Directorate Finance for November and December 2025 be referred to the Portfolio Committee for Corporate and Financial Services, the Performance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to take notice or to advise Council if deemed necessary.*

Councillor A Gili joined the meeting at 10:19.

8.1.2 Annual Report 2024/2025
(9/1/1)

Report from Director: Finance, dated 20 January 2026:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit the Annual Report for 2024/2025 to Council for consideration.

2. Legal framework

The Municipal Finance Management Act [(Section 129(1))] states that:

'The council of a municipality must consider the annual report of the municipality and of any municipal entity under the municipality's sole or shared control, and by no later than two months from the date on which the annual report was tabled in the council in terms of section 127, adopt an oversight report containing the council's comments on the annual report, which must include a statement whether the council —

- (a) has approved the annual report with or without reservations.
- (b) has rejected the annual report; or
- (c) has referred the annual report back for revision of those components that can be revised.'

3. Discussion

In terms of the MPAC Charter, approved on 10 December 2014, Council has mandated the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to perform an oversight function on behalf of Council.

The following documents are attached:

- (a) MPAC Oversight Report on Annual Report 2024/2025: **Annexure 8.1.2(a).**
- (b) Annual Report 2024/2025: **Annexure 8.1.2(b).**

The Municipal Public Accounts Committee resolved on 19 January 2026:

- (a) that the MPAC considered and finalised the MPAC Oversight Report during the meeting and submitted the signed report to the Municipal Manager for attachment to the final 2024/2025 Annual Report.

- (b) that the Municipal Public Accounts Committee recommends to Council:
 - (i) that Council takes notice of the MPAC Oversight Report in the Annual Report 2024/2025 and, after consideration, accepts same.
 - (ii) that, having fully considered the 2024/2025 Annual Report of the Witzenberg Municipality, it is recommended that Council adopts the 2024/2025 Oversight Report and approves the 2024/2025 Annual Report without reservations."

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (a) *that, after consideration, the MPAC Oversight Report of the 2024/2025 Annual Report was adopted.*
- (b) *that, having fully considered the 2024/2025 Annual Report of the Witzenberg Municipality, Council approved the 2024/2025 Annual Report without reservations.*

8.1.3 Quarterly Budget Statement [Section 52(d)] Report: 2nd Quarter 2025/2026 (9/1/1 & 9/1/2/2)

The Quarterly Budget Statement [Section 52(d)] Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2025/2026 is attached as **annexure 8.1.3**.

The Executive Mayoral Committee resolved on 26 January 2026 to recommend to Council:

- (a) that notice be taken of the Quarterly Budget Statement [Section 52(d)] Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2025/2026.
- (b) that the Quarterly Budget Statement [Section 52(d)] Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2025/2026 be referred to the Portfolio Committee for Corporate and Financial Services, the Performance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to take notice or to advise Council if deemed necessary.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (a) *that notice be taken of the Quarterly Budget Statement [Section 52(d)] Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2025/2026.*

- (b) *that the Quarterly Budget Statement [Section 52(d)] Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2025/2026 be referred to the Portfolio Committee for Corporate and Financial Services, the Performance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to take notice or to advise Council if deemed necessary.*

8.1.4 Mid-Year Budget Statement and Performance Assessment Report (Section 72) for period 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025 (9/1/2/2)

The Mid-Year Budget Statement and Performance Assessment Report (Section 72) for the period 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025 is attached as **annexure 8.1.4**.

The Executive Mayoral Committee resolved on 26 January 2026 to recommend to Council:

- (a) that notice be taken of the Mid-Year Budget Statement and Performance Assessment Report (Section 72) for the period 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025.
- (b) that the Mid-Year Budget Statement and Performance Assessment Report (Section 72) for the period 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025 be referred to the Portfolio Committee for Corporate and Financial Services, the Performance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to take notice or to advise Council if deemed necessary.

Councillor GG Laban requested that in future the Annual Report and Financial statements be workshopped by Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (a) *that notice be taken of the Mid-Year Budget Statement and Performance Assessment Report (Section 72) for the period 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025.*
- (b) *that the Mid-Year Budget Statement and Performance Assessment Report (Section 72) for the period 1 July 2025 until 31 December 2025 be referred to the Portfolio Committee for Corporate and Financial Services, the Performance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee to take notice or to advise Council if deemed necessary.*

8.1.5 Disposal of movable assets, goods, material and equipment in terms of Section 14(4) of Municipal Finance Management Act (6/1/P)

A report from the Chief Financial Officer, dated 18 January 2026, is attached as **annexure 8.1.5**.

The Executive Mayoral Committee resolved on 26 January 2026 to recommend to Council:

- (a) that legal process be followed to alienate the abandoned vehicles on our premises from the registered owners and sell it at an auction.
- (b) that Council approves the disposal of assets, goods, material and equipment in this report.
- (c) that the Supply Chain Management Unit proceeds with the disposal of assets in accordance with Paragraph 48 (4) of Council's Supply Chain Management Policy.

