

COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES: ONAWA EXTENSIONS 3 TO 10 TOWNSHIP LAYOUT PRESENTATION

Date: 22 May 2025

Venue: Onawa Extension 7

Time: 10h00

Facilitator: Ms. Katarina Kamari (Oshakati Town Council)

1. Opening and Welcome

The Master of Ceremony, Ms. Katarina Kamari, the Corporate Communications Officer for Oshakati Town Council, thanked everyone for availing themselves of their precious time to attend this very important meeting. She then requested a community member to open the meeting with a word of prayer. Following the prayer, Ms. Katarina Kamari invited His Worship, the Mayor of Oshakati, Mr. Hango, to welcome all attendees to the community meeting. He extended a special welcome to the Urban Dynamics team and introduced them to the community, as well as the Oshakati Town Council staff members present. The Mayor explained in brief the purpose of the meeting and what is expected from the community.

2. Purpose of the Meeting

Mrs. Muma gave a background of the formalization process in order for the community to understand where they came from and the future. She explained that Oshakati Town used to be flooded from 2008 when the heavy flood hit the town, and people from Eemandi, Sky and Oshoopala location used to be relocated to the tents. This led to the Council conducting a socio-economic survey in order to get the number of residents and structures in those locations. The information was needed in order for the Council to approach Onawa headman for the valuation and compensation of homesteads and then plan a draft layout for Onawa.

The Council then appointed Urban Dynamics Africa to prepare a draft layout for the whole Onawa township of which 11 extensions were planned. The layout was not submitted to the Board, it was just a way of being proactive in order to relocate people in a properly planned and serviced area and formal town planning procedures to be employed later. The area was then surveyed and then serviced with water and electricity. After the area was serviced, the Council then relocated people to Onawa.

The main purpose why the Council is now formalizing the area is for the people of Onawa to get security of tenure, in a form of title deeds. Currently, the residents of Onawa do not have title deeds as the area is not yet undergone the formalization process, they only get ownership letters.

Today you are expected to give your input in terms of the environmental impacts, the social impacts and the layout itself. The good thing about this layout is that there are no encroachments because when the residents were allocated, they were allocated in well planned erven. What is going to change it's only your erf numbers when the layout get approved by the Urban and Regional Planning Board.

The Master of Ceremony, Ms. Kataria Kamari then invited Ms. Tresia Amwaalwa from Urban Dynamics to present the proposed township layout and gather community input, including comments and concerns about environmental impacts. Ms. Amwaalwa then addressed the community, explaining the formalization project for Onawa and provided an overview of the town planning process, including:

- Submission of planning applications to the Oshakati Town Council
- The need for an Environmental Clearance Certificate
- Final approval by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

3. Community Discussions and Questions

Following the layout presentation by Urban Dynamics, Ms. Kamari facilitated the discussion between the community, Council, and Urban Dynamics representatives.

a. Flood-Prone Areas

A community member asked how flood-prone areas would be addressed. The Mayor responded that flood mitigation is a key consideration in the planning process, and that essential services will be incorporated to reduce flood risks.

b. Plot Allocation and Multiple Households

Another community member asked how plots would be allocated, especially where multiple households currently share one erf. The Council explained that residents will be invited to review the proposed plans as it is the last agenda item in the programme, where their properties and boundaries will be clearly shown.

c. Appreciation and Appeal for Broader Inclusion

A community member residing at Onawa Extension 7 expressed his gratitude to the Council and Mayor for working to improve living conditions, especially in informal settlements. He emphasized that he stayed at the place for more than five (5) years with seven (7) others and has been patiently waiting to be incorporated in the town layout as they did not have erf numbers. He urged the Council to speed up the formalization process in order for him to apply for services as he cannot do that in the absence of an erf number.

d. Low lying streets that need to be filled to improve access and mobility

A concern was raised about some streets that are lying low, and residents asked how the situation is going to be addressed. The Council emphasized that when the layout plan gets approved by the Board and the General plan gets approved by the Surveyor General, the Council will make budgetary provision to construct the streets and storm water channels to ensure that water is channeled away to avoid flooding and ensure free mobility.

4. Conclusion

Ms. Kamari thanked all attendees for their participation, comments, and questions. Community members were invited to view the layout plans, identify their respective properties, and verify erf boundaries.

The meeting concluded with a closing prayer led by a community member.

5. Observation of Plans

Community members reviewed the layout plans and consulted Council officials for clarification. In some cases, proposed amendments were made based on feedback. Once residents had confirmed their property details, they left the venue.