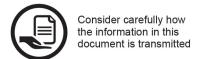


SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

11 NOVEMBER 2020







MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL HELD 11 NOVEMBER 2020 IN ST KILDA TOWN HALL, AUDITORIUM

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Kylie Bennetts, General Manager City Growth and Organisational Capability, Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Lili Rosic, General Manager Development Transport and City Amenity, Chris Carroll, General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure, Rachel Russell, Manager Governance and Organisational Performance, Kirsty Pearce, Head of Governance, Rebecca Purvis, Governance Officer, Emily Williams, Council Meetings Officer.

The City of Port Phillip respectfully acknowledges the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer, formally opened the meeting.

2. SWEARING IN OF COUNCILLORS

The Chief Executive Officer invited each Councillor-elect to take the Oath / Affirmation of Office and declare that they have read and will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Councillors-elect Tim Baxter, Andrew Bond, Louise Crawford, Katherine Copsey, Rhonda Clark, Heather Cunsolo, Peter Martin, Marcus Pearl and Christina Sirakoff made, dated and signed Oaths/Affirmations of Office before the Chief Executive Officer.

Each Councillor addressed the Gallery in the following order:

Cr Tim Baxter - Canal Ward

"What a strange way to get sworn in as a Councillor, it's been very strange also in this getting to know period with other Councillors as well but I would like to welcome you all and I look forward to working with you. Some of you I've worked with already, some I will work with going forward.

Before I talk about myself I would like to acknowledge the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung and pay my respects to their elders past and present, the land on which we are meeting tonight was never ceded and always was and will always be Aboriginal land.

During the election campaign, which was a very difficult campaign to reach voters and speak to them about important issues. I spoke to them about quite a lot of issues that I think are really important for our municipality and I will continue pursuing those things on Council. Those include more provision of Open Space particularly in those areas which have been under-served in the past. Not just in Balaclava which is in my ward but in other areas of the City that have less access to open space than others. Continuing to fight for action on Climate Change where we at a local level can make a huge difference on a range of different things but particularly when it comes to designing our streets, greening our city I think is something we definitely need to improve on and do better on.

There are a number of really important services that Council provides, which the importance of these have really been laid bare during this pandemic that people need access to childcare, to homelessness support, and to a number of things that Council does that a lot of people don't necessarily know that we do and I will fight to make sure that we continue to serve our community in that respect.

I'm very happy to be back and happy to be working with a high-calibre team. Let's get to work."

Cr Louise Crawford - Canal Ward

"Firstly, welcome to new Councillors and to returning Councillors and to the Community. Thank you to the residents of Canal Ward – I am really grateful to be elected to serve you again.

For many of us this year we have probably spent more time in this municipality than ever before. I know for me within that 5km limit I just got to see how lucky I am to live in the City of Port Phillip – the beautiful parks, the bay and beaches, the streetscapes, the puppies of Port Phillip, the smiles we gave each other as we passed each other walking, the creation and creativity of the various Spoonville's which gave us all a simple joy in the hard times. And as I drove here tonight, my favourite roundabout in the entire municipality, right near my house, the flowers are in bloom, and it is spectacular. I realised how lucky I am not only to live in and also to represent this community. So much of what we have enjoyed during COVID and prior, is not an accident, it is a result of a long history of previous iterations of council investing back into our community, in the infrastructure, services and programs, the environment and residents. We choose to live here because Council understands that cultivating and maintaining community is core business. And that it happens in a myriad of ways. So, thank you for electing me to continue that legacy.

Will I always get it, right? No
Will I endeavour to do my best for you? Yes
Am I willing to learn and listen and collaborate? Yes
Let our adventure begin."



Cr Heather Cunsolo - Gateway Ward

"In a year like no other, it is an honour to stand here today elected by the Gateway ward. I'd like to thank each and every voter that put faith in me to represent. And that's what I'm going to do-represent.

It's about the people and making sure you are heard. It doesn't matter if you live near me in Port Melbourne or the farthest corner of the ward.

I believe in inclusion and embracing diversity. I also pledge to the entire municipality every vote I participate in will be well considered. May our balanced Council lead to good governance, fair representation and results, not division.

I am extremely thankful to my family and support network.

It isn't easy for a mum of three young kids to serve in a role such as this. It comes with sacrifice of family time and a lot of extra work on my husband and in-laws. I am very grateful for your ongoing support.

A big thank you to Bernadene Voss, my campaign crew and the more Women for Local Government group. I appreciate all your advice, time and encouragement.

I have a lot to learn but I am ready to serve. It is extra special to be in this room today after having become an Australian Citizen in 2014 at a City of Port Phillip citizenship ceremony.

