



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 22nd June, 2018.

PRESENT Cllr Declan Hurley, outgoing County Mayor presided at the commencement of the meeting.

Councillors: McGrath, Jeffers, D'Alton, Desmond, Canty, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, G. Coughlan, J. O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, O'Cádhlá, N. Collins, Ahern, Twomey, Ml. Hegarty, Linehan-Foley, O'Brien, N. McCarthy, O'Flynn, Doyle, J. Murphy, O'Shea, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, T. Collins, D. Collins, Carroll, C. O'Sullivan, J.O'Sullivan, P.G. Murphy, M. Hegarty, Hayes.

Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services

Members agreed to allow three cameras in the Chamber for the meeting.

The outgoing Mayor Declan Hurley then proposed a Vote of Sympathy for the late Seán Ó Loingsigh, journalist.

Members joined him in expressing their condolences and all wished to be associated with the Vote of Sympathy.

The outgoing Mayor Declan Hurley then addressed the chamber and stated that it had been a very busy, challenging, but exciting year, a year with many highlights but over all that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Mayor of the County of Cork, and he thanked the people of the County for the support and kindness afforded to him throughout the year.

The outgoing Mayor stated that the beginning of his term was challenging with changes to the boundaries between the County and City and it had consumed the first six months of his term. He acknowledged the role and effort of the Chief Executive and the wider executive in achieving what in his opinion was the best possible outcome. He further stated that if any lessons were to be gained from these changes, is that Cork County Council needs to place a bigger focus on strengthening and growing rural towns and villages.

The Outgoing Mayor said that for the last 52 weeks, he has been a tourist in his own County and that to truly appreciate the size and scale of the County, one has to travel it and that he had literally travelled the length and breadth of County Cork from North, South, East and West.

The Outgoing Mayor said that he had travelled to the US and China and signed an economic partnership agreement with the City of Quincy in Massachusetts to promote the business, education and tourism links between the two regions. He also signed a Memorandum on the Establishment of a Sistership Agreement with the Governor of Jiangsu Province located on the eastern coast of China. This agreement will build on the already good relationship that have been established between the two regions and offers enormous potential.

The Outgoing Mayor said that he had been honoured to welcome a number of dignitaries and ambassadors to County Hall from all over the world. An even greater honour was welcoming voluntary organisations and schools from across Cork to County Hall and acknowledging the wonderful work they undertake, through the Mayor's Community Awards to Mayoral and Civic receptions and attending numerous launches, openings and awards, from small to large events which all featured the most talented, committed and courageous individuals.

The Outgoing Mayor said that he had seen firsthand, the tremendous work being undertaken by people in the business, community, voluntary and charity sectors and had come to the conclusion that Cork County Council, mobilised by the Office of the County Mayor, is supporting the great endeavours in the County, by supporting them financially and by giving them recognition for the valuable contribution they make.

The Outgoing Mayor outlined some of the many highlights during his term as Mayor;

- Sod turnings on new housing developments,
- Attending the national famine commemoration,
- Turning on the Christmas lights with pupils from his former national school,
- County hall celebrating its 50th anniversary,
- Hosting "teen talk", a conference for transition year students from around cork that focused on physical and mental well-being for teenagers.

The Outgoing Mayor continued, Cork County Council is a hard working, diverse and forward thinking local authority but one major issue is the poor condition of the regional and local roads. He said that he was finishing his year as he started with a trip to Dublin to meet the Minister for Transport, hoping to impress on him to again increase the annual funding to a level that will allow the Council to adequately upgrade and maintain the road network to an acceptable condition. He urged the incoming Mayor to continue this campaign.

The Outgoing Mayor said that he was pleased to confirm that, a car and driver had finally been put in place for the office of the Mayor and that he stood over the importance and the practicality of this from a health and safety perspective having attended many events throughout the County and driven in excess of 40,000 kilometres during the past year. It is certainly not a luxury but a necessity for practical and safety reasons to carry out the functions of the County Mayor and he thanked the executive for putting this service in place.

He then thanked his Deputy County Mayor Cllr Ian Doyle on doing a superb job. He said that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to work with him, and that he had represented the office of the Mayor with respect and honor.

