



Mayor and Concerned Citizens meet to iron out MM issues

Makana Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Nomhle Gaga has reassured the citizens of Makana that the municipality is on track with the appointment of an Acting Municipal Manager that was requested by the municipality from Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Fikile Xasa.

In a meeting requested by the Concerned Citizens to save Makana (CCSM), made up of members from members from the Grahamstown Residents Association, Makana Unity League and the Grahamstown Business Forum on Wednesday, 8 November in the Mayoral Committee room the Mayor afforded members of the group an opportunity to raise their issues since they had initiated the meeting. Members of the Mayoral Committee who were present in the meeting were Cllrs Phumla Matyumza, Ernest Louw and Mabhuti Matyumza.

The group led by Chairman Ron Wissenberg put down two issues to be discussed in the meeting. One was around the status of the appointment of the specialist turn around Municipal Manager. The second was the need to understand whether the Mayor and her Mayoral Committee and Council is fully supportive and behind the secondment of an Acting MM.

In her response to the two issues the Executive Mayor started off by providing much needed clarity on how the secondment came about. The Executive Mayor explained that she had had a meeting with the Mayoral Committee members as early as May this year and from that meeting she had raised issues to the effect that the institution could not function without a Municipal Manager, hence the call came from Council for a secondment. Some of the reasons why this decision came about include the fact that the municipality was unable to appoint a full time Municipal Manager because of delays caused by the court case around the the filling of the position. As a result of this the institution cannot function without a Municipal Manager.

As a result of these challenges the Executive Mayor sat with the Mayoral Committee and wrote a letter to the MEC asking for a secondment. An appointment letter was then written by the MEC which was tabled in a Special Council meeting. The appointed person's terms of reference include ensuring that a full time Municipal Manager is appointed and that there is a Financial Recovery Plan in place.

In response to the issue of support the Mayor responded by saying that the Mayoral Committee is in full support of the person who has been seconded.

The Cogta seconded Acting Municipal Manager will commence his duties on 1 December 2017. The appointment is for a period of three months as stipulated by the Act. He will be introduced to Council together with his terms of reference once he arrives in December.
