

# Minutes

## Special (Statutory) Council Meeting

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Wednesday, 9th November 2022



City of  
**KINGSTON**

*community inspired leadership*

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

**Minutes**

**9 November 2022**

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The meeting commenced at 7.03pm in the Council Chamber, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham.

**Present:** Cr Steve Staikos (Mayor)  
Cr Jenna Davey-Burns (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Tamsin Bearsley  
Cr Tim Cochrane  
Cr Tracey Davies  
Cr Chris Hill  
Cr George Hua  
Cr Hadi Saab

**In Attendance:** Peter Bean, Chief Executive Officer  
Jonathan Guttman, General Manager Planning and Place  
Phil DeLosa, Acting 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, Acting Manager Governance  
Stephanie O’Gorman, Team Leader Council Governance  
Patrick O’Gorman, Governance Officer  
Gabrielle Pattenden, Governance Officer

**1. Apologies**

Apologies from Cr Eden, Cr Howe and Cr Oxley were submitted to the meeting.

**Moved Cr Cochrane**

**Seconded Cr Hill**

That the apologies from Cr Eden, Cr Howe and Cr Oxley be received.

**CARRIED**

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

There were no Conflicts of Interest submitted to the meeting.

**3. Office and Term of Mayor**

**Moved: Cr Davies**

**Seconded: Cr Bearsley**

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

**CARRIED**

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**4. Office and Term of Deputy Mayor**

**Moved: Cr Cochrane**

**Seconded: Cr Saab**

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

**CARRIED**

Cr Hua arrived at 7.08pm.

**5. Election of the Mayor**

The Chief Executive Officer invited nominations for the office of the Mayor for 2022/23.

Cr Staikos nominated Cr Saab and Cr Saab accepted the nomination.

The Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Saab elected as Mayor for 2022/23.

**Address by Newly Elected Mayor**

The Mayor addressed the meeting stating his aspirations for the coming year. A copy of the Mayor's address is attached to these minutes.

**Expressions of Congratulations to Newly Elected Mayor**

Councillors congratulated the Mayor on his election.

**6. Election of the Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor invited nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2022/23.

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

The Mayor declared Cr Hill elected as Deputy Mayor for 2022/23.

**Address by Newly Elected Deputy Mayor**

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

**7. Councillor Appointments to Committees and Organisations 2022/23**

**Moved: Cr Staikos**

**Seconded: Cr Davies**

That Council determine the appointments to committees and organisations:

<b>Legislative Committees</b>	<b>2022/23 Appointee/s</b>
Planning Committee	All Councillors
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor Cr Oxley
<b>Internal Committees/Organisations</b>	<b>2022/23 Appointee/s</b>
Governance and Policy Committee	Mayor Deputy Mayor Cr Davey-Burns Cr Oxley Cr Staikos
CEO Employment Matters Committee	Mayor Deputy Mayor

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	Cr Davies Cr Davey-Burns Cr Oxley Cr Staikos
<b>Advisory Committees</b>	<b>2022/23 Appointee/s</b>
Access and Equity	Cr Davey-Burns Cr Oxley
Arts and Culture	Cr Davies Cr Davey-Burns Cr Hill Cr Howe Cr Bearsley
Business and Economic Development	Cr Hua Cr Oxley
Community Safety	Cr Cochrane Cr Staikos
Environment and Open Spaces	Cr Saab Cr Oxley
Active Kingston	Cr Davies Cr Hill Cr Saab (alternate)
Youth (12-17 years old)	Cr Eden Cr Oxley Cr Saab Cr Hill (alternate)
Youth (18-25 years old)	Cr Eden Cr Oxley Cr Saab Cr Hill (alternate)
<b>Consultative Committees</b>	<b>2022/23 Appointee/s</b>
LF Payne Hall Usage Committee	Cr Oxley
Kingston Charitable Fund (KCF) Community Grants Panel	Mayor Cr Oxley
Kingston Interfaith Network	Cr Bearsley Cr Saab
Kingston Historic Network	Cr Bearsley Cr Hill Cr Staikos
<b>External Committees/Organisations</b>	<b>2022/23 Appointee/s</b>
Association of Bayside Municipalities	Cr Davey-Burns Cr Hill
Inner South Metro Mayors Forum (ISMMF)	Mayor Cr Staikos (alternate)
Local Government Waste Management Forum	<i>Discontinued</i>
Metropolitan South Eastern Region MAV Representatives and Mayors	Mayor Cr Staikos (Representative)
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Saab Cr Staikos (alternate)
Moorabbin Airport Consultative Committee	Cr Davies Cr Hua Cr Staikos (alternate)

