

Meeting of the Municipal Council

of 22 April 2025

Present

Mayor

ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV) – MZB

Aldermen

ANSAY STÉPHANIE (LSAP) – SA

LOOSE YVES (CSV) – YL

Councillors

ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng) – JJA

AXMANN Robert (DP) – RA

DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV) – JPDG

EIFES Eric (DP) – EE

RODRIGUES Noé (CSV) – NR

THOMÉ Pol (LSAP) – PT

Municipal Secretary

WOLFF Raymond

Excused

ZHU Dalì (DP) – DZ

ENTRINGER MARC (CSV) – ME *proxy to ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET*

Marion (CSV)

Agenda:

Public session:

1. List of elders
2. Municipal strategy for environmental protection
3. Concept for the maintenance of country lanes
4. Concept for the maintenance of hedges
5. Approval of the processing from the meeting on 27 March 2025
6. New authorisation for processing
7. Additional loan in the ordinary budget
8. Creation of a budget item - ordinary expenditure
9. Creation of a budget item - extraordinary revenues
10. Regulation of car parking fees
11. Extraordinary financial support
12. Modification of financial grants in the event of notable anniversaries of associations in the Municipality
13. Grave concessions
14. Approval - Wenova ASBL (non-profit organisation) statutes
15. Temporary traffic changes
16. Demolition of a house in Oetrangle
17. Creation of a post for a municipal employee, salary grade B1; science and technology sub-group
18. Creation of a post for a municipal gardener - artisan's career H3bi
19. Income
20. Information and questions from members of the Municipal Council

Public session:

Before the first item was dealt with, the agenda was modified at the request of the College of Aldermen.

The usual item "Questions to the councillors" had been omitted in the first version. This was added unanimously.

1. List of elders

The list of elders, which was discussed at the previous Municipal Council meeting but not definitively voted on, has now been subsequently approved.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

2. Municipal strategy for environmental protection

3. Concept for the maintenance of country lanes

4. Concept for the maintenance of hedges

Mayor Marion Zovilé-Braquet suggested that items 2, 3 and 4 be discussed together. Alderman Yves Loose made a brief introduction.

Environmental consultant Loïc Hellers and Lynn Diederich, the responsible municipal officer, presented the philosophy and basic idea of the Climate Pact to the Municipal Council. He emphasised that the Nature Pact should not be equated with the Climate Pact. There are three levels of certification that can be achieved: Basic level, bronze level, silver level and finally the highest certification, gold level; however, this is very difficult to achieve.

The Municipality of Contern receives € 10,000 in subsidies from the state and the state pays the salary of the environmental consultant (up to a maximum of € 30,000). An audit of the measures that the Municipality has already implemented had been

carried out in 2022.

Environmental consultant Hellers noted that the Municipality of Contern already has a certification rate of 36.84% (without audit) and he estimated the forecast to be at 41.55%.

Hellers also presented the Nature Pact certifications of the SIAS municipalities: 6 municipalities were awarded bronze, 3 municipalities silver and 2 even gold.

Loïc Hellers also presented the planned strategy for the hedges in the Nature Pact cadre at municipal level, which had been drawn up in collaboration with the forester. He also presented the strategy for the extensive management of country lanes. After the presentation of the various strategies, the responsible alderman Yves Loose explained that the plans had been presented to the responsible commissions (Environment & Country Lanes).

Councillors Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Eric Eifes made some comments on the plans presented and made some suggestions that could be incorporated into the strategy. Environmental consultant Loïc Hellers replied that these comments did not fall within his remit, but that he would incorporate the councillors' wishes into the measures without further ado. The three items were unanimously approved by the members of the Municipal Council.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

5. Approval of the processing from the meeting on 27 March 2025

The Mayor requested that the decision of 27 March to revoke the Municipal Council's approval for the "authorisation d'ester en justice" (permission to take legal action) be revoked, as there was an irregularity. She had consulted with the Ministry of the Interior. After some explanations, this motion was unanimously approved.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

6. New authorisation for processing

The Mayor filed a new application to take legal action as a municipality with the necessary "authorisation d'ester en justice".

Councillor Arrensdorff made a statement that this was already the third attempt by the Municipality in this case. He had doubts about the completeness of the dossier and the Municipality's approach and was also of the opinion that the new application was outside the permitted deadline. The judiciary could

reject the renewed application due to irregularities. He had the impression that people were shooting "mat Kanounen op Spatze" (using a sledgehammer to crack a nut) here. Furthermore, in his opinion, the action was still contrary to Article 83 of the Municipalities Act, which was the reason for his voting against this item.

