

Minutes

Council (Statutory) Meeting

Wednesday, 8th November 2023



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

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The meeting commenced at 7.01pm in the Council Chamber, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham.

Present: Cr Tamsin Bearsley
Cr Tim Cochrane (attended online)
Cr Jenna Davey-Burns
Cr Tracey Davies
Cr David Eden
Cr Chris Hill
Cr Cameron Howe
Cr George Hua
Cr Georgina Oxley
Cr Hadi Saab
Cr Steve Staikos

In Attendance: Peter Bean, Chief Executive Officer
Jonathan Guttman, General Manager Planning and Place
Dan Hogan, General Manager Customer and Corporate Support
Samantha Krull, General Manager Infrastructure and Open Space
Sally Jones, General Manager Community Strengthening
Bernard Rohan, Chief Financial Officer
Kelly Shacklock, Manager Governance, Risk and Integrity
Stephanie O’Gorman, Team Leader Council Governance
Patrick O’Gorman, Governance Officer
Gabrielle Pattenden, Governance Officer

1. Apologies

There were no apologies submitted to the meeting.

2. Foreshadowed Declaration by Councillors, Officers or Contractors of any Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest submitted to the meeting.

5. Office and Term of Mayor

Moved: Cr Saab

Seconded: Cr Davies

That the term of the Mayor be for a one year term.

CARRIED

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6. Office and Term of Deputy Mayor

Moved: Cr Hill

Seconded: Cr Saab

That Council establish the Office of Deputy Mayor for a one year term.

CARRIED

Address by the Outgoing Mayor

Cr Saab reflected on his term as Mayor in 2022/23.

Expressions of Appreciation to the Outgoing Mayor

Cr Staikos expressed appreciation to the Outgoing Mayor and congratulated him on his achievements for 2022/23.

Short Statement by the Outgoing Deputy Mayor

Cr Hill reflected on his term as Mayor in 2022/23.

Expression of Appreciation to the Outgoing Deputy Mayor

Cr Bearsley expressed appreciation to the Outgoing Deputy Mayor and congratulated him on his achievements for 2022/23.

5. Election of the Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer invited nominations for the office of the Mayor for 2023/24.

Cr Staikos nominated Cr Davey-Burns and Cr Davey-Burns accepted the nomination.

Cr Eden nominated Cr Oxley and Cr Oxley accepted the nomination.

Moved: Cr Eden

Seconded: Cr Oxley

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow candidates to speak to their nomination prior to the vote being held and to allow Councillors who may wish to speak to their nominations to do so.

Moved: Cr Davies

Seconded: Cr Saab

That the Motion now be put.

CARRIED

A Division was Called:

DIVISION:

FOR: Crs Staikos, Davey-Burns, Bearsley, Cochrane, Davies, Hill, Howe, Hua and Saab (9)

AGAINST: Crs Eden and Oxley (2)

CARRIED

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The Motion was put and LOST

A Division was Called:

DIVISION:

FOR: Crs Eden, Howe, Hua and Oxley (4)

AGAINST: Crs Staikos, Davey-Burns, Bearsley, Cochrane, Davies, Hill and Saab (7)

LOST

The Chief Executive Officer conducted the election by a show of hands.

The Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Davey-Burns elected as Mayor for 2023/24.

Address by Newly Elected Mayor

The Mayor addressed the meeting stating her aspirations for the coming year. A copy of the Mayor's speech is attached to these Minutes.

Expressions of Congratulations to Newly Elected Mayor

Cr Staikos congratulated the Mayor on her election.

6. Election of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

Cr Bearsley nominated Cr Davies and Cr Davies accepted the nomination.

Cr Eden nominated Cr Oxley and Cr Oxley accepted the nomination.

Moved: Cr Oxley

Seconded: Cr Eden

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow for nominated Councillors to speak to their nomination.

Moved: Cr Davies

Seconded Cr Bearsley

That the Motion now be put.

CARRIED

The Motion was put and LOST

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The Mayor conducted the election by a show of hands.

The Mayor declared Cr Davies elected as Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

Statement by Newly Elected Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor addressed the meeting stating her aspirations for the coming year.

Expressions of Congratulations to Newly Elected Deputy Mayor

Cr Bearsley congratulated the Deputy Mayor on her election.