Councillor P Daniels proposed and Alderman D Swart seconded that the recommendation (a) to (c) be accepted.

Councillor Al Gili counter proposed and Councillor N Phatsoane seconded that the matter be held in abeyance for the submission and consideration of the Fix-It report.

The DA coalition requested a 10-minute caucus break after which Councillor AL Gili informed the meeting that notice is taken of the report as contained in the agenda and therefore withdraws the counter proposal.

Councillor K Yisa joined the meeting at 10:47.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (a) that legal process be followed to alienate the abandoned vehicles on our premises from the registered owners and sell it at an auction.*
- (b) that Council approves the disposal of assets, goods, material and equipment in this report.*
- (c) that the Supply Chain Management Unit proceeds with the disposal of assets in accordance with Paragraph 48 (4) of Council's Supply Chain Management Policy.*

8.2 Directorate Technical Services / Direktooraat Tegniese Dienste

8.2.1 Draft Witzenberg Municipal Spatial Development Framework: 2025 - 2030 (15/4/P)

The following documents are attached:

- (a) Memorandum from Senior Manager: Town Planning and Building Control, dated 13 January 2026: **Annexure 8.2.1(a)**.
- (b) Draft Spatial Development Framework for 2025 until 2030: **Annexure 8.2.1(b)**.

The Executive Mayoral Committee resolved on 26 January 2026 to recommend to Council:

- (a) that the draft Witzenberg Spatial Development Framework for 2025 until 2030 be workshopped by Council.
- (b) that in terms of (a) supra, any amendments to the draft Witzenberg Spatial Development Framework for 2025 until 2030 be dealt with by Council and thereafter be approved for public comment and a mandate be granted to proceed with public participation in accordance with the prescripts of the Municipal Systems Act 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) and Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013).

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (a) *that the inputs at the Council workshop of 27 January 2026 be noted and incorporated into the draft Witzenberg Spatial Development Framework for 2025 until 2030.*
- (b) *that the amended draft Witzenberg Spatial Development Framework for 2025 until 2030 be approved for public comment.*
- (c) *that a Public Participation Process be embarked upon to obtain the community's inputs, if any, in terms of the prescripts of the Municipal Systems Act 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) and Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013) for further consideration by Council and final adoption of the Witzenberg Spatial Development Framework for 2025 until 2030.*

8.3 Directorate Community Services / Direktooraat Gemeenskapsdienste

8.3.1 Proposed amendments to Indigent Policy (5/1/1/13)

Report from Director: Finance, dated 19 January 2026:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit proposed amendments to the Indigent Policy for consideration to Council. The Indigent Policy is attached as **annexure 8.3.1**.

2. Legal framework

The qualification criteria for urban households to receive assistance are as follows:

- (a) The head of the household must be a South African citizen.
- (b) An application on the prescribed form, fully completed with the required information and signed, must be provided.
- (c) The household, except in the case of rural households, must receive an account from the Municipality of Witzenberg.
- (d) If the municipal account is not in the name of the people residing in the house the following procedures may be followed:
 - (i) An indigent application process to determine whether the household qualifies for benefits. If they qualify then:
 - A letter from the owner, or the executor of the estate, if applicable, authorising the municipality to open a service account in the name of the person residing in the house.
 - If the owner has died and an executor has not been appointed, all the children of the deceased must give permission with an affidavit that the account can be opened in the specific person's name.
 - In the case of municipal property, the Housing Committee will determine the lessee.
 - (ii) In exceptional circumstances the Municipal Manager can authorise the opening of an account in the name of the person residing on the premises. (When it is not possible to obtain approval from the owner/s or heir/s to open an account in the name of the people residing in the house).

- (e) The Municipal Manager is delegated to write off the old debt on the property if the property is transferred into the name of the beneficiary within 24 months after the approval of the indigent application.
- (f) No member of the household, except in the case of rural households which resides on the farm where he/she works and is not the owner, may own a fixed property other than the site on which the household resides; and
- (g) The household joint gross income may not exceed the level of R6,000.00 per month. The average monthly income for seasonal workers may be calculated by multiplying the monthly income with the number of months the person normally works and dividing the answer by 12. The monthly income for weekly wages may be calculated by multiplying the weekly wage by 4.3.
- (h) The household income as per paragraph 6.1.5 may be reduced with the monthly bond expenditure.
- (i) Two individual government pension (old age or disability) that exceeds the threshold as per 7.1 may qualify for the 100 % benefit if it is the only household income.
- (j) The Municipal Manager may approve a household as indigent in exceptional circumstances.
- (k) As a pre-requisite the municipality will install water demand management meters free of charge at indigent properties as a prerequisite to be registered as an indigent and all water leaks on the property will be repaired by the municipality at the cost of the municipality.
- (l) No applicants who have a mobile shop in their erven (whether they are the owner or operator of the shop or not) is eligible for any Indigent benefit.
- (m) No Indigent application will be approved if any illegal trading is conducted on the property.
- (n) Where there is a business operated by the main account holder or their spouse/ life partner, an affidavit must be accompanied stating that the income (profit) from the business is not more than the thresholds of the Indigent (100 % or 50 %) subsidy. Where discretion regarding this matter is needed, the application is to be referred to the Municipal Manager or Director: Community Services for approval.

