

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 26 October 2022, commencing at 7.00pm

Members Present: The Mayor (Grant Smith) (in the Chair) and Councillors Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, Kaydee Zabelin and William Wood.

137-22 Address by the Acting Chief Executive

The address by the Chief Executive is attached to these minutes.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb declared a conflict of interest in Item 8 Appointment of Deputy Mayor (clause 141-22) and took no further part in discussion or debate.

138-22 Oath of Office - Mayor

The Mayor made the required declaration under Clause 14 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, witnessed by the Chief Executive.

The Mayor was then invested with his Chain of Office.
The Mayoress was invested with her Chain of Office.

139-22 Oath of Office – Councillors

The meeting adjourned at 7.22pm.

The meeting resumed at 7.40pm.

When the meeting resumed the Mayor and Councillors Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett and Rachel Bowen made the correct declaration.

Councillors made the declaration required by Clause 14 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, which were witnessed by the Mayor.

140-22 Inaugural address by The Mayor

The Inaugural Address by the Mayor is attached to these minutes.

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

141-22 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Patrick Handcock.

RESOLVED

1. That Council note that the Mayor has appointed Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb as the Deputy Mayor.

Clause 141-22 above was carried.

Note:

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb declared a conflict of interest, withdrew from the discussion and sat in the gallery.

142-22 Summary of Relevant Legislation

Memorandum, presented by Desiree Harvey, Legal Counsel.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

RESOLVED

1. That Council note the report Summary of Relevant Legislation for information.

Clause 142-22 above was carried.

143-22 Council Meeting Schedule 2022

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Democracy and Governance Manager.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Brent Barrett.

RESOLVED

1. That Council agree the following meeting dates for the remainder of 2022.
 - Council - 9.00am, Wednesday 9 November 2022
 - Council - 9.00am, Wednesday 16 November 2022
 - Council - 9.00am, Wednesday 30 November 2022
 - Council - 9.00am, Wednesday 7 December 2022
 - Council - 9.00am, Wednesday 14 December 2022

to be held at the Council Chamber, first floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North.

Clause 143-22 above was carried.

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

Confirmed 9 November 2022

Mayor

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

Chief Executive's Address to the Inaugural Council Meeting

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

My thanks to Wiremu for the mihi, and to Rangitāne for their engagement in an ongoing productive partnership with the City Council of Te Papaioea /Palmerston North.

Distinguished guests, City partners, ladies and gentlemen, whānau and friends.

Welcome to this inaugural meeting of the 2022 – 2025 Palmerston North City Council. My congratulations to the returning Mayor and Councillors, and a special welcome to the five new faces around this Council table.

The past three months leading up to the election will have been hectic for all of you as you balanced your everyday duties, tasks and employment with the requirements of campaigning. It was heartening to see so many candidates vying for the opportunity to serve the city in this capacity. And that in itself, gives you some idea of the scrutiny that you as elected members, have placed yourselves under, and a hint of the responsibilities and expectations city residents have placed in your hands.

Tonight's special Civic occasion to install the Mayor and Councillors for the coming three-year term, is not just the culmination of this triennial electoral process, it is part of a democratic heritage that dates back to 1877 when Mayor George Snelson headed Palmerston North's first Borough Council. It also breaks new ground with representation from our two new city wards – Te Pūao and Te Hirawanui. The establishment of these wards respects the Crown's determination for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes, and has been welcomed by Mana Whenua Rangitāne.

Now, as candidates for Council, each one of you brought to your campaigns, the personal vision and hopes you have for this city. Shortly you will be asked to make a public declaration to work in the 'best interests of Palmerston North and its residents'.

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

Once you have made that declaration, and been sworn in, you will form a government at local level as part of Aotearoa/New Zealand's democratic structure.