I love living in Australia and particularly the City of Port Phillip and look forward to the next four years and working with my fellow Councillors."

Cr Andrew Bond - Lake Ward

"Thank you, I will keep this very brief having done this once or twice before. I would like to acknowledge all the other candidates who were unsuccessful in this campaign, without them you wouldn't have us. The quality of us sitting up here is entirely a result of those that missed out, I would like to acknowledge them and all the efforts they put in, but were ultimately unsuccessful in achieving election. It was a very different campaign and its produced a very different Council but as they say the people never get it wrong, so we're here because the people always get it right. I look forward to working with each and every one of you to ensure that we deliver good outcomes for our residents over the next four years.

I would like to thank one person who isn't here tonight and that's former Councillor Dick Gross for his 17 years of service to the City of Port Phillip, which I think the City has only been in existence for 26 years, so he was part of two thirds of the history of this City and I'm sure he's not going away, he will be back in some form or another at some point in the future. I look forward to the day we see former Councillor Gross walk through the doors of those Council chambers to make some contribution as a member of the public which I'm sure no doubt he will at some point in time in the future whenever an item comes before us that tickles his fancy.

I thank you Dick for all your work for this City, you were a wonderful Councillor as I say to everyone you were the best Councillor we had 90 percent of the time, and we won't discuss the other ten percent but thank you Dick for your service."

Cr Christina Sirakoff - Lake Ward

Good evening, it's so exciting to be here. I am very honoured to be here as one of your Councillors and to represent the Lake ward community. I would like to thank my family for their love and support on this journey to become a Councillor. I'm also very appreciative of the support and encouragement from the Ratepayers of Port Phillip (RoPP) team and volunteers who walked the streets delivering flyers for a number of campaigns and for my final campaign to become a Councillor.

I would also like to congratulate the other Councillors who are elected to this office.

I have lived in Middle Park for 38 years and have seen so many changes over those years and enjoyed engaging with the community at many levels such as the Kindergartens, Primary school events, there were so many of them. Also, the many planning issues affecting our streets. I have never been interested in politics at the Local Government level, I've only been motivated to get good outcomes on local issues for the residents and rate payers. And that is why I am now here and want to deliver for you.

Over the past few years, I have closely listened to my neighbourhood and taken on board your growing concerns about affordable rates. Your concerns about community safety and social amenity. So many of you have repeated your passion to reverse the decline of our iconic shopping and dining precincts, notedly Fitzroy Street and Acland Street. Also, your concerns about wanting to revitalise these areas by finding practical solutions to support small businesses and address the genuine homeless and vulnerable people and drugs and crimes in shopping areas and neighbourhood streets, even before COVID-19. We have been and will for some time continue to be challenged by a social and economic crisis for all residents and rate payers until we get out of this pandemic.

I respect the trust that you have given to me and I will strive to work with all Councillors to deliver on sensible and community focused issues for a transparent, safe, liveable and sustainable municipality for all communities across our municipality.

Thankyou once again for your support

Cr Katherine Copsey - Lake Ward

"Thank you so much, it's wonderful to be back and it's wonderful to be physically back in the Town hall and in the presence of my fellow Councillors this evening. It's fantastic to see everybody face to face for the first time in a long time.

I would also like to acknowledge the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung and pay my respects as we come through NAIDOC week and acknowledge that sovereignty of this land was never ceded and this was and always will be Aboriginal land.

It's really a strange year, it's been a really difficult year and I want to acknowledge the effort that everybody here tonight has gone through in seeing election and re-election to Council. It's no mean feat so congratulations to everyone sitting here tonight. And, congratulations to those who weren't elected but ran such strong campaigns, putting their vision for our community forward.

I'm very humbled to be here this evening, it's an absolute honour to be back representing the people of Lake ward. I came into the election with some trepidation given the circumstances



and I am truly humbled to have received an increase in votes during this period. I take it really to heart the trust that has been placed in me to be a representative in this place for the people of St Kilda, Albert Park, Middle Park, St Kilda West and parts of Windsor of course. I am really humbled that you have given me another opportunity to represent you for a term on Council. I take it as an endorsement of the vision that I sought to share with folks of Port Phillip during this campaign, it was a positive vision focused on what we can deliver for our community as a Council and as a steward of this beautiful place and as stewards of the public land and public services and programs that Council are responsible for which can make such a big impact on the liveability and accessibility of our area.

Social inclusion has never been more important at this time, and we see huge inequality magnified by a social and economic crisis. There is a lot of work for us to do at local government level and I look forward to attacking that task with this group of big brained and big hearted people and all of your different perspectives.