Mayor Zovilé-Braquet once again explained the information she had received from the Ministry.

Votes in favour: MZB, SA, YL, JPDG, ME, NR, PT

Votes against: JJA, RA, EE

7. Additional loan in the ordinary budget

Finance Alderman Yves Loose informed the Municipal Council that a financial grant of € 15,000 had been received from the Ministry of Culture to support the BD (Comic) Festival until 2024. This has been increased to € 30,000 for 2025.

However, as it had not yet been confirmed that this amount would be allocated when the budget was drawn up, the additional € 15,000 had not yet been budgeted for this year's event.

Accordingly, the College of Aldermen proposed to the Municipal Council that the remaining € 15,000 be included in the 2025 festival budget.

Councillor Arrensdorff pointed out a technical error to the College of Aldermen, in that the money had not been entered in the correct item. This error was corrected.

This item was adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

8. Creation of a budget item - ordinary expenditure

The Mayor informed the councillors that the company Orange Luxembourg SA, which maintains radio antennas on some water towers in the Municipality, had made a miscalculation. The company had overpaid the Municipality an amount of € 121,485.77 for the provision of antennas for the years 2006-2023. Orange Luxembourg SA is now claiming this amount back from the Municipality.

Councillor Eric Eifes was of the opinion that only 5 years could be reclaimed. He also criticised the fact that the contract between the Municipality and the operator had not been included in the dossier. Mayor Zovilé-Braquet said that she had been informed and that the Municipality had to transfer the money. The 5-year rule would apply if you owed the Municipality something, otherwise the period would be null and void.

In order to clarify all items conscientiously, the item was unanimously removed from the agenda and

postponed to the next Municipal Council meeting.

9. Creation of a budget item - extraordinary revenues

The Mayor announced that the company Costantini SA had made a mistake when preparing the invoice for construction work in the village centre and had invoiced for the work twice. The Municipality would be reimbursed €368,143.97 by the company.

A new budget item would have to be voted on in order to correctly record the extraordinary revenue. She is also unhappy that construction work very often clashes.

Councillor Eifes asked why this calculation error had not been noticed internally and why the Municipality had not intervened with the company. The Mayor gave possible explanations as to why this was not noticed internally. The incident would have occurred at a time when many changes were being made in the administration, including a retirement.

Councillor Arrensдорff asked questions about the technical progress of the project and the payment procedure. He also addressed the staff changes during the period in question. The Mayor agreed with him that other players, including the external consultancy firm Schroeder et Associés, were also involved in such projects and that they also had an obligation to check the correctness of incoming invoices.

The creation of the article was adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

10. Regulation of car parking fees

The Mayor mentioned the new parking fees along the car park at Contern/Sandweiler station, where many lorries had been parked for a long time in contravention of the law. A zone has been set up here where parking fees will be charged with immediate effect. The fee is € 0.50 per hour. This item was adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

11. Extraordinary financial support

The "CIS Amicale" association sent the Municipality an invoice for the standby services provided at various festivals in the Municipality in 2024. There were 50 hours in total. This standby duty is remunerated at 10 euros per hour. This will provide the association with financial support totalling € 500.

Votes in favour: MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, EE, NR, PT

12. Modification of financial grants in the event of notable anniversaries of associations in the Municipality

Finance Alderman Yves Loose presented the plans

for the modification to the Municipal Councillors.

A new grant was to be introduced for a 150th and 200th anniversary. Previously, the regulations only provided for grants up to 50 years. The amounts of the grants were also to be adjusted.

The plan envisages that € 250 would be awarded from the 5th year onwards, € 500 from 10 years and € 750 from 25 years. From the 100th year of existence onwards, the College of Aldermen proposes a grant of € 1,000, €1,500 from 150 years and € 2,000 from 200 years.

Councillor Eifes then noted that the subsidy for the 25th anniversary would end up being halved from € 1,500 to € 750 according to the new plans. Councillor Arrensдорff added that there would no longer be a grant for a 75th anniversary under the new plans. Councillor Eifes quoted from the 2016 deliberation that € 1,500 was earmarked every 25 years. Mayor Zovilé-Braquet and Finance Alderman Loose clarified that they only wanted to add grants for 100th, 150th and 200th anniversaries and that the old provisions for the existing grants should be retained.