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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 Hill Cr Saab
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr Staikos Cr Saab (alternate)

**CARRIED**

**8. 2023 Council Meeting Dates**

**Moved: Cr Davey-Burns**

**Seconded: Cr Davies**

That Council set the following dates for Ordinary Council Meetings, Planning Committee Meetings and the Council (Statutory) Meeting for 2023 to be held at 7.00pm at the City of Kingston Offices, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham:

**Scheduled Ordinary Council Meetings**

Monday 30 January  
Monday 27 February  
Monday 27 March  
Wednesday 26 April  
Monday 22 May  
Monday 26 June  
Monday 24 July  
Monday 28 August  
Monday 25 September  
Monday 23 October  
Monday 27 November  
Monday 11 December

**Planning Committee Meetings**

Wednesday 22 February  
Wednesday 22 March  
Wednesday 19 April  
Wednesday 17 May  
Wednesday 21 June  
Wednesday 19 July  
Wednesday 23 August  
Wednesday 20 September  
Wednesday 18 October  
Wednesday 22 November  
Wednesday 7 December

**Council (Statutory) Meeting**

Wednesday 8 November

**CARRIED**

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The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**Confirmed.....**

**The Mayor 28 November 2022**

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**Address: Mayor Cr Hadi Saab**

Good evening.

Some incredibly big shoes to fill – I'm so glad the robe actually fits. I guess it's a one size fits all.

I would like to acknowledge the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the original and ongoing custodians of this land in which we meet and thank their elders past present and emerging and a particular acknowledgment and thanks to Alvin for the welcome to country, understanding the long history of leadership first nations people have shown and their long history of caring for the lands and waterways.

Thank you all.

It is my absolute honour and privilege to serve the Kingston community as your Mayor for the next year and I thank my fellow Councillors for placing their trust in me to lead our council, our community and our organisation in this role.

It is not an opportunity and responsibility that I will take lightly to be able to further serve my community.

Marhaba and Ahlan to my biggest supporters, my friends and my family here today and streaming online and a hello and thank you to our beautiful Kingston community both in the chamber and to those streaming too.

Before I begin and speak about my ambitions in this role, the vision I have for the next 12 months and how I aim to lead our Council.

I wanted to, first and foremost, take some time to thank my dear friend and mentor and our outgoing Mayor, Cr Steve Staikos for his extraordinary leadership over the past 2 years.

I know I speak on behalf of our community and certainly our Council in thanking you for your incredible service and leadership in what I would say and I'm sure many would agree, to be one of the most pivotal times in Kingston City.

You have led us through several difficult and challenging times, of lockdowns in this global pandemic with adjustments to the new normal way of working.

Through again, a crucial federal election in which we achieved some incredible outcomes for our city through several election commitments and grants.

To navigating, seamlessly, the transition to the new Local Government Act and the growth of our council from 9 to 11 Councillors and all the associated process changes that that incurred.

I thank you again for being instrumental in setting our city up for success through your advocacy and inter-council leadership in the local government sector. And last but not least through the appointment of our new CEO Peter Bean.

So once again Cr Staikos thank you and I am very happy to present a token of appreciation to you.

To our outgoing Deputy Mayor Cr Jenna Davey Burns, or DM CR JDB for short.

I also wanted to thank you for invaluable service over the past year for your dedication to our community, for the innovation you showed as our Deputy Mayor with the initiatives you've started and the spirit you brought not just to the role but to everywhere you go.



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As well as your stint as our acting Madam Mayor when Cr Staikos was away. So, thank you on behalf of our city and Council organisation and a personal thank you from me for your ongoing support.

So again, I would like to present you also with a small token of appreciation and thanks for your service.

I was at a beautiful community event earlier this year in June where I ran into former Councillor Tamara Barth, who I believe is in this room. And I haven't told her this and I hope I don't embarrass her, but that was a really significant conversation for me that I hope she doesn't mind me sharing.

Beyond catching up and discussing all things Council related, she asked me the question of how I was finding it all? A pretty standard question. I opened up and explained to her of course about how much I love being a Councillor and representing and assisting my community. I have always been very community minded.

But at the same time, I told her how sometimes I felt out of my depth or a little out of place as I never would have thought to find myself fortunate enough to be in this position as an elected representative.

She of course reassured me but imparted some really caring words, that I have regularly reminded myself of. That I was elected by my community because they believed in me, my vision and my experience. That what I bring to my role as a Councillor is my lived experience and perspective on matters that I care and am passionate about and that is the lens that I apply to my role. That my community trusts me to represent them with the view and experience that I have that is uniquely me.

