



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 24th June, 2016.

PRESENT Cllr John Paul O'Shea, outgoing County Mayor presided at the commencement of the meeting.
Councillors: McGrath, Jeffers, D'Alton, Forde, Ó Donnabháin, Desmond, Canty, J. Collins, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, Coughlan, J.O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, K. McCarthy, Keohane, Sheppard, Cullinane, Rasmussen, N. Collins, A. O'Sullivan, Twomey, Ml. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, Linehan-Foley, O'Brien, O'Flynn, Doyle, J. Murphy, Fitzgerald, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, Mullane, T. Collins, D. Collins, Carroll, C. O'Sullivan, P.G. Murphy, M.Hegarty, Hurley.

Mr. Tim Lucey, Chief Executive.

Ms. Clodagh Henehan, Divisional Manager.

Mr. Sean O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Councillor John Paul O'Shea, outgoing Mayor, addressed the meeting and said that it was a great honour to hold the office of the County Mayor. He said that he endeavoured to carry out the role to the best of his ability. He was the first Independent Councillor and the youngest at 31 years of age to be elected as Mayor of County Cork. He thanked Cllr Declan Hurley and Cllr Seamus McGrath, who proposed and seconded him for the position of County Mayor in 2015, and thanked the Members who voted for and supported him.

The Mayor mentioned some of the activities and functions that he attended during his term in office:

- Approval of €295m revenue budget
- Cork County Council welcomed The Local Government Review, the result of which will mean a unified authority in Cork
- Thank you to the staff who worked to ensure safety to the public following Storm Desmond and the many other storms throughout the past winter
- The approval of the Monard SDZ and the continuation of a strategic approach
- The ongoing review of the Local Area Plan's
- The LECP, the first draft of which is just published
- Visiting the many projects in Cork, ie the Michael Collins Museum which is a fantastic tourism attraction

- The progression of capital projects, ie Mallow Castle
- The joint Cork Tourism Strategy, Launch of Taste Cork and the Age Friendly Alliance
- The St. Patrick's Day Festival in New York, and visits to Chicago, Detroit and Boston
- The Cork/China Trade mission to the Cheng Chu province in China
- Civic Receptions for the Irish Naval Service to honour the humanitarian work carried out throughout the current refugee crisis; and a reception for Bill Gainer, Chicago, to honour his input and commitment to the Cook County Partnership
- There were six Mayoral Receptions to honour achievers in sport, education and business, ie Work Kick Boxing, All Ireland Basketball, Paralympian sailing in 2016, Business Leaders and Tidy Towns.
- The Mayors Community Awards in its 4th Year with Celeste Foley winning the individual award and Ballineen/Enniskeane winning the overall award
- Cork County Council's success in achieving ISO50001 accreditation ahead of target

The outgoing Mayor said that he was very busy attending functions throughout his term in office, and had a special mention for the 1916 Commemoration events and in particular attending the state funeral of Thomas Kent in Castlelyons. He thanked the 1916 Commemoration Committee and all involved.

The outgoing Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and all the Members that deputised at functions and appreciates the great support given to him throughout the year. He also thanked his family and friends for their support.

The outgoing Mayor expressed his gratitude to all who supported his fundraiser "The Hooley in the Hall".

He thanked the Chief Executive for his support and co-operation throughout the year, and he also thanked the staff of Cork County Council for their continued support.

Finally, he thanked Sean O'Callaghan, Corporate Services, and his team, and in particular Edel Bodie in the Mayors' Office for the fantastic support given to him, and to Lisa O'Riordan, Communications Office, for her help throughout the year.

The outgoing Mayor wished the incoming Mayor all the best for the next term in office.

The Chief Executive commended the outgoing Mayor for raising the profile of the Office of the County Mayor and promoting Cork County Council. He complimented him on his professionalism, strong interpersonal skills and leadership. They were in contact on a daily basis about various issues, and he thanked the outgoing Mayor for his comradeship and wished him success in his future endeavours.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

The outgoing Mayor called for nominations for the position of Mayor for the coming year.

Councillor Seamus McGrath, was proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley.

Councillor Kevin Murphy advised the meeting that there would be no opposition from the Fine Gael party.

Councillor Michael Murphy was proposed by Councillor Des O’Grady, seconded by Councillor Melissa Mullane.

