

**City of Kingston  
Special (Statutory) Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**3 December 2009**

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Minutes of the City of Kingston Special (Statutory) Council Meeting held at 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham, on Thursday, 3 December 2009 at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Athanasopoulos  
Councillor Bauer  
Councillor Brownlees  
Councillor Dundas  
Councillor Peulich  
Councillor Ronke  
Councillor Shewan  
Councillor Staikos  
Councillor West OAM

**In Attendance:** John Nevins - Chief Executive Officer  
Mauro Bolin - General Manager Community Sustainability  
Paul Franklin - General Manager Corporate Services  
Tony Rijs - General Manager Environmental Sustainability  
Elaine Sowerby - General Manager Organisational Development and Governance  
Sue Braddy - Acting Manager Communications and Promotions  
Michael Fry – Team Leader Council Business

The Chief Executive Officer, John Nevins, opened the meeting at 7.03pm and welcomed the presence in the public gallery of the Junior Mayor, Lachlan Bourne, former Mayors and Councillors of the City of Kingston, Village Committee Chairpersons, Inga Peulich MLC, member for the South Eastern Metropolitan Region, Judith Graley MLA, member for Narre Warren South, distinguished guests, friends and family of the Councillors, plus members of the public.

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Disclosures of any Conflicts of Interest**

There were no disclosures.

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**3. Nomination of Acting Chairperson**

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for an acting Chairperson.

Cr Athanasopoulos nominated Cr Brownlees to be the acting Chairperson. Cr Athanasopoulos' motion was seconded by Cr Bauer. There being no further nominations, Cr Brownlees assumed the Chair.

**4. Address by Cr Athanasopoulos - Mayor 2008/09**

Cr Athanasopoulos addressed the meeting, reflecting on his pride at Council's achievements during his term as Mayor. Cr Athanasopoulos thanked his Councillor colleagues, the Chief Executive Officer and officers, and his family for their support..

**5. Expression of Appreciation to Cr Athanasopoulos**

Cr West OAM, on behalf of all Councillors, paid tribute to the efforts of the former Mayor, Cr Athanasopoulos.

**6. Election of Mayor 2008/09**

The acting Chairperson, Cr Brownlees, requested the Chief Executive Officer, John Nevins, to conduct the election of Mayor for 2009/10. The Chief Executive Officer invited nominations for the office of Mayor for the 2009/10 year.

Cr Athanasopoulos nominated Cr Staikos, and Cr Staikos accepted the nomination.

Upon establishing that there were no other nominations, the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Council's Meeting Procedures Local Law No 7, declared Cr Staikos elected to the office of Mayor for the 2009/10 year.

The Chief Executive Officer invited the immediate past Mayor, Cr Athanasopoulos, to place the Mayoral Chains on the newly elected Mayor, Cr Staikos.

The Mayor, Cr Staikos, assumed the Chair and Cr Brownlees returned to his usual seat.

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**7. Address by Newly Elected Mayor**

The Mayor, Cr Staikos, proceeded to address the meeting, expressing his thanks to his family and supporters. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the endorsement of his fellow Councillors. The Mayor acknowledged the Chief Executive and staff for their work to date, and outlined his intended approach for the forthcoming year. A copy of the Mayor's address is attached to these minutes.

**8. Expressions of Congratulations to Newly Elected Mayor**

All Councillors in turn congratulated the Mayor on his election, and expressed their support and best wishes.

The Mayor, Cr Staikos, thanked his fellow Councillors for their words of congratulations and support.

The Mayor, Cr Staikos, took this opportunity, on behalf of Council, to present a token of appreciation to the former Mayor Cr Athanasopoulos, and his partner Lucy Athanasopoulos for their efforts over the previous year.

**9. Election of Deputy Mayor 2008/09**

The Mayor, Cr Staikos, requested the Chief Executive Officer, John Nevins, to conduct the election of Deputy Mayor for 2009/10. The Chief Executive Officer invited nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor for the 2009/10 year.

Cr Peulich nominated Cr Bauer, and Cr Bauer accepted the nomination.

Upon establishing that there were no other nominations, the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Council's Meeting Procedures Local Law No 7, declared Cr Bauer elected to the office of Deputy Mayor for the 2009/10 year.

**10. Address by Newly Elected Deputy Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Bauer, proceeded to address the meeting, expressing her thanks and appreciation to her fellow Councillors for her endorsement as Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor advised that she was proud of the Council's accomplishments over the previous year and looked forward to further achievements during the forthcoming year.

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**11. Expression of Congratulations to Newly Elected deputy Mayor**

The Mayor, Cr Staikos, on behalf of himself and all Councillors, congratulated the Deputy Mayor on her election, and expressed his appreciation of Cr Bauer's energetic involvement in a range of diverse interests, highlighting her involvement in the Chelsea Community Renewal project.

**12. Appointment of Councillors to Committees and Organisations**

The Mayor advised the next order of business would be the appointment of Councillors to Committees.