As elected members of local government your purpose is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of our communities of Palmerston North and to promote their social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being now and for the future, otherwise known as the Four Well-beings. This is the heart of local democracy. So, being an elected member is a hugely important undertaking, not one to take lightly. In this role you will face issues and challenges that will draw on all your judgement, life experience and skills. You will need to research, consult, carry out due diligence, compile, consider, debate, and then vote in the best interests of the City. And yes, you will also find it necessary to compromise, as well as prioritise. Council staff will assist you with impartial and professional advice, given without fear or favour, advice you are free to accept, or not. Remember, Council is a big waka that requires collaboration and cooperation before progress can be made and Council officers are a vital component of its crew. Around this Council table, you are part of a team the electorate has chosen and empowered to work for their good, and for the good of the city we all live in. Once a decision has been made, whether you personally favour it or not, you should adopt an attitude of collective responsibility and support the direction chosen by the majority of fellow elected members. In exercising the authority voters have given you, you will make your decisions in an open and transparent manner unless there are specific, good and reasonable grounds for the public to be excluded from parts of a Council meeting. In-depth knowledge and healthy debate of the issues the City faces are going to influence the decisions of Council and the direction and progress of the City. This is the significant task you have been assigned by Palmerston North voters.

There will be times when you will need to consult city residents before making those decisions. This will involve listening to groups and individuals who are making public submissions and it will be up to you to receive these with an open mind, and give them all due consideration before proceeding with your decision-making process. Now, not all the winds and currents you encounter this term will be favourable, nor will the seas necessarily be calm. You are going to face plenty of challenges in the next three years, but I'm sure you are all up to meeting and dealing with them in a

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

positive and pro-active manner. I say this because in the weeks following the election, there has been a good spirit shown among you as incoming elected members.

I'm pleased that this Council represents a healthy mix of continuity and experience aligned with freshness, and given your combined talents and abilities, and in combination with the appointment of new Chief Executive Waid Crockett, who takes up his duties early next month, the people of Palmerston North have every cause for confidence in this Council and its Mayor for the coming term.

I'd like to thank elected members, Council colleagues, management and staff for the support and trust you have given me in this caretaker role. It has been a real privilege to (once again) serve the City of Palmerston North in this Chief Executive capacity.

Again, my congratulations to you all. Good navigating team, and Kia kaha!
No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

Mayor Grant Smith's Inaugural Address

Kia ora tātou, nau mai, Haere mai, ki Te Papaioea o Manawatu.

It is with great pleasure that I address this meeting as the 29th Mayor of Palmerston North.

Firstly, I thank Mana Whenua Rangitane, for their welcome and blessings.

I also acknowledge and welcome visiting regional mayors, City MP Tangi Utikere, Rangitikei MP Ian McKelvie, and to other distinguished guests, including former city Mayors and councillors and it's to you former governors of the City again our thanks for the contributions and advancements you have made to Palmerston North, and the legacy you have bequeathed to us.

My great hope is that the class of 2022 – 2025 will do you and all the City proud. Also a big vote of thanks to Acting CEO Chris Dyhrberg for maintaining an even keel over the past seven months. To other officers, whether in management or the front line of services, our thanks from Council for continuing to keep the city open in trying times. We also look forward to welcoming our new CEO Waid Crockett in the next few weeks, and the operational leadership he will bring.

I do want to also reflect on the five former Councillors Deputy Mayor Aleisha Rutherford, Councillors Susan Baty, Renee Dingwall, Zulfiqar Butt and Bruno Petrenas, who won't be with us this term. Your presence will be missed around this Council table, but the examples of service you set will live on. To these five, and the returning members from the Council of 2019-22, my deep appreciation for what we managed to accomplish together.

Despite Covid, we delivered on a great deal in the last term. So, let's start with Covid. During lockdowns, and despite associated staffing shortages, Council was able to provide practical, timely community assistance and reassurance, as well as continuing to maintain essential services.

As for infrastructure, we spent just over \$85M on 3 Waters projects, and on preparations for our new 'Nature Calls' wastewater treatment facility. We completed Stage 2 & 3 of the Papaioea Place Social Housing build and stage 1 of Tamakuku Terrace, the city's first open market subdivision in 30+ years. We investigated, approved and released other areas; Aokautere, Whakarongo and to the South West of the city, for housing development and suburban growth. There were major upgrades to the Colquhoun Softball Park to host the World Junior Men's Championships in 2020; to CET Arena; to Memorial Park; and we completed two stages of Streets For People, Square East-Plaza around The Square.