7 Councillor Appointments to Committees and Organisations 2023/24

Moved: Cr Hua

Seconded: Cr Staikos

That Council determine the appointments to committees and organisations:

Legislative Committees	2024 Appointee/s
Planning Committee	All Councillors
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor Cr Oxley Cr Saab (alternate)
Internal Committees/Organisations	2024 Appointee/s
Governance and Policy Committee	Mayor Cr Davey-Burns Cr Hill Cr Oxley Cr Saab Cr Staikos
CEO Employment Matters Committee	Mayor Deputy Mayor Cr Davey-Burns Cr Davies Cr Oxley Cr Saab
Advisory Committees	2024 Appointee/s
Access and Equity	Cr Oxley
Arts and Culture	Cr Howe Cr Saab Cr Hill
Business and Economic Development	Cr Cochrane Cr Hua Cr Oxley
Community Safety	Cr Staikos Cr Cochrane
Environment and Open Spaces	Cr Oxley Cr Saab
Active Kingston	Cr Davies Cr Hill

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Youth (12-17 years old)	Cr Oxley Cr Hill
Youth (18-25 years old)	Cr Oxley Cr Hill
Consultative Committees	2024 Appointee/s
LF Payne Hall Usage Committee	<i>Discontinued</i>
Kingston Charitable Fund (KCF) Community Grants Panel	Mayor Cr Saab Cr Oxley (alternate)
Kingston Interfaith Network	Cr Saab
Kingston Historic Network	Cr Hill Cr Staikos Cr Bearsley
External Committees/Organisations	2024 Appointee/s
Association of Bayside Municipalities	Cr Davey-Burns
Metropolitan South Eastern Region MAV Representatives and Mayors	Mayor Cr Staikos Cr Saab (alternate)
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Davey-Burns Cr Saab (alternate)
Moorabbin Airport Consultative Committee	Cr Davies Cr Staikos (alternate)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Staikos Mayor (alternate)
Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM)	Mayor Cr Oxley (alternate)
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)	Cr Davey-Burns Cr Hill Cr Saab (alternate)
Victorian Local Governance Association	Mayor Cr Staikos (alternate)
Local Government Mayoral Taskforce supporting people seeking asylum	Mayor Cr Saab

CARRIED

8 2024 Council Meeting Dates

Moved: Cr Staikos

Seconded: Cr Saab

That Council set the following dates for Ordinary Council Meetings and Planning Committee Meetings for 2024 to be held at 7.00pm at the City of Kingston Offices, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham:

Scheduled Ordinary Council Meetings

Monday 29 January
Monday 26 February
Monday 25 March
Monday 22 April
Monday 27 May
Monday 24 June

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Monday 22 July
Monday 26 August
Monday 23 September
Monday 21 October
Monday 25 November
Monday 16 December

Planning Committee Meetings

Wednesday 21 February
Wednesday 20 March
Wednesday 17 April
Wednesday 22 May
Wednesday 19 June
Wednesday 17 July
Wednesday 21 August
Wednesday 18 September
No Planning Committee in October to account for election period
Wednesday 27 November
Wednesday 18 December

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 8.39pm.

Confirmed.....

The Mayor 20 November 2023

Address by Newly Elected Mayor

There is a moment in time I can point to, the moment when I knew without a doubt that I wanted to be part of this Council. It was September in 2019. I had been a respite foster carer for three children every month for two years. We were trialling something different, preventative care, where I supported a young Aboriginal mother to raise her three and break the cycle of intergenerational child removal.

Until one weekend when their mum become unwell and I became a full time carer overnight. That's when I met Kim. I had been desperately calling service after service to find kinder and school holiday placements for my foster kids. I was at my wits end and in tears. I rang Council, desperate. I spoke with Kim. She listened. And then she acted, changing my life that day and the 15 months that followed whilst the kids were in my care full time. Kim found us a placement at Kingston school holiday program in Moorabbin for the two older kids and a family day care with the wonderful Mieko in Mentone.

The power of a Council staff member to literally change someone's life is not lost on me. I still remember to this day what it felt like. And I knew I wanted to be a part of that. To contribute back to this community. To make positive change every day for other people.

So as I sit here tonight, deeply humbled and truly privileged to be elected as the 28th Mayor of this city, I want to begin with a heartfelt acknowledgment of Country.

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bunurong and Boonwurrung people who have lived and loved this country through the vastness of time. I pay my respects to the Elders and ancestors who are the safekeepers and caretakers of the oldest living culture on the planet. Across every generation Elders have and continue to play role in guiding community. I ground myself in the knowledge that Aboriginal people have gathering for ceremony for thousands of years and footsteps and stories are deeply embedded in this land. I pay respects to all First Nations people present with us tonight and recognise that sovereignty of this land was never ceded.