**Crs West/Dundas**

That the Councillor appointments to various Committees and Organisations be deferred to the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled to be held on Monday, 14 December 2009.

**Carried**

**13. Setting of Ordinary Council Meeting Timetable**

The Mayor advised the next order of business would be the setting of the Ordinary Council Meeting timetable for 2010.

**Crs Ronke/Shewan**

That Ordinary Council Meetings for 2010 be held at 7.00pm at the City of Kingston Offices, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham, on the dates set out below:

- Monday 8 February
- Monday 22 February
- Monday 22 March
- Tuesday 27 April
- Monday 24 May
- Monday 28 June
- Monday 26 July
- Monday 23 August
- Monday 27 September
- Monday 25 October
- Monday 22 November
- Monday 13 December"

**Carried**

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**14. Setting of Time Limits for Ordinary Meetings**

The Mayor advised the next order of business would be the setting of time limits for the Ordinary Council Meetings for 2010.

**Crs Shewan/Bauer**

That the present time limit of 3 hours for Ordinary Council Meetings (with scope for extension by Council resolution if required) be confirmed.

**Carried**

**15. Reception for Councillors/Guests**

The Mayor invited Councillors, guests and members of the gallery to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Oakleigh Room for a reception.

The meeting closed at 7.57pm following consideration of this item.

**Confirmed.....His Worship The Mayor 14 December 2009.**

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**Address: Mayor Cr Steve Staikos**

On behalf of my fellow Councillors I wish to welcome everyone and thank you for joining us this evening.

Firstly, I would like to convey my thanks to Councillor Athanasopoulos for an excellent year as Mayor. You have served Kinston with distinction and dedication, and I am delighted to serve on Council with you. Your year has been marked by your inclusive style in building a resilient team, that recognises our differences of opinion mean we can thoroughly debate all issues, sometimes at nauseam, but I think this has strengthened our local democracy here in Kinston.

Twelve months ago, this new Council was elected; Kinston's voters selected a fresh, newly revitalised group, with experience, commitment, and energy. It has been a pleasure to serve the community along side Arthur, Paul, Ron, Rosemary, Lew, Donna, John and Trev, over the past twelve months, please indulge my informality on this occasion.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the community; my fellow Councillors; and the organization – as Mayor – in the coming year.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible dedication and commitment of our Chief Executive Officer, John Nevins, our senior officers and their wonderful staff who deliver our many vital services to the community.

Recently, I celebrated my 26<sup>th</sup> birthday with my family and friends, some of whom are here this evening, and I take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and your patience.

In particular I would like to thank my parents. Mum and Dad, I love you and would not be here today without you. Through your hard work and sacrifice you gave me the opportunities you never had, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

I must admit that I haven't always followed my father's instruction and my mother's teachings – but my parents gave me a foundation of ethics and morals that give me a great sense of strength.

*We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other. If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you.*

I was also blessed to have grown up with my brothers and sister in Clayton and Clarinda – surrounded by many wonderful young families who came to the area to build a new home and a better life.

When I attended Clarinda Primary School I learned the importance of a harmonious, united community, which respects this land, values the heritage of our indigenous

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brothers and sisters – along with the many people who have come across the seas, and to strive for a society which provides justice and equity for all.

My deep commitment to social justice was reinforced at St Bede's Catholic Secondary College in Mentone, where I completed my secondary education.

My time in the Arts department at La Trobe University and the Education faculty at the University of Melbourne, taught me to question everything, get involved, stand up for what is right, and made me who I am today.

*Throughout life, I have learned silence from the talkative, to tolerate from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind.*

Learning is something that happens outside the classroom too. For me, working at the local supermarket throughout my studies was an opportunity to develop my personal skills with many people. I still can't walk through the store without being stopped by someone for a chat – *but they don't ask me which isle the quince paste is in anymore.*

Over the past few years, I have also had the privilege to work for two amazing MPs; Tim Holding and Judith Graley. Their devotion to their constituents has inspired me.

Starting this new exciting role I would like to reaffirm my commitment to Council and to the community. I will be a full time Mayor and will undertake my duties in the best interests of the people of Kinston. I aim to be a collaborative, focused and hard working Mayor and to work with all my fellow Councillors to achieve our common goals.

*I believe the most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them.*

Over the coming year I will endeavour to maintain Council's focus on stopping inappropriate development in our Green Wedge – and working with the State Government on the long awaited promise of the 'chain of parks'; preparing for the effects of climate change, planning the future of our foreshore and infrastructure; and being prepared for sea level rises.

A critically important issue we will face as a Council in the next several months, is to determine a permanent home for our city offices; and continuing Council's focus on supporting diverse communities – the arts – and addressing the needs of Kingston's ageing population, youth and families.

All this, whilst continuing to deliver over 100 services to our residents.

I am extremely honoured to have been entrusted with this responsibility, and I'm excited about playing a leadership role in guiding the decision making process for the future of our wonderful City.

Thank you.