



SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

MINUTES

17 NOVEMBER 2021



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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY
COUNCIL HELD 17 NOVEMBER 2021 IN ST KILDA TOWN HALL**

The meeting opened at 5:45pm.

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, Brian Tee, Acting General Manager Development Transport and City Amenity, Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Chris Carroll, General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure, Kylie Bennetts, General Manager City Growth and Organisational Capability, Kirsty Pearce, Head of Governance, Rebecca Purvis, Senior Governance Officer, Emily Williams, Council Meetings Officer.

The City of Port Phillip respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land. 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. APOLOGIES

Nil

**3. OUTGOING MAYOR AND OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR
ADDRESS**

Cr Louise Crawford gave an address as outgoing Mayor:

Firstly, I just wanted to say thank you, I think these kind of moments are all about the thank yous and the people who have helped you through this period of time. It's been an absolute honour to be the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip for this last year. I have to say if it goes down in any of the history books it will be as Mayor at possibly the most difficult time, hopefully this year the most difficult time is behind us - with most of our year being online, in a pandemic, with the new Local Government Act and a brand new Council.

I think its challenged me, I know its challenged my colleagues, so I would just like to say thank you to all my fellow Councillors, it's been a journey and we've got another three years to go but thank you, I've learnt a lot, I've made mistakes and hopefully you come out the other side learning more. I need to say thank you to my partner Matt, I do have someone that I can go home to and debrief, I think he is so sick of hearing about anything to do with the

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City of Port Phillip, so I do thank you for your patience. You don't really care about the drainage system and I know you don't care about the ins and outs so thank you for being a constant support and often a devil's advocate at the most appropriate times.

I want to thank the CEO, Peter, it's been an absolute honour to be working so closely with you. To the Executive Leadership team, we are so lucky in this city to have such a high standard of committed individuals who care deeply about this city and seeing it in the Mayoral role up close and in person is humbling and it's been my absolute pleasure to have got to see that and work alongside you. To all of the other officers that work within the City of Port Phillip again we are very lucky.

I'm going to keep this short as I am always about short speeches. We are also blessed to have an amazingly engaged community who let us know what they want and again such an honour to hear from them and be a part of hopefully improving their lives.

Thank you to the Deputy Mayor, Marcus Pearl for your support during this year, if I have forgotten anyone, I apologise. It's been a humbling, character building experience and I look forward to the next three years on Council. One of the great things about being Mayor is that there is always something happening in the City of Port Phillip and I have no doubt that there will be within the next three years.

I'll leave it at that, but thank you everyone.

The Chief Executive Officer thanked Councillor Crawford for her dedicated service as Mayor and presented her with a gift.

Councillor Marcus Pearl gave an address as outgoing Deputy Mayor:

It's a huge privilege and an honour to be an office holder of the City of Port Phillip in any year, but it was an honour to serve with Councillor Crawford in the first year. There are a lot of things that happen within the first year that just don't happen subsequently and it sets the pace setting and the direction of the Council which takes a lot of time, effort and leadership by the CEO, the Mayor and Councillors more generally.

It needs to be acknowledged that the Mayor, Louise Crawford has done that task with a huge amount of diligence. It's been an honour to serve her as her deputy. I said in my speech that I would be a loyal Deputy and I enjoyed the conversations where the Mayor called me up and asked for my opinion and advice on things and I hope that went some way to assist her in her duties. It has been an honour and a privilege to be able to have those conversations and congratulate her on her service for the Council.

I thank Councillors for trusting me to be the Deputy Mayor, it's the second best job in the city, probably in some cases it's the best job in the city, you get to do some wonderful things and you hold a great amount of respect within the community. I greatly appreciate it so thank you for the honour and privilege of serving you as your Deputy Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer thanked Councillor Pearl for his dedicated service as Deputy Mayor and presented him with a gift.



4. TERM OF MAYORAL OFFICE

Moved Crs Martin/Clark

That Council:

1. Determines the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be elected to serve a one year term.

A vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

Councillor Bond nominated Councillor Pearl for the position of Mayor.

Councillor Sirakoff seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Pearl elected as Mayor.

Councillor Pearl assumed the Chair and addressed the meeting.