I have been very privileged to work in Aboriginal Health and law. I thank the Chief Aboriginal Health Adviser Nicole McCartney for her support and to Uncle Bes who is no longer with us, but who generously shared knowledge with me.

There are many other special people I would like to thank.

Because whilst moments like tonight come from years of hard work, commitment and determination, most importantly, they come from teamwork and the generosity of others.

Earlier this year, I took another big step up and put my hand to play competition netball with Highett Football Netball club. I had never played with a sporting club and wanted to get a sense of what it is like. Whilst it turns out I am absolutely terrible at netball, the legends at the club embraced me and welcomed me into their community with open arms. I became Chief cheerleader and was so proud cheering the girls on to their grand final win.

I learnt a lot about teamwork from Highett. About pulling together in the same direction. Backing your mates when they need you. Making sure you communicate. Celebrating the wins and the hard days too.

When I look around the room at this team, I know we have something special here. A group of people, Councillors and staff alike, who are passionate, dedicated and unwavering in putting our community first. Just like all our incredible sporting clubs across Kingston, we value teamwork, hard work and staying focussed on the goal.

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So To Council staff, we wouldn't be the most incredible municipality to live in if it weren't for you. I know how hard you work, how this job matters because you care so deeply and you are invested in building a brighter future for our beautiful city. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To our CEO, Executive and Senior leadership team, thank you for always going above and beyond. We have achieved so much together in the last three years and I know this final year will exceed expectations because of the excellence of your leadership.

To my fellow Councillors:

Thank you Steve for nominating me this evening, it truly is an honour. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to gender equity and your wisdom. I am truly so lucky to have you as a mentor and colleague.

To Hadi, for your kindness, humour and the way you make every single person you meet feel so special. I am proud to serve as Mayor after you and am grateful for your support.

Chris, for always being there for the team with quiet and reassuring determination...and occasional dad joke. You have been a wonderful deputy Mayor, thank you.

Tamsin, for your compassion and ability to bring considered and unique perspectives with your curiosity. I greatly value your insights.

To Tim for serving so selflessly in emergency services and for being part of this team, fitting it all in somehow.

To Georgina for your commitment to good governance and to Cam, for your passion for the arts.

To David and George, for your contributions and insights as small business owners.

Finally, thank you to Tracey. You bring such integrity and rigour to this Council and do it with the most incredible generosity and compassion.

Serving alongside you for this final year is a great honour and I am so proud to announce that tonight, we have made history.

In the 30 years since Kingston was formed there have been only been 5 female Mayors serving just 9 of the 28 years guiding this city.

And until tonight, there has never been a female Mayor and Deputy Mayor team.

Moments like this matter. Representation matters. Because we know women are still disproportionately carrying caring responsibilities, earning less in both salary and super.

And despite unwavering efforts by many of us, including the five years I was privileged to work alongside fierce advocates in family violence prevention, women and girls in Victoria still experience gendered violence. And we still have not achieved equal representation in all levels of government, or stopped trolling and abuse of women in politics, like the esteemed Dr Meghan Hopper, who I sit with on the Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust, has been stridently advocating for.

Which is why the Pathways to Politics program by the Trawalla Foundation and melb uni is making such a difference.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be an alumni of Pathways where I met amazing women like Crystal, Sam, Farhat, Sally, Binda and Bronwyn who are an integral part of my Council journey.

Recognising other incredible women in the room whose leadership inspires – Cr Sarah Race, Cr Despi O'Connor, Mayor Tammy Radford and Cr Susanne Newton. And allies like Cr Theo Zographos.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Meredith Martin and Carol Schwartz for believing in me, building upon the opportunity given to me by Eric Federing to spend three months as an intern in the US House of Representatives in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

A Heartfelt thanks to my Pathways mentor Lord Mayor Sally Capp and to Ruth McGowan for your coaching program – your wise words and support set me up for success.

I'm here today thanks to both you. A strong, bold and grounded leader.

Enormous thanks also to Georgie Purcell MP for Northern Victoria who I mentored through Pathways and for the advocacy we have been doing together on women's representation in politics.

Of course all of this is possible because of two incredibly strong women in my life – my mum and grandma. My mum continues to inspire me with her courage - recently she had her first exhibition with the wonderful Clarinda Clayworkers battling nerves and showing me how to do things that scare you but help you grow. Art is such an important form of expression for humanity.

Grandma, or more affectionately known as Cora the Explorer due to her love of solo travel around the world in her late 50s, gifted me more than I have time to share with you. Suffice to say that without grandma, I wouldn't have had security of housing growing up or the opportunity to spend a year on exchange in Italy.

