



# SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

## MINUTES

28 NOVEMBER 2018



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## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD 28 NOVEMBER 2018 IN ST KILDA TOWN HALL

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

### PRESENT

Cr Baxter, Cr Bond, Cr Brand, Cr Copsey, Cr Crawford, Cr Gross, Cr Pearl, Cr Simic, Cr Voss.

### IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Smith Chief Executive Officer, Lili Rosic General Manager City Strategy and Sustainable Development, Tony Keenan Interim General Manager Community and Economic Development, Fiona Blair General Manager Infrastructure and Amenity, Chris Carroll General Manager Customer and Corporate Services, Kylie Bennetts Director Office of the CEO.

## 1 WELCOME

The Chief Executive Officer, Peter Smith, welcomed Councillors and members of the Gallery to the meeting.

Mr Smith acknowledged Traditional Owners:

*Council respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut 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.*

## 2 APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON

The Chief Executive Officer facilitated the appointment of a Temporary Chairperson, in accordance with Part 4, Section 28 of the Council Meetings Procedure Law No 2/2009.

Cr Baxter nominated Cr Voss for the position of Temporary Chairperson for this meeting.

Cr Gross seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Cr Voss was declared the Temporary Chairperson.

## 3. APOLOGIES

Nil



#### 4. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

#### 5. OUTGOING MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ADDRESS

Outgoing Mayor, Cr Voss, addressed the Gallery:

*Thanks to my Family – Warren, also affectionately nicknamed the Stallion, because it can't always be about "the Mare (Mayor)" – you took to this new title with ease, as 'Mayoress' just didn't cut it for you, and I'm sure you would all agree, that nothing about him says Mayoress. You have been mostly supportive, and only sometimes getting a bit hot under the collar when you didn't agree with directions that you thought I was going in. But nothing can thank you enough for your love and help, especially at home with our shared responsibilities. You have had the lions share. I am truly grateful that you have always backed me.*

*To my three children, Lachlan, Caitlin and Eliza, you are all growing into amazing teenagers and you've had the wonderful benefit of seeing things with a Local Government lens on and being engaged in our wonderful community. I hope you see the time I have had as Mayor as a role model for what you can achieve. Thank you for the unconditional warm hugs and kisses and love. You are my inspiration.*

*And now to my staff, Sam, Marisa and Mary – Always, you are a wonder. But I wanted to pay special tribute to Sam, a very special call out to you. You have made my life so simple and easy, anticipating what I will do or say, making sure I am prepared and making sure that the office of Mayor continues to be respected. Nothing is too much and you take on each task with speed and agility. I have enjoyed working with you and you are the best!*

*Now to Sandra - my media advisor, and so much more. You have become my friend and my confidant and have helped me navigate so many situations with diplomacy. I am forever grateful for our conversations, the trust and the many times that you have been the ear to my concerns, whether at 6am or 10pm. I have always been able to rely on you. Thank you very much.*

*CEO and the Executive – an incredibly professional and collaborative team that is always respectful and prepared to answer probing and important questions. Thank you for working with me, I have enjoyed the challenges and being in the hot seat for those difficult situations that arise from time to time. And generally all the staff at the City of Port Phillip – you create a beautiful place to work, and you deliver a well loved place to live and I am appreciative of everyone's part to deliver on the council plan.*

*And of course, I say thank you to my beautiful community –each and every one of you. You have all had a part to play and I have loved serving you as Mayor. I am really proud to be now named as Mayor Emeritus and will certainly continue to serve my Council going forward.*

*I am actually really sad to be stepping down, as part of me feels like I am letting down my community. Stupid to say that, but over a period of time being Mayor I have ensured that*



*our whole municipality is represented fiercely and equally and I encourage the next Mayor to do the same.*

*I am proud of the inclusive and respectful approach we have taken to our decision making and problem solving.*

*I am proud of the collaborative approach with State agencies we have developed. Building strategic partnership has been a key focus for me and I will leave this position knowing that the foundations are rock solid. And I really wanted to thank all that have helped with turning all these relationships around, I am truly thankful.*

*But I am nervous and I am worried as I pass the huge weight from my shoulders to the next. I will miss the regular meetings with our State politicians and senior bureaucrats to advocate and negotiate on behalf of our community – and I'm really pleased to say 10 of our 11 election advocacy items to the State Government will be realised.*

*I'll miss solving problems and I'll miss working hard on behalf of this Council and ensuring each and every voice across our whole municipality is represented in everything I do. I love our community and by stepping down I do feel torn. However, it is time and I have made the promise to my family. I have been out nearly every single night for the last three years, but that was my choice, and I have loved every single minute of it, but it did make it hard on my family.*

*To Deputy Mayor Dick, thank you for all your support, your advice and willingness to help out when called upon. You never fail to remind us all of our past and that we can never kill a Council service.*