It's been a very challenging time and I'm very mindful that a lot of people have had a more difficult year than usual. But in this time of challenge there is also glimmers of opportunity and visions of what our city can be into the future, things that we will take from this time into a new COVID normal. Being locked down has highlighted the absolute vital importance of our parks and recreation spaces, and its boosted our sense of community belonging. I'm very proud so far of how the city has coped and I want to endorse all the work that was done by this organisation during caretaker period, it's been incredible to watch that continuation of delivery through that period. This time is not over, and as we return to a COVID normal, there is going to be a need for Council to be agile and responsive and to be creative in the ways that we can provide more space for people in parks, beaches, shopping strips, footpaths and create space for bikes as we begin to move around more to prevent some of the challenges we may face.

We do need to advocate continually to other levels of government and be there as an open partner for some of the big changes that we need to make. A big focus for the last term on Council was affordable and social housing and advocacy for more public housing, housing stress is still a huge issue in Port Phillip and we've got a lot that we can continue with there. It's been encouraging to see more support for people during this time that don't have a roof over their head, and I'm going to be advocating strongly that we don't pull that away as we come out of this period and that we build on it in the future.

I think what I feel strongly over this period is that we've all learned that people matter most and I'm actually a bit struck by how much its touched me to see you all here tonight, our connection to each other is very important as a local community. Everything we do is for the community, and we need to remember that in all our decisions.

There's a lot that I have to be grateful for and I've learned a lot of lessons from the past term, I hope that we are going to have a Council that upholds a strong standard of governance and works well together and has a good strong culture that values everybody's contribution. I know why I'm here and I will keep the growing need for climate action front of mind in all of our decision making, that is still there in the background and will not go away until we take action to deal with it.

I'm truly humbled to be back for another term and thank you very much to my family, my partner Alistair and also all the wonderful volunteers and supporters who helped with my campaign and most importantly the voters of Lake ward."

Cr Peter Martin - Gateway Ward

"I acknowledge the Yalakut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I'd like to thank the people of Gateway Ward for electing me as one of their three representatives on Council and I am really looking forward to working closely with Cr Cunsolo and Cr Pearl, who I have been fortunate enough to have already spent a number of times working with on a variety of community projects over the years. I know that we will work together extremely well in addressing local resident concerns, not just the usual traffic, parking and rubbish, but also other big picture things such as the rejuvenation of the Bay St and Waterfront Place areas, the rejuvenation of South Melbourne Market and Clarendon St, and the Fishermans Bend precinct developments. I also look forward to working with all nine Councillors as together we further the best interests of the whole municipality.

I thank my campaign team led by Simone Cresp. Simone has been assisted by several other Gateway people and I greatly appreciate their support and advice.

I have spent most of my life living in and/or working in what is now the City of Port Phillip and have fond memories of playing on Station and Princes Piers as a young lad while watching the steam trains shunting and ocean liners coming and going, of swimming at the various beaches between Port Melbourne and Elwood, of long social evenings at the old number one oval at Albert Park and at the Peanut Farm Reserve after football matches there. And one of my great claims to fame is being the only dad in my "new mothers group" at the Elwood Child and Maternal Health Centre about thirty years ago. For the past twenty years, since becoming principal at Port Melbourne Primary School, I've embedded myself in a wonderful local community and have been particularly active in many of the local sporting clubs.

I joined the Port Melbourne branch of the ALP as soon as I took on the job of local school principal and through the branch was fortunate enough to get to know and to work closely with some great local Councillors. I have been fortunate enough to work with Liana Thompson, Julian Hill and Janet Bolitho. Julian's daughter Elanor was a close friend of my daughter Louise from before they started Prep and I was delighted when Elanor was able to sign my preselection nomination form earlier this year. Through PMPS, I've been able to work very closely with our out-going Mayor, Bernadene Voss, and I acknowledge her work both as Gateway Ward Councillor and Mayor. Now that Bernadene has stepped aside from her municipal duties, she has taken on some of the roles that I have had on the Port Colts Juniors committee, and we will be seeking advice from each other about our new roles on a regular basis.

I strongly believe that Council has a very important role to play as an advocate for social justice and this includes support for a whole range of Council services such as aged care, social housing, early childhood and local libraries, as well as a commitment to playing a positive role in addressing climate change. I'm also very fiscally conservative and I look forward to monitoring the way that Council funds its various areas of operation and ensuring that the next budget addresses any inefficiencies that we can identify.