Vorrei ringraziare la mia famiglia Italiana, della citta del mio cuore, Caserta, per tutto affetto e sostegno da 1998. Grazie anche a voi per le lezione e saggezza della vostra bella cultura.

Up until a year before Cora's passing in 2020 at age 98 we lived together – at one point when my foster kids lived with us we had four generations under one roof.

With grandmas compost bin for the veggie patch, mums makeshift art studio and my wonderful little brother and I squeezing in yoga mats and rock climbing gear it has been a home full of love.

That love has been expanded by the Knight family who have adopted me and cared for me during the ups and downs of being a foster carer and great neighbours Gab, Shaun, Cuby, Jase, Sam, Vicki.

Intergenerational living is foundational and a blueprint for my leadership.

When I think about the issues some in our community are facing – cost of living pressures, social isolation, rising homelessness, housing affordability and devastating climate change, I know many of us feel overwhelmed.

I believe that the answers to these challenges are right here, in the room, in this community, with us.

We have it in us to solve these problems and to overcome the hardships, together.

I will never forget the 18 months I spent working with survivors of Black Saturday across Kinglake, Marysville and places further away like Bendigo, where I was born and lived with my wonderful older brother Dr Burns and his ground breaking work in counter terrorism.

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It was working across Victoria on bushfire recovery where I witnessed firsthand the devastation that climate change is wreaking – the loss of life, animals, homes, businesses and community remains deeply etched in my heart.

With nature loving people on both sides of my family, and a big shout out to my Fanow in Ow-tearoa, I am deeply committed to climate action.

To do everything we can as a community: transitioning to renewable energy, creating safe cycle paths and planting urban farms like the wonderful Mariam Issa at the RAW Garden.

Upstairs you will find a small personal gift from Cr Davies and I which we purchased from the lovely team at the Carrum Indigenous nursery. Plant kindness and a tree to shelter your great-great-great grandchildren as Uncle Lionel said at the Derrimut Weelam gathering place recently.

Working in bushfire recovery, I also learnt about something called post-traumatic growth. Where after significant trauma, a community can bond and build a pathway together for healing.

I know that emerging out of COVID mental health and wellbeing is a big issue facing our community and that young people in particular are struggling. After volunteering with young people in the South Sudanese community for ten years, I heard firsthand about the additional pressures of discrimination faced.

I am truly grateful to the Lominded family for opening your home to me and Miriya and Rejoice for coming tonight to support me.

The pressures and challenges we face are why we need groups like the Mordi Sea Dippers, who constantly lift us up with their love.

And why Kingston's community group of the year Cheltenham Community Centre's programs from kinder through to the sunset years are so vital.

Our community centres do so much for our community from Clarinda to Mordialloc to Patterson Lakes as well as the services that give and give, Matt's Place, Pantry 5000 and Make a Difference Dingley to name just a few of many.

I see your selfless dedication and I thank you.

We are also lucky to be home to so many vibrant local traders who also really care about our community: Kim, Neetu, Marcela, Felipe, Denis, Liz, Steve, George, Adam, Megan, Byron, and the team at Eco Soul life in Dingley who recently won our Sustainable Business award.

With so many past and present hard working parliamentary representatives who are so passionate about our community, including previous MP Janice Munt here tonight and in particular MPs Mark Dreyfus, Sonya Kilkenny, Nick Staikos here tonight with us, Tim Richardson, Heng Meng Tak and Brad Rowswell.

I know we have the foundations in place to keep tackling big issues like affordable housing, climate change and community cohesion.

I know I am truly blessed to have an incredible community of people around me who I love deeply, some of whom are here tonight, let's see some jazz hands Marco, Kate, Paola, Robbie, Emma, Dave, Jacqui, Janey, Stacey, Dewi, Roxie, Lindy, Mano, Abu, Michelle, Sean, Nick, Yvette, Alex, Ka Mun, Phil, Vic, Jo, Sinoti, Murali, Malini, Jay, Swathi, Manu, Wilissa, Agoka, Michael, Rahimi and Emek.

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To my wonderful godchildren Camilla and Orlando, to my foster kids and the future generations of Kingston, I will work hard every day to help continue building a community where you can flourish, live safely, happily and be fulfilled. It's what we all deserve.

In closing, I ask in a moment you to turn to the person next to you and share what you love the most about Kingston.

I am excited to share the next year with you all.

We live in one of the most wonderful places in the world. We have so much ahead of us and we are stronger together.

Thank you.