3. Discussion

Some of the households in the Eskom area do qualify for indigent support, but they do not apply as they receive the free electricity units from Eskom based on the size of the electricity connection.

The households in informal areas do not receive accounts for municipal services and therefore do not apply for indigent support although they receive municipal services.

The abovementioned households are therefore not included in the official municipal statistics of indigent households.”

The Executive Mayoral Committee resolved on 26 January 2026 to recommend to Council:

That the following paragraphs be added to the Indigent Policy:

- (i) Paragraph 6.1.5.1: The households on the Eskom list for free electricity units qualify for full indigent benefits.
- (ii) Paragraph 6.1.5.2: The households in informal areas qualify for full indigent benefits.

Councillor P Daniels proposed and Alderman K Adams seconded the following amendment:

That the following paragraphs be added to the Indigent Policy:

- (i) Paragraph 6.1.5.1: The households on the Eskom list for free electricity units automatically qualify for full indigent benefits.
- (ii) Paragraph 6.1.5.2: The households in informal areas qualify for limited indigent benefits which excludes free basic electricity.

Councillor G Laban requested a caucus break.

Councillor AL Gili counter proposed and Councillor N Phatsoane seconded the following:

That the following paragraphs be added to the Indigent Policy:

- (i) Paragraph 6.1.5.1: The households on the Eskom list for free electricity units automatically qualify for full indigent benefits.
- (ii) Paragraph 6.1.5.2: The households in informal areas qualify for full indigent benefits, excluding foreign residents.

Minutes: Council meeting 28 January 2026
Notule: Raadsvergadering 28 Januarie 2026

The Speaker called for a vote on the matter and the outcomes were as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Proposal by Councillor P Daniels | 13 votes |
| • Counter proposal by Councillor AL Gili | <u>8</u> votes |
| TOTAL | 21 votes |

RESOLVED

- (a) *that the following paragraphs be added to the Indigent Policy:*
- (i) *Paragraph 6.1.5.1: The households on the Eskom list for free electricity units automatically qualify for full indigent benefits.*
- (ii) *Paragraph 6.1.5.2: The households in informal areas qualify for limited indigent benefits which excludes free basic electricity.*
- (b) *that the Indigent Policy will be dealt with at the next Council workshop for amendments to the policy.*

8.4 Directorate Corporate Services / Direkoraat Korporatiewe Dienste

These matters will be tabled at the next Council meeting.

NOTED

**9. URGENT MATTERS SUBMITTED AFTER DISPATCHING OF THE AGENDA
DRINGENDE SAKE INGEDIEN NA AFSENDING VAN DIE AGENDA**

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

**10. FORMAL AND STATUTORY MATTERS
FORMELE EN STATUTÊRE SAKE**

None / Geen

NOTED / AANGETEKEN

**11. QUESTIONS and/or MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS
VRAE en/of SAKE DEUR RAADSLEDE GEOPPER**

The following matters were raised by Councillors:

- Congratulations expressed towards Luan Gilliomee and family members for his participation in the Blitz Bokke team. Furthermore, well wishes and congratulations were expressed to the IsiXhosa families with the return of their sons from the initiation school as they presented courage and strength during their period in the bush.
- Feedback required regarding Councillors' tablets and jackets.
- Concerns were raised about the Ethiopian and Somalian spaza shop owners in Prince Alfred's Hamlet who are fighting amongst one another.
- Unhappiness and dissatisfaction regarding the Executive Mayor's announcements about bottled water being phased out were aired as water is a basic right and that bottled water is more convenient for meetings. Furthermore, Councillors disagreed about the distribution of agenda via Dropbox only as hard copy agendas are for record-keeping purposes, but most importantly, it should be a Council decision.
- Council requested that the Executive Mayor submits a written motion with the statements.
- It was requested that a quote for an interpretation system for Council meetings be obtained to determine the costs thereof and that the feedback be provided as to the vacancy of the Interpreter position.
- That feedback be provided regarding the R2 300 deducted from Councillors and for what reason. Furthermore, that funds are taken away from other Councillors whilst the MayCo are enjoying the benefits.
- COGTA issued a circular stipulating what Councillors are entitled to and request that those who have not received anything be provided with such from the office of the Speaker.
- That Council be provided with answers as to what occurred at the fire incident in Sfoonvlei, Ceres which was operated by the Witzenberg Fire Services and where buildings and vehicles caught alight.
- Environmental health and safety concerns were raised regarding the illegal dumping of nearby residents at erf 179, Bella Vista, Ceres.

The Speaker requested that all questions and matters raised by Councillors be submitted in writing to the Speaker's office.

NOTED

12. ADJOURNMENT / VERDAGING

The meeting adjourned at 12:15. / Die vergadering verdaag om 12:15.

Approved on 25 February 2026 without amendments.

ALDERLADY EM SIDEGO
SPEAKER