After discussions, the submitted proposal was amended. The values from 2016 were adopted, but a non-cumulative subsidy of € 2,000 was added every 50 years from the 100th anniversary.

The amended proposal was adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

13. Grave concessions

The Mayor presented the tariffs and read out the applications for graves to be continued.

Councillor Eifes noted that an application had not been signed by the College of Aldermen. This was done immediately.

The grave concessions were unanimously approved.

Votes in favour:

MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

14. Approval - Wenova ASBL (non-profit organisation) statutes

Alderman Stéphanie Ansay presented the Articles of Association of Wenova ASBL to the Municipal Council for information. The Association is committed to activities in the field of environmental protection.

Councillor Arrensdorff noted that the company wanted to obtain subsidies and other benefits from the Municipality. The Association emerged from a commercial company where the management founded an ASBL (non-profit organisation).

This item was noted unanimously.

Votes in favour:
MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

15. Temporary traffic changes

The Mayor presented the temporary changes that would have to come into effect due to festivals and construction sites. These were adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:
MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

16. Division of land in Oetrange

The Mayor explained the process and the reason for the demolition, which was taking place within the framework of the General Development Plan (PAG). The item was adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:
MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

17. Creation of a post for a municipal employee, salary grade B1; science and technology sub-group

The Mayor suggested the creation of a IT specialist position. This person should mainly deal with the technical problems within the Municipality's machines. This creation is also taking place with regard to the new school and its technical installations. Councillor Arrensdorff suggested that such services be handled by SIAS or SIGI. The Municipality should look for synergy opportunities.

The Mayor outlined the current situation and spoke of the many small technical problems that were becoming more frequent. As the external company that is currently contracted to do this cannot cope with such a large number of assignments, it is necessary to recruit an in-house IT specialist. This would also fulfil a request from the Municipality's own staff.

Votes in favour: MZB, SA, YL, JPDG, ME, NR, PT
Votes against: JJA
Abstentions: RA, EE

18. Creation of a post for a municipal gardener - artisan's career H3bi

The Mayor briefly introduced the post. The majority of the Municipal Council voted in favour.

Votes in favour:
MZB, SA, YL, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT
Abstentions: JJA

19. Income

Finance Alderman Yves Loose discussed the income of the past weeks. In total, the income from 2024 amounts to € 34,415.49.

Councillor Arrensdorff enquired about various double bookings. The Mayor clarified that this was an IT problem and that these double bookings could not currently be avoided.

Councillor Arrensdorff also asked about the positive interest rates that the Municipality receives from the banks. Councillor Eifes explained to him that this could happen from time to time with pre-financing projects.

Finally, Yves Loose discussed the income already received for 2025. In total, the Municipality can collect income totalling € 942,456.21 (rent and subsidy for school expansion). The item was adopted unanimously.

Votes in favour:
MZB, SA, YL, JJA, RA, JPDG, ME, EE, NR, PT

20. Information and questions from members of the Municipal Council

Mayor Marion Zovilé-Braquet announced that the next Municipal Council meeting would take place on 22 May.

Councillor Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff suggested that the councillors should see the municipal report before it is published so that they can make comments or correct errors.

Councillor Eric Eifes spoke about the death of former Municipal Councillor Arsène Kihm, who had made a great contribution to the Municipality. Mayor Zovilé-Braquet took up this thought and honoured Arsène Kihm's many years of work for the Municipality of Contern.

The Mayor then addressed the amount of legal fees for analyses and proceedings for 2024 and 2025, which were requested by the Municipal Council. For 2024, the legal fees amount to € 44,859.68; however, this also includes normal processes such as the review of employment contracts. For the year 2025 to date, € 85,155.56 has already been invoiced. In addition, there would be costs due to the harassment investigations, which would amount to € 66,809.16 for the year 2024 and € 45,045.00 for the year 2025 to date. An organisational analysis was also commissioned, as requested by the Municipal Council. This had cost € 95,238.00 for the year 2024. And for the current year 2025, costs totalling € 91,318.77 had been incurred for the implementation of the measures proposed in the study. Commenting on these costs, Councillor Eifes noted that he knew of other companies that had achieved the same result for less money.