And that is at the core what I will be bringing with me as Mayor. As a first generation Australian born to Lebanese and Syrian parents of the Druze faith. As someone who has spent nearly their whole life as a Kingston resident, having grown up, went to school and worked in our city.

My focus will be on bolstering advocacy, maintaining transparent communication with our community, promoting diversity and inclusion, celebrating multiculturalism in our city, having strong leadership in all external committees and organisations our council is involved in, ingrain climate action in all our decisions and finally fostering strong civic pride.

During my term as Mayor, I plan to be a visible and vocal conduit between the community and Council, always championing community consultation on any impactful changes, such as how we have done with the Parkdale level crossing removal or with the proposed changes to our hard waste collection.

This is the standard we should strive for. Communication with residents must always be genuine, transparent and timely so the community is never surprised by change.

With my background in software engineering, I'll strive to be a tech and innovation Mayor – leading an innovative organisation that is an inspiration within the sector through process automation to better cement us as a council who lives their Customer First philosophy.

I want to build on what we have achieved as a Councillor group by focusing on building a cohesive Council team. A Council that moves forward collectively when a decision is reached.

Regardless of any healthy, in-chamber disagreements during debate, we should unite behind the decision that is ultimately made and work together for that goal.

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I also want all Councillors to have the opportunity to effectively represent their Wards and residents.

I'll work hard to understand what each Councillor wants delivered over the coming year and I aim to be the link between the CEO, the organisation and the Councillors.

Cr Staikos was a great advocate for Kingston to other levels of government and actively engaged with external bodies to help improve our municipality.

My goal is to further develop that.

Let's ramp up advocacy for funding from the Victorian and Australian governments for key projects.

We will regroup after the Victorian election and immediately begin advocacy planning for the next federal election, to maintain the momentum.

I'll continue - and strengthen - our links with the advocacy group Greater South East Melbourne to push for jobs, infrastructure, investment and liveability in this region.

I will keep campaigning for funding and support for a recycled water 'purple pipeline'.

I'll continue support for the innovative South East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing Project and the Back Your Neighbour coalition of local councils – standing up for some of the most vulnerable members of our community, people seeking asylum.

As I mentioned, it's important to me that we promote and celebrate Kingston's multiculturalism, through our diversity and inclusion plans.

I want to increase accessibility for everyone to all our information and services, reducing barriers to full inclusion in our community.

Being one of the youngest Councils in Victoria and maybe even Australia, I will use my position as a platform to encourage more young people to put their hands up for public office and decision-making bodies. I will further support our youth and young adults in issues they care about, especially including on climate action which is critical.

Our participation in the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance, our [Climate and Ecological Emergency Response Plan](#), and the development of our Urban Forest Strategy are crucial steps in the right direction.

But we must keep on building on those as we strive for a zero-emissions and a climate-change resilient community.

I want a Kingston we are proud of. A Kingston that delivers on our Community Vision which strives for resilience, inclusivity and diversity across our community. To bring back a sense of civic pride in our city as we rightly should be.

The Community Vision is our commitment to building the most liveable and sustainable city in Victoria... a municipality that nurtures green and open spaces to provide a safe, healthy environment.

My support of plans to develop an arts and culture precinct -including the revamp of our much-loved City Hall – is part of creating that Kingston we are proud of.

We should hold ourselves in high regard – be proud of what we do as an organisation and as a community.

- To celebrate our achievements,
- our delivery outcomes
- and promote our wonderful community.

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I want us to work together as a team – Council and residents - to put Kingston on the map.

Finally, I wanted to thank a few people.

To my parents, my dad, Faysal is always checking in on me, "...are you sure this is what you want to be doing?" always supportive but not so certain of my journey but always the first and most reliable when it comes to helping.

My mum, Iman, who I can always turn to for everything from support to advice to love. Thank you both.

To my siblings Shadi and Rami and my sister in law Jessica. Who are my own personal counsellors and sound boards, that also do a bloody good job of keeping me grounded.

To some very special guests, my new family who have flown in from Queensland, my partner Hyatt and her mum Ekhlās and to the family and friends live streaming from interstate, I appreciate and am grateful for you all.

To the Druze community, some families of which that live in Kingston present in the chamber and in particular the Executive committee I volunteer and work with. Thank you for your unwavering support.

To the local sporting, community and religious clubs and groups throughout Karkarook ward, I can see a few of you in the chamber. Thank you for engaging with me, I know we still have a lot of work ahead of us, particularly in Le Page to secure the funding we need to get on with the work and I am looking forward to continuing that.