The City of Port Phillip is fortunate to have a Council that represents such a broad range of views on how this Council can best serve its community and this should lead to debates that result in the best outcomes for the City. I look forward to playing a significant role in this process."



Cr Marcus Pearl - Gateway Ward

"Thank you, it's an honour and a privilege to be re-elected as the Gateway ward Councillor and I thank the voters of Gateway ward sincerely and deeply for the trust that you've put in me to be your local representative, that is not something I take lightly, and it's a commitment and undertaking that I take seriously and whole heartedly. My family does that also, and all of us bear a big sacrifice over the next four years in particular that I don't think any of the nine people that you see in front of you here today would take lightly either.

Four years ago when I was first elected to Council it became fairly apparent during the election campaign process that I was a different style of candidate in terms of my politics obviously, but also somebody that had a young family and a full time position. Looking back on those days four years ago, it wasn't easy to integrate into a Council with that sort of background, but it was an interesting process to say the least but something I found quite humbling. When we got issued our passes four years ago to the Town Hall and the letter said you've got access to all three town halls and I had never been to the St Kilda Town Hall, so as soon as I got my pass delivered to me I used the pass that night at about eleven o'clock to go to the town halls and have a look. I don't think I've ever told this story to anyone, but I came into St Kilda Town Hall past midnight and I went upstairs into the St Kilda Room which is probably one of the most beautiful meeting rooms here. It was unlocked so I went and sat there and I felt in awe of the building, but also in awe of the sense of the responsibility that our community places on us.

These are important roles and we will walk in some respects in the footsteps of heroes that came before us, and we should always respect the people that came before us and made the decisions that gave us our community services that we have, that gave us the balance sheet that we have which is in comparison to other inner city Melbourne councils is very good. And we need to pay respect to those people. Two people I would like to pay respect to is one, the outgoing Mayor Bernadene Voss, she's now I think the longest standing Mayor and I think that is something that should be acknowledged. Also as Councillor Bond mentioned, is to Dick Gross who is the longest standing Councillor. Everyone has an opinion on Dick, the good the bad the ugly. Dick was a loyal servant to the City of Port Phillip and his perspectives, particularly on a number of issues regarding waste will be missed. I thank both former Councillors Voss and Gross for their service to the City.

I want to also thank my family, my wife Prudence, my daughter Clementine, my Father Michael, my Mother Suzanne and my parents-in-law, Heather and Neil for their support over the past four years and thank them in advance for the next four years and the babysitting. I couldn't be here without you.

The next four years of Council is going to present a number of opportunities based on the economic situation and the health crisis that we're currently facing. The one thing that burns bright in my mind at the moment is we reside over a very large local economy of \$14.4billion. 55% of that economy is small business people which is the engine for opportunity, the engine for growth and the engine for jobs, and this Council will be best serving those people when we get their views, opinions and ideas into the DNA of Council. I hope Councillors as we move to the process of our Council Plan, that we keep that front of mind as well as many of the other ideas and issues that you will bring to the table. For the next twelve months in particular, that is a constituent that perhaps we haven't focused on as much as we could have in the past that in the future really holds the keys to so many opportunities in our city.

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I don't question the motives of anyone that runs for Council. A lot of people do because they don't understand why we would do this, but I thank all of you for putting your hand up and I congratulate all of you for being elected. I particularly congratulate Councillor Martin and Councillor Cunsolo. We have a great constituency in Gateway ward and it is literally one of the greatest privileges and honours to serve those people and I am sure in two or three weeks from now you will understand a bit more what that means. Wishing you as a group of Councillors all the very, very best. I think this is the most representative Council that the City of Port Phillip has ever had in its history. There is a great breadth of talent and views here. It's now up to us as a group of community leaders to make sure we keep the ship steady and be respectful, but also deliver for what the people who voted us here to do and make sure we do that quickly, properly and as efficiently as humanly possible.

Congratulations Councillors and thank you once again to the people of Gateway ward."

Cr Rhonda Clark - Canal Ward

"It is a great privilege to sit here today having been sworn in as a Councillor for Canal ward. I nominated for the election as a candidate of the community group 'the Ratepayers of Port Phillip' (RoPP). I joined the group because of shared values and the need to inject a new voice into Council. I would like to thank the RoPP committee for their support for me as their candidate and all the RoPP subscribers and many friends across all of the local communities. It is an honour to represent you and everyone who lives in Canal ward and I look forward to helping all of you with whatever concerns or needs you have over the next four years.

The ratepayers values and hopes that I have for the next four years are to deliver community based decision making that reflects the needs of the residents. Having decisions of Council reflect how the community wants to live and not any political ideology. Affordable rates for all residents to make sure that it's sustainable for all people to be able to live in this great municipality.