*Andrew, thanks for your focus on our business community, it's terrific how you always bring their perspective into our conversations.*

*Louise, your passion for everything you do shines through. You are thoughtful and generous and always prepared to fight for what you think is right.*

*Ogy, juggling a new baby, and a new business has seen you on a steep learning curve which you have taken all the challenges in your stride.*

*Marcus, your ability to ensure you make it to all community meetings and engage with the community is a credit to you. I wouldn't be surprised if you have now met every single person in our community at least a couple of times.*

*Tim, I've got to know your kind, intelligent and fiery character, that has a thirst for knowledge and the capacity to be a terrific team leader.*

*Katherine, I wanted to thank you for always being on the ready to help, your astute wit, intellect and kindness make you a very caring politician.*

*David, always considering very deeply each and every issue as though your life depends upon it. Thank you for ensuring we all give due thought to our decisions.*

*I continue to be encouraged by this team's braveness and how committed it is to good strong values such as integrity, respect and collaboration and to behaviours, such as*



*being accountable, prepared, honest, objective, and focused as a team. These values and behaviours are shaping our culture and foster a confident and productive Council: a high performing Council that is skilled and attuned to our community and our great city.*

*Thank you Councillors for your trust and support over these past couple of years, we have grown together and we constantly hold each other to account to ensure our community gets the best version of ourselves.*

*I am looking forward to continuing the privilege and honour of serving my community every day. Thank you.*

The Chief Executive Officer, Peter Smith, acknowledged the outgoing Mayor's strong leadership and highlighted some of her achievements while in office. Mr Smith thanked Councillor Voss for her dedicated service as Mayor, and presented her with flowers and a gift on behalf of the City of Port Phillip.

Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Cr Gross, addressed the Gallery:

*Madam Mayor, Mr CEO, Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I am only going to talk about the outgoing Mayor.*

*Madam Mayor, I think you have played an absolute blinder. You have a strong, encyclopaedic knowledge of the community. It's been a great year. And, there's been no greater measure of this than the fact that we got together and said we want to get eleven things out of this election process, and we got ten, with a nod and a wink about the eleventh.*

*It's always a controversy when you appoint a Mayor and I know this time last year I thought in the end the most outstanding thing that you could bring to the City is to be the Mayor in the difficult time of being in an election and I think that was correct.*

*I'd just like to say, whoever replaces you has huge shoes to fill. I still think of you as Madam Mayor even though it's an anachronism from 6am this morning. I think you should have nothing but pride, look who knows what will happen in the future, I suspect you may return someday to this role and the City would only benefit from that.*

*I took the view when I was appointed Deputy that the Mayoralty is one unit and that my job was to sort of support the Mayoralty. Even though everyone on this Council has had ferocious disagreements over policy at some point in time I think that we've worked well, and you made it easy to work as part of a unit. I particularly look forward to seeing your contribution as the next two years of this Council play out. So mazel tov, congratulations - the rest is well deserved, enjoy it.*

Councillor Voss, as the outgoing Mayor, thanked Councillor Gross for his service as Deputy Mayor, and presented him with a gift on behalf of the City of Port Phillip.



## 6. TERM OF MAYORAL OFFICE

In accordance with Section 71 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989, before a Mayor is elected, the Council may resolve to elect a Mayor for a term of 2 years.

No motion was moved, therefore the Mayoral term defaults to one year.

## 7. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Temporary Chairperson, Cr Voss, called for nominations for the position of Mayor in accordance with Section 71 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Part 4, Section 28 of the Council Meeting Procedure Local Law No 2/2009.

Cr Crawford nominated Cr Gross for the position of Mayor. Cr Gross accepted the nomination.

Cr Bond seconded the nomination.

The Temporary Chairperson, Cr Voss, called for further nominations. As there were no further nominations, Cr Gross was declared elected to the position of Mayor.

The Temporary Chairperson, Cr Voss, vacated the chair at 5.48pm.

The newly elected Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, Cr Dick Gross, assumed the Chair at 5.48pm and addressed the Gallery:

*This is an important moment for me personally. It's fourteen years since I occupied this chair, and in that time I've managed go from Mayor, to pariah, and now back again. The journey from pariah to Mayor is a circuitous one, but one that you learn from through the warp and weave of life.*

*I am incredibly grateful to my colleagues for putting me back here. After the fourteen long dark years of Mayoral prohibition, I can say it's good to be back and I do feel like a phoenix. But whilst I mention my colleagues, I do have to say a couple of things. The first is that universally we are a very high calibre Council. It's often better to be surrounded by morons but I am not in this situation.*

