



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

8 NOVEMBER 2023



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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL HELD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 IN ST KILDA TOWN HALL AND VIRTUAL VIA WEBEX

The meeting opened at 6:32pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Baxter, Cr Bond, Cr Clark, Cr Crawford, Cr Cunsolo, Cr Martin, Cr Nyaguy, Cr Pearl, Cr Sirakoff.

Chris Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, Brian Tee, General Manager City Growth and Development, Allison Kenwood, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Lachlan Johnson, General Manager Operations and Infrastructure, Joanne McNeill, General Manager, Governance and Organisational Capability, Darryn Hartnett, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Performance, Xavier Smerdon, Head of Governance, Rebecca Purvis, Senior Council Business Advisor, Emily Williams, Council Business Advisor.

The City of Port Phillip respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

Chris Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, formally opened the meeting.

2. REQUESTS TO ATTEND BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

Nil

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. PRESENTATIONS

OUTGOING MAYOR ADDRESS

Councillor Heather Cunsolo gave an address as outgoing Mayor:

"It has been quite a year when I think back. Very much a blur, but an incredible opportunity I was very fortunate to have. I thank my fellow Councillors for the hard work you have put in over this year and the support you have given me along the way. In this time, we said farewell to Katherine Copsey and welcomed Robbie Nyaguy. We have made some tough decisions, but we've also had fun along the way too. Three years down and one to go. I do enjoy working with each and every one of you. Our role is to represent the community and it's important to keep the community at the forefront of all of our strategic decision making. I know there have been challenges this year, such as the resident named 'bin-gate' for which I

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featured on far too many radio programmes, but I acknowledge we still have to regain and keep the community satisfaction in that area. I'd also like to express my gratitude for the time that residents, visitors, and businesses have taken to engage with us over the year. It's very important to have that part of the puzzle.

An immense amount of work goes on in this building but also out in our libraries, childcare centres, maternal child health, community bus drivers, beach and gardens. I won't name them all, but I want to highlight how many people in various roles serve our community and I sincerely appreciate the staff at the City of Port Phillip.

Now there's always a risk when you start naming people individually that you'll leave somebody out but there's a few I'd like to recognize. Firstly, Chris Carroll. It's not long until we'll reach that full year of you as CEO and it was definitely a big first task as Mayor having to chair the CEO Matters Committee, but I personally couldn't be happier with the result. It's been an incredible year and I appreciate all your time that you have given me. When people hear that I have three kids, architecture work and being Mayor they say 'you must be so organised'. No, I'm not. I'm just very comfortable with chaos, it seems, but I also have Carly and she is the organised one and very lovely to be around. I'd also like to thank Mary and Marisa. There are many times you have supported all of us, but particularly me as well, this year and I'm very appreciative. The media team – there are a lot of daily calls with Sandra and Jed and things that you write for me that make me shine in the role and I appreciate the notes although some last minute but you pull it together and I really appreciate that support. Governance – our cool folder that you put together for me every week and the pre-brief, it helps me come and do the role which is being the face and the spokesperson for the City of Port Phillip.

It's just a role that I do. It's not me in a way. I am a person in the role and it is very hard to separate the two. You come into it, people have a lot of expectations of you, and I know that I just have to do my best and show up because the City of Port Phillip really matters to me. But it's the Councillors, the community, and staff altogether. We all play a part and I've been very proud to be the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip. I'd also like to thank the Deputy Mayor, Andrew Bond. It has been an incredible year together and I really appreciate your support. I know I keep saying that, but the support is a lot about this role that people have helped contribute to immensely. I rang you often asking your advice and you were always there answering your phone and telling me how you think it should go, but giving me the option of doing it how I wanted to also. You were always ready and willing to attend events, even if it was tomorrow and I forgot to tell you. I appreciate that there were a few that slipped through, and you were able and ready to show up so I very much appreciate that.

In my personal life I am really lucky to have so much love and support from my family as well. It is very hard work to have three children and a marriage in general, but I know that's a big part of who I am and how I represent the city as well. My three kids are here today. Unfortunately my husband is overseas on a work trip, but I know it's been very special as a family and I know I've been out a lot more this year and I think my daughter said to me 'it's really cool that you're Mayor to the outside world, but inside it's pretty hard' and that summarises the experience. I'd also like to thank the TV show Paw Patrol because for everybody under the age of 12 the Mayor is like the biggest deal, I don't know why but it is. I know there's Mayors in the show, so I'm a bit of a celebrity walking around school, but I don't think they have any idea what I actually do.

A lot has gone on this year. We've gone through consultation and final designs for many projects. There is a lot in the pipeline. Some of the projects we've finished this year include

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the M.O. Moran dog park opening, Bothwell Street BioLink, and the Ludwig Reserve play space upgrade, to name a few.