The Outgoing Mayor then thanked the Mayor's secretary, the Senior Executive Officer and all the staff in Corporate Services and Facilities for their support and professionalism throughout the year, the Chief Executive and the wider council executive for their courtesy and professionalism at all times, the Communications team for promoting Cork County Council and in particular the Office of the Mayor.

The Outgoing Mayor also thanked his parents, extended family, farm manager and constituency secretary.

He concluded by wishing the best of luck to the incoming County Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Members said the following kind words and congratulations to the outgoing Mayor:

- Congratulated him on an outstanding and eventful year
- Complemented his fair and even-handed chairing of meetings
- Very approachable Mayor
- Dealt brilliantly with the pressure during a difficult year
- Glad that there was a Mayoral car
- Had a practical approach to being Mayor

The Outgoing Deputy Mayor Ian Doyle paid tribute to the Outgoing Mayor Declan Hurley, congratulating him on an outstanding year and that he had done a fantastic job representing the Councillors, Cork County Council and the people of Cork

The Chief Executive paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor congratulating him on an outstanding year in office and that he had shown leadership in what was a difficult and challenging time. He also thanked him for the support he gave to him as Chief Executive and to the wider executive. He paid tribute to the Outgoing Mayor's continued efforts ensuring that Oireachtas members were kept informed and up to date on issues especially his work raising the profile of the condition of the road network. He complemented his understanding of the role of the Council and the high level of courtesy he showed at all times to the Chief Executive, Management Team and the entire Council staff.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy was proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy.

The Sinn Fein party voiced a desire for future mayoral elections to be conducted in an alternative manner.

There was no requirement for a vote to be taken as no other nominees were put forward by the Chamber.

The Senior Executive Officer declared Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy elected as Mayor of the County of Cork.

Mayor Patrick Gerard Murphy thanked members for the cross party nomination and support. He also thanked his family for their support over the years and for being with him today. He said that he was under no illusions about the challenges that Cork County Council was facing with regard to the changes to the boundary but that it was time to move to the next phase and get the legislation published. He said that once the decision is made it is hugely important that both local authorities work together for the Cork region and that they are very interdependent. The city relies on the county. The county relies on the city.

The Mayor outlined other issues facing the County including the National Planning Framework which showed limited growth for Cork County and would need to be monitored closely. He confirmed that he would be carrying on the former Mayor's efforts regarding the County's roads and that the Council would need to refocus its' priorities to the development

of the County's rural towns and villages. He stated that he would also be highlighting the underfunding of Cork County Council in comparison to the City Council and to focus on the development of a capital investment plan for the County area.

The Mayor confirmed that highlighting disability issues would be a priority of his term and while he has the opportunity to look at all the County's villages and towns and make them as universally accessible as possible for all people. He said that he will drive the introduction of the Disability Federation of Ireland's 'Make Way Day' to highlight the everyday physical obstacles that people with disabilities face.

The Chief Executive offered his sincere congratulations to the newly elected Mayor and agreed that as the work on the boundary changes has commenced in earnest he too would like to see the legislation published. He stated that the Mayor of Cork County is the Mayor and Chair of the largest democratic organisation in the country outside of Dublin. He went on to say that the County would remain a major area in the region with a strong economy and he acknowledged that there was a need for an investment package.

The Party leaders and Members offered their individual congratulations to the newly elected Mayor and wished him every success for the year ahead.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

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

Councillor Mary Linehan Foley was proposed by Councillor Kevin Conway, and seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath.

There was no requirement for a vote to be taken as no other nominees were put forward by the Chamber.

The County Mayor declared Councillor Mary Linehan Foley elected as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

The incoming Deputy Mayor thanked Members for their nomination and said that she was delighted to have the opportunity to represent the County for the year and to make history as the first woman to be Deputy Mayor of Cork County Council.

The County Mayor congratulated the Deputy Mayor.

The Party leaders and Members offered their individual congratulations to the newly elected Deputy Mayor and wished her every success for the year ahead.

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

This concluded the business of the Meeting