*Starting with Tim: smart, occasionally obnoxious, never nice to me but a fantastic colleague in the swampy ward. Louise, an enthusiastic great addition to this community. I have spoken about the former Mayor Bernadene, you will be impossible to serve after. You have left big shoes to fill and I am absolutely as terrified as I am flattered. Marcus, you know we love each other. You are incredibly smart, you've got skills in financial matters that are desperately needed by every organisation but particularly a local government one. And my special Ogy, the Serbian. As soon as I heard you were Serbian it made a difference to me because of the alliance in the Second World War. I think we will spend a lot of time together and I have really valued the partnership on some of those difficult social issues about which you are so passionate and have been such a leader on. From pill testing to Adani, an important aspect of this Council. And I say the same about you, Comrade Katherine, that you too have been not only ferociously intelligent but great on*



*those social issues and really imbedding the consciousness back to this Council. Andrew, you have had a really busy time in the past few months. You are a great Councillor. You've got this extraordinary knowledge of the map of Port Phillip. You know all of the strategic planning documents by heart, you follow up ferociously, you understand what the community wants in terms of basic services. I think you are a great Councillor. David, I know for me to say something nice about David really means I sound obsequious, but you are a very deep thinker, we all know that. You are the go to guy on issues to do with culture, heritage, design and building – we would be lost without you. You are appropriately know as the award winning Councillor.*

*The only other thing I do want to say is, there is a four year cycle with Councils. The first year is a really tough year. You've got all these strangers who've found themselves on Council and you have to craft the team, you have to lead the Council Plan and thank god we had Councillor Voss to step up and do that. The second year is also really difficult because there are major strategic initiatives on transport, waste, environment and water management, and these have been completed. Also, this was an electoral year, and I actually think it's a good thing that Councillors stand for parliamentary public office because I believe there is a system whereby we have to give politicians the chance to have experience in other tiers of government and grow into higher parliamentary office. I don't resent anyone running for public office, but what it does mean is that we have policy and ideological differences and they are sharpened when we play in other spheres and so we had to manage that, and Cr Voss I think you managed that pragmatically and well.*

*So the first and second year are out of the way, and the third year is actually the easiest year, this is the year you can actually experiment with the Mayor. It's all about taking those strategic documents and trying to stop thinking and start doing, and I am looking forward to that. I just have to remind everyone that this Council has already done a lot. We've done one and a half life saving clubs, we've done something that's never been done in my fifteen years in public office which is build a new park. So we are actually getting lots of things done. There's been an epoch making vertical school that's been built. Obviously a State government responsibility, but our hands and fingerprints and pawprints are all over it. So, you can look all throughout the municipality and see immense achievement. And outside the municipalilty theres been achievements so I think we can all look back at the first two years and say we want to do more, but stuff has been done. It's a time of consolidation and implementation, and hopefully it is a less controversial year where we can tolerate a Mayor of less orthodox than is typical in the sector.*

*I want to also say a few thank-yous. I too want to thank my family who helped me get here. Simon Kosmer, who is the master of the sinister arts of political manipulation, floodwatch being just one part of it. People who you don't know, my campaign directors, Danny Meadows and Bill Forrest. I definitely want to thank the CEO and our Officers. I have a congenital disposition to fall in love with my CEO's, but I promise I will try and temper that and be more objective.*

*I will finish now, but I would like to thank you all again for electing me to this auspicious position.*



## 8. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor, Cr Gross, called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor in accordance with Part 4, Section 28 of the Council Meeting Procedure Local Law No 2/2009.

Cr Bond nominated Cr Crawford for the position of Deputy Mayor. Cr Crawford accepted the nomination.

Cr Pearl seconded the nomination.

The Mayor, Cr Gross, called for any further nominations. As there were no further nominations, Cr Crawford was declared elected to the position of Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Crawford, addressed the Gallery:

*There are just three quick things for me to mention - thank you to my fellow Councillors. I said in our meeting today that any of us could do a good job as Deputy Mayor in our own way and so I feel privileged to have the opportunity to take that on and I thank you.*

*I texted my family before because I forgot we livestream, my family is in Queensland so I don't know if they are watching, but hopefully they can watch back. I remember when I was aged 12 I said I wanted to be a teacher or Prime Minister - and I think Deputy Mayor of the City of Port Phillip is pretty good!*

*I just want to say I am looking forward to learning, probably making mistakes too and learning from them, and hopefully the key thing that I am passionate about, other than supporting the Mayor and everybody else in this capacity and delivering for our community, is trying to find that way of communicating with the wider community. I just don't think that we always cut through. How do we make politics and local Council more accessible to the wider community, because it is really important to have their views and their participation. So that's going to be my main focus in this year other than supporting in the wider role as Deputy Mayor. Thank you very much everyone.*

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance, and invited members of the gallery to join Councillors for refreshments.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 6.01pm

Confirmed: 5 December 2018

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_