Improved community safety and amenity for all of our restaurant and shopping precincts to bring people back to our great and famous streets like Acland Street, Carlisle Street, Fitzroy Street.

Support our traders in these challenging times with lower costs and drive improvements through listening to their suggestions. A focus on spending on the essential Council services that the community needs and ensure we can remove any duplication.

I also want to thank everyone who stood as a candidate for the Port Phillip election and ensured it was a robust process of democracy for our community. Congratulations to my fellow Councillors and I look forward to working with all of you.

I've lived in Canal ward for over fifteen years and I love this community, it's diversity and it's great attributes such as the beaches, the canal, parks, community markets, the shopping precincts and all the different villages. I hope to help shape and evolve our community over the next four years and improve the outcomes and essential services for all of the residents.

Finally, I would not be here today without the support of my husband Simon. It takes a team to run for election and the amount of unseen work and support he has given to me to enable me to focus on the election and also in the many months prior to the campaign has been



incredibly valuable. I have also been lucky enough to have the support of my two sisters Melissa and Bronwyn and both of my parents. It is very much appreciated.

Once again, thank you to everyone for the opportunity to be a Councillor at the City of Port Phillip and I will work hard to deliver for all of you.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MAYORAL AND DEPUTY MAYORAL TERM

Moved Crs Pearl/ Baxter

That Council:

- 1. Elects a Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
- 2. Determines the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be elected to serve a one year term.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

Councillor Martin nominated Councillor Crawford for the position of Mayor. Councillor Bond seconded the nomination.

As there were no other nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Crawford elected as Mayor.

Cr Crawford assumed the Chair and addressed the meeting.

Councillor Louise Crawford – Mayor

"Thank you to everyone, I'm really grateful to be elected by you my fellow Councillors as Mayor, and although I'm grateful I'm also ambitious for us as a group. We don't know each other very well yet and we will come to do that over the next four years, but there is one thing I do know, that we are all passionate enough about our community to step up to be Councillors.

I know we all come from very different perspectives, but we actually have a shared purpose and that is to serve our community and to do it well. To do it well that will require us to work collectively and creatively to respond to the needs of our community and also to enjoy the process.

As Mayor, I will ask three things of us as a group. As we build new foundations of the Council together shared goals. I ask you to be curious about other people's perspectives, their ideas, their solutions, and to seek out what we don't about ourselves and what we know that we don't know as this will keep us open to possibility.

I ask us all to be respectful. To consider our individual impacts on others as we discover the challenging issues as we make difficult decisions

And the third part that I ask of us all is to listen, to really listen with an open mind to our community to our offices and to each other.

On my part I make this commitment to you to be fair very firm but also empathetic. To keep us focused on what actually matters and to support you in whatever way I can. And also to keep us accountable.

To my community, I commit to being Mayor to the best of my abilities, to listen, to take on board anybody else's views, and to do it all with kindness. And right now, in the world, kindness is desperately needed.

If we all put our community first as we work together I know this Council will be able to deliver good outcomes for the City of Port Phillip. To keep the city inclusive, creative, supportive, sustainable and beautiful as we deal with the really big challenges ahead.

And finally I really want to thank everyone that helped and supported me during my campaign. I would not be sitting here right now in this position if it wasn't for all of your assistance. To those people I say thank you, and as I said to all the residents of Canal ward I'm very grateful.

Thank you."

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

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

Councillor Baxter nominated Councillor Pearl for the position of Mayor. Councillor Bond seconded the nomination.

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor Pearl elected Deputy Mayor and invited Cr Pearl to address the Gallery.

Councillor Marcus Pearl – Deputy Mayor

"We're all community leaders, but being the Mayor or Deputy Mayor comes with an extra degree of gravitas but also responsibility and care and I give you the undertaking Councillors that I don't take that lightly nor do I take my duties as a Councillor lightly, but I promise to you I will always be fair and impartial when I'm needed to be, to support the Mayor.

The job of the deputy Mayor as I see it, is to support the Mayor in whatever way she needs, and every Mayor will have a different array of needs based on a different array of circumstances based on what's happening at the City at any given point in time. Cr Crawford, I give you that commitment to be a loyal, open and honest deputy to yourself. The commitment remains the same to our wonderful community.

I don't take this position lightly. It's a huge honour and a privilege to serve as your Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

Thank you to the Councillors for putting this trust in me, I greatly appreciate it. And I wish Councillor Crawford the very best in her duties."



As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.17pm.	
Confirmed:	18 November 2020
Chairperson	