I'd like to thank my in-laws today who have come down with the kids to bring them to this meeting, but throughout the year they are the only way I can really do this role. I appreciate that I also have great babysitters, without them I wouldn't be coming to many things, I can tell you that, because it's hard with young kids.

Thank you very much for the opportunity, it's been an absolute honour."

The CEO thanked Councillor Cunsolo for their service and presented them with a gift.

OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR ADDRESS

Councillor Andrew Bond gave an address as outgoing Deputy Mayor:

I won't say too much as I have nothing prepared, which you'll all be glad to hear. I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of the role this year. It's been great fun and a great enjoyment. Thank you Councillor Cunsolo, you have been great to work with. I thank everyone else who has been supportive, the CEO and others, especially during those small stints as Acting Mayor. It was good to have a go at that and see what happens as part of that role. Thank you all.

The CEO thanked Councillor Bond for their service and presented them with a gift.

5. TERM OF MAYORAL OFFICE

Moved Crs Baxter/Martin

That Council:

- 1 Determines the Mayor to be elected to serve a one year term.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

6. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

Councillor Martin nominated Councillor Cunsolo for the position of Mayor.

Councillor Clark seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Cunsolo elected as Mayor and invited Councillor Cunsolo to address the gallery.

MAYORAL ADDRESS

Councillor Heather Cunsolo assumed the Chair and addressed the meeting as Mayor:

"Thank you very much. I also didn't write a speech so I'm going to have to wing it a little bit. It was a privilege to be Mayor for the first year and it's a real honour to be elected again. I know the year goes quickly and you never get to finish what you want to, so its fantastic to have the opportunity to do so, both individually and as a group.

The first thing I highlighted last year that I wanted to focus on was Station Pier. Now that the cruise ships are back after COVID, we have had a little bit of traction. We have a new toilet block and construction has commenced at one of the development sites. We have had

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meetings with ministers, we're still not sure which door is going to open first, but the idea is to keep moving through to a precinct plan and I'm very dedicated to keep that momentum going

The second item I highlighted at the start of the year was The Green Line. We have investigated a lot of the projects that contribute to making The Green Line collectively and that includes, firstly, pedestrian crossings that we will consider as part of the 2024/25 budget build, and secondly, looking at a feasibility study for the full Green Line that can go out to market this calendar year. Hopefully this will amount to some projects that will build onto another nice area within our municipality both as a connection, point of recreation, and a nice place to be that enhances the amenity in the City of Port Phillip.

Other items that I would like to get across the line this year, firstly, making sure that Fishermans Bend is going to be the place we anticipated it to be. The framework has been set and there has been a lot going on in that space. We are getting close to seeing how this will go out to the community to ensure that it is right. We are not the people who get to drive that but we have not had a lot of say, sometimes beating our heads against a wall this year, but I think that we have made an impact as a group.

Secondly I will call out the Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club, who have come to us this year asking for a permanent home. Whether that is to be provided by Council or in partnership with the State Government, I think that they deserve to have that next phase to keep going and see if that is feasible.

Aged Care is currently out for community consultation and this is a very important service that we offer and we want to make sure that we have community feedback to make an informed decision, not only for this decision, but for all decisions next year.

These are some of the major focuses that I have for this year, and of course we already have many in traction. I appreciate this opportunity and I welcome constructive feedback so that we can work even better together as a group across this next year to make the last year a successful one, trying to finish out as many projects as we set out to do and really enjoy this time together. So thank you very much again for this opportunity."

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR OFFICE

MOVED Crs Baxter/Sirakoff

That Council:

- 1 Establish an office of the Deputy Mayor to align with the length of the Mayoral term.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

6. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Nyaguy nominated Councillor Crawford for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Martin seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor Crawford elected Deputy Mayor and invited Councillor Crawford to address the gallery.

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DEPUTY MAYORAL ADDRESS

Councillor Louise Crawford addressed the meeting as Deputy Mayor:

"In terms of this Council, we have had some excellent Deputies. Councillor Pearl, Councillor Baxter and Councillor Bond. So I hope to follow in your footsteps. Congratulations particularly to Councillor Bond for his recent term. Thank you for your support Councillors, I know this is never an easy few weeks, let's be honest. This is difficult, so thank you very much. I promise to work hard to serve you and the community and most of all support the Mayor. My preemptive thank you goes to my darling Matt for all the times I am going to drag you to a Council event next year and for your future patience as I take on this role. Thank you."

The meeting closed at 6.52pm.

Confirmed: 15 November 2023

Chairperson _____