The Mayor called for a vote to be taken which resulted as follows:-

For Councillor McGrath: Councillors McGrath, D’Alton, Forde, Ó Donnabháin, Desmond, Canty, Collins, Harris, Coleman, Lombard, K.Murphy, Murphy-O’Mahony, J.O’Donovan, A. Moynihan, Creed, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O’Sullivan, Barry, Cullinane, Rasmussen, N.Collins, A. O’Sullivan, Linehan-Foley, N. McCarthy, O’Keeffe, O’Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, O’Shea, Fitzgerald, B. Moynihan, T. Collins, M. Collins, Carroll, N.O’Donovan, C. O’Sullivan, P.G. Murphy, M.Hegarty, Hurley
[29]

For Councillor Murphy: Councillors: Jeffers, M. Murphy, R.McCarthy, O’Grady, K. McCarthy, Twomey, Mullane.
[7]

Abstain: Councillors:Forde, Canty, J.Collins, Lombard, K.Murphy, J.O’Donovan, Creed, Lucey, Sheppard, Mcl. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, G.Murphy, M.Hegarty
[13]

Absent: Councillors: Barry, N.McCarthy, Dawson, Moynihan, N.O’Donovan, Hayes
[6]

The Senior Executive Officer declared Councillor Seamus McGrath elected as Mayor of the County of Cork.

Councillor Seamus McGrath, incoming County Mayor, thanked the outgoing Mayor for his support and wished him well for the future. He wished to thank his family and friends for their support, and acknowledged that it would be a very busy year ahead. He thanked Cllr Frank O’Flynn, and Cllr Declan Hurley, who proposed and seconded him for the position of County Mayor. He thanked his fellow Councillors for their support. He acknowledged the fact that the Fine Gael Councillors abstained from voting and contesting the position of County Mayor.

Councillors O’Flynn, K. Murphy, O’Grady and Rasmussen on behalf of their parties, and Cllr Hurley on behalf of the Independent Members, offered their congratulations to the Mayor, and wished him success for the year ahead.

The County Mayor welcomed Oireachtas Members Michael McGrath T.D. and Senator Denis O’Donovan and former Councillor Barry Cogan to the Chamber.

He emphasised the importance of connecting the Council to the community through the Joint Policing Committee, Age Friendly Alliance, Amenity sites and the successful grant schemes that are administered through the Council.

He said that he looks forward to working with the Chief Executive. He would like to see a new structure implemented whereby the Chief Executive would meet with the Party Leaders for discussion. The Council has changed over the last 20 years and has diversified its role, for example, through Economic Development, Arts Office, Heritage Unit. It has operated with diminishing resources and continued to put forward a strategic view and a long term strategy, which is a careful balancing act. The Council needs to get the core/basic functions done right, for example, Housing, pedestrian safety, streamlining the taking in charge of estates, maintaining public spaces, litter control. There are many challenges in the year ahead, ie the adoption of the Budget, the review of the Local Area Plans, the further development the Municipal Districts and the delivery of critical infrastructural projects, mainly roads. He acknowledged the work done in the Mayor’s Office by Edel Bodie and Lisa O’Riordan and looks forward to working with them in the year ahead. The County Mayor paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and said that he had raised the profile of the Office of the County Mayor.

The Chief Executive congratulated the incoming Mayor on becoming the first citizen of Cork County and said that it is a massive personal achievement. He concurred with the concept that the delivery of basic services on the ground is important. The significant issues in the year ahead are:

- Delivery and completion of the Local Area Plans’, which will set the scene for the next 6/8 years
- Delivery of the Housing Strategy
- Infrastructural development of Cork County
- Strengthen the Municipal Districts and further delivery of key services
- Change in the structure of the Executive of the Council

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the coming year.

Councillor Kevin Conway was proposed by Councillor Declan Hurley, and seconded by Councillor Frank O'Flynn.

Councillor K. Murphy, on behalf of the Fine Gael party, said that they were not contesting the election of the Deputy Mayor, and that they were abstaining from voting.

Councillor Des O'Grady, on behalf of the Sinn Féin party, said that they were not contesting the election of the Deputy Mayor and that they were abstaining from voting.

There was no requirement for a vote to be taken as no other Councillor contested the election of the Deputy Mayor.

The County Mayor declared Cllr. Kevin Conway elected as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

The incoming Deputy Mayor thanked Cllr Declan Hurley, and Cllr Frank O'Flynn, who proposed and seconded him for the position of Deputy Mayor, and said that it was a great honour to be elected as Deputy Mayor. He thanked his family and the Members for their support, and congratulated the outgoing Deputy Mayor on a job well done over the past year.

The County Mayor congratulated Councillor Conway and said that it was a proud day for his family and that he looked forward to working together in the year ahead.

Councillors K.Murphy, O'Flynn, O'Grady and Rasmussen on behalf of their parties, and Cllr Hurley on behalf of the Independent Members, offered their congratulations to the incoming Deputy Mayor, and paid tribute to the outgoing Deputy Mayor for a successful year in office.

The Chief Executive offered his sincere congratulations to the incoming Deputy Mayor.

This concluded the business of the Meeting