



DULLSTROOM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION



P.O BOX 190
DULLSTROOM
1110
dullstroom@vodamail.co.za

The Municipal Manager
Emakhazeni Local Municipality

By email to : mthimunyeg@emakhazeni.gov.za

Thursday, 05 August 2021

Dear Municipal Manager,

For well over twenty years, this Association has represented three hundred or so members of the Dullstroom & Sakhelwe. To a large extent, our relationship with the Municipality has been reasonable and we have always endeavoured to support it according to our Constitution. However, it is noticeable and regrettable that for the last year or so it seems as though there has been a policy of the Municipality to totally ignore communications and telephone calls from ourselves as well as the community at large.

We fully understand the restrictions placed on the Municipality due to the current epidemic as well as financial curbs but we are sure you will agree that it is in the interest of both the Municipality and the community to continue working together.

A number of our members have raised the question of rates and service charges which should have been implemented on 1st July. We have checked the Municipal Property rates Act (2004) regarding the requirements placed upon municipalities relating to the imposition of rates.

These are the main requirements :

- the rates for 2020/21 automatically lapsed on 30th June 2021
- rates for 2021/22 must be determined as part of the municipality's annual budget process.
- at the Budget Consultative meeting held on 5th May the proposal was that rates increase by 5.8% - there was no dissent
- the MPRA requires that the municipal budget be formally approved before rates can be implemented. Should the Budget not be approved by the commencement of the financial year then it has to be approved, with a resolution levying rates, by the provincial executive.
- rates are levied by a municipality based on the passing of a resolution in council of a majority vote
- a resolution levying rates must be promulgated within 60 days of the resolution
- the promulgation must include the date of resolution, rates categories and cent/rand amount for each category

WHENEVER A MUNICIPALITY PASSES A RESOLUTION THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER MUST, WITHOUT DELAY :

- conspicuously display the resolution for a period of at least 30 days
 - at the municipality's head and satellite offices and libraries
 - if the municipality has an official website, on that website
 - advertise in the media a Notice stating that the resolution has been passed by council and that such resolution is available at municipal offices and on their website

As at today's date there has been no such notice nor promulgation of rates in the Provincial Gazette; neither have the Credit Control Policy, Rates Policy or Indigent Policy been formally promulgated.

The ELM website reflects the LATEST Budget to be that for 2019/20 and the LATEST tariffs are shown for 2018/19.

So far as we are aware, there have been no Notices regarding the final budget, rates and service charges etc. as required by the Act and mentioned above.

Please provide us with a certified copy of the Council resolution passing the rates and services charges for 2021/22 without delay. If necessary, we will be obliged to submit a formal application

Committee Members

Mike Allen (Chairman) Peter St Clair (Secretary & Vice-Chairman) David Simpson (Treasurer)
Malcolm Siebert George Skinner Mike Whelan Fiona Jones Liezl van Niekerk

for this information under the Provision of Access to Information Act but hope this will not be necessary.

As the Executive Mayor and other members of the Municipality are aware, for a number of years an organisation known as the Emakhazeni Good Governance Forum existed. Unfortunately, largely due to the death of a key member and an apparent lack of interest from two other members, the EGGF has fallen away. The Executive Mayor was very supportive of the co-operation between the EGGF and the Municipality – especially in the area of suggesting various finance-related challenges. Whilst we think it unlikely the EGGF will be resurrected, we, as the Dullstroom Ratepayers Association would be willing to play a similar role to the EGGF should you wish for such collaboration. Whilst Finance would always be a key matter, we would need to ensure that other matters – such as Service Delivery – were included in the brief.

We would appreciate your comments at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter St Clair', written over a faint rectangular stamp or box.

Peter St Clair
Secretary and Vice-Chairman

cc Cllr T Ngwenya, Executive Mayor
MEC Busisiwe Shiba (c/o Private Secretary Ms. Mashaba-Xulu)