MAYORAL ADDRESS

Thank you to the CEO and thank you Councillors for the honour and the privilege that you've just given me to be the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip. There is no greater honour or privilege and I feel very solemnly the duty that you've entrusted me with and the trust that you have given me also. I don't take this position lightly and I'll do it to my upmost and best possible abilities and hopefully with your constructive assistance as we go through the process.

The first person that needs to be thanked is the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Louise Crawford. Louise as I said before has done a terrific job in leading the city in what is in some cases, the most difficult period of a Council. Getting a new group of Councillors inducted, getting a new Council plan out, ensuring that our staff build the bonds between new Councillors and returning Councillors and ensuring everybody is felt listened to as the Council Plan process goes through. That's difficult at the best of times, it's even more difficult when you have to do it virtually via WebEx or Teams or whatever it may be. I thank Councillor Louise Crawford for her service to the city and everything you've done as our previous Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, so thank you Louise.

My Council career started on a polling booth at the Port Melbourne Town Hall where my dear wife Prudence who is here tonight, stood there for ten days whilst I was at work handing out how to vote cards for me. I turned up at 8:30 on a Monday morning to hand out help to vote cards after she had done ten days straight without much of a rest. I started handing out my cards, enthusiastic bunny I was, as we all are when we get out there and slowly as the day went by, I was worn down by some usual suspects in terms of the people that we all know very well who have entrenched relationships within the community, particularly down the Port Melbourne end. I got home that night and was quite upset about what I had gone through for the past eight hours, albeit I have sat on polling booths before, it's a different thing when you put yourself forward and out there and people chip away at you saying 'you can't do this' or 'under these circumstances you won't be able to achieve what you want to achieve'.

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What that did over time is made me realise is that we are all doing this for the right reasons and we all want to be here for the right reasons. We all have the right to be here and this is the rightful place for us all to be. You belong here Councillors, your views and opinions belong here. You've been elected duly by your constituents to be here and I give you my assurance as your Mayor, that I'll make sure that we stay true as best as possible to the core principles of this Council ensuring everyone is heard and ensuring that we make good quality decisions.

There will be times where the majority of you won't like what I do, but I give you my upmost commitment that I will act with integrity, I'll ensure that I am unbiased at all times and sometimes as I said before you will be happy with me, but most of the time you probably won't in frustrating ways, but I guarantee you I will always act with integrity.

A few small thank yous before we move onto the election of the Deputy Mayor vote. My wife and family are here, Prudence, thank you for your love and support, my sister Gabrielle is here also. Important that we acknowledge and thank my parents, Michael and Suzanne and parent in-laws, Heather and Neil. I also want to reach out to a mentor of mine Bill Nelson who is watching us tonight from Newcastle. Without the support and love from those people I wouldn't be here this evening.

In summary Councillors, you have given me a huge privilege to be here this evening. I will give it my all and I hope that you will also respect the position that we hold here tonight and in general on Council in terms of our quality decision making. I enjoy and look forward to what is going to be an exciting year ahead for the city as we come out of COVID and into some important events in the next twelve months ahead.

Thank you for the trust you have given me, I won't let you down.

6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

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

Councillor Pearl nominated Councillor Baxter for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Crawford seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor Baxter elected Deputy Mayor and invited Councillor Baxter to address the Gallery.

DEPUTY MAYORAL ADDRESS

Thank you, I've been Deputy Mayor before during a pandemic and I notice just how much support the Mayor and Councillors need during these sorts of times. I certainly want to tip my hat to the outgoing Mayor and outgoing Deputy Mayor for the work that they have done over the last year, with a new Council there has been quite a lot of work achieved.

We have got through the first year, including our first Council Plan and our first Budget. From here, the really important thing for both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is to really focus the Councillors on our Council Plan and what we want to achieve for our community.

We've had to pause some things and change some priorities as a result of the pandemic but we have a lot of promises to keep to this community and it's time for us to start delivering on those. While this is a very diverse Council with lots of different views, we have a plan and it's now time for the rubber to hit the road there and for us to start delivering on that. I look forward to working with the Mayor to keep us all laser focused on that delivery.

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The Mayor thanked attendees and advised that Council would return to the Chamber at 7pm for the Ordinary Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.03pm.

Confirmed: 1 December 2021

Chairperson _____