We partnered with Rangitāne for improvements along the Manawatū River shared pathways, including the Turitea Pa lookout, as this city continues to embrace its River and assisted with Rangitāne's new Quest Hotel development on Fitzherbert Ave.

We built a new Bunnythorpe Community Centre, and refurbished the Village Valley Centre in Ashurst. We've just had a great outcome for the Old Post Office Building.

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

It's taken lengthy negotiations and great input from Council since June to broker a deal with Safari Group and Wyndham Hotel chain. It's an agreement that will save and transform the iconic building, and help with the revitalisation of the central city, and offer much needed extra hotel rooms to the city. We showed flexibility in responding to resident concerns, revisiting and revising the 2021 -2031 10-year plan, in the face of Covid and cost increases. And we celebrated the City's sesquicentennial 150 years since we became Palmerston North.

And although that's not a complete brag sheet by any means, it gives you an idea of why I am proud of what the last Council was able to achieve and progress, under at times quite trying circumstances.

My congratulations now to our 10 returning members, and I extend a welcome to our five newcomers; Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, William Wood, Mark Arnott and Kaydee Zabelin for successfully making it to Council. We hope that you will quickly gain an appreciation for the way we operate, and come to grips with the scope of your roles, so you can feel at home, and start contributing as members of this team.

Now, I want to direct my thanks to the voters. Firstly for making the effort to carry out your democratic duty and vote! Secondly for returning to this Chamber a blend of the tried and true (absolute Wisdom some may say) along with the new (vibrancy & youth others may say) in what is quite possibly a perfect two-to-one ratio. Let me express my heartfelt gratitude for the faith and trust you, the residents have placed in our City vision; for voting to ensure continuity; and for appreciating our achievements in what has been a truly challenging couple of years for everyone.

Fortunately, we have 145 years of municipal government behind us to serve as an example and something that spoke to me during our sesquicentennial celebrations last year, was the dynamic vision, energy, range, and scale of public works, facilities and amenities accomplished by our predecessors of this Council. Much of what we have and enjoy as a city today is because they saw fit to build, facilitate or organise it. We now have that 'baton' for this leg of the race this Term, and it's a baton worth looking after so that we have something of substance, as well as momentum, to pass on to those who will run after us.

I came to this role in 2015 determined to help Palmerston North realise its potential, to lift our reputation and I have consistently championed our vision, goals, plans and partnerships to make this welcoming, attractive, sustainable, creative and progressive, boutique international city. A place we can all be even more proud of without compromising or detracting from the things we already appreciate and love about the place, in a 'small city' sense.

With this came a realisation that we also need to stand up and defend ourselves. That means as well as lobbying for attention on the national stage, we also need to apply greater leverage to enhance the things we know we are good at. We're a 'smart centre' for quality education, learning, research and science; we're NZ's Food Innovation City; a productive hub for agriculture and agritech; and a base for significant national and international businesses.

COUNCIL - PART I - 26 OCTOBER 2022

We're a nationally vital nexus for logistics, distribution and transportation. We're NZ's Defence Force Capital and on top of that, we're a colourful, creative and multicultural city where people of all backgrounds, abilities and accomplishments can thrive. We will need all those advantages to successfully navigate the next three years. So, there won't be any respite as this Council hits the ground running to tackle the issues facing us - the local business economy, infrastructure, Three Waters, housing, sustainable growth, sustainability, Council efficiencies, decarbonisation and making sure your elected members are able to engage and communicate with you, the residents, in an effective and meaningful way.

I also want to take this opportunity to formally announce the City's new Deputy Mayor Debi Marshall-Lobb. Appointments to the various Council committee and appointments will follow in coming weeks.

I'll finish up by expressing my gratitude to the Mayoral office team, M, Trudi and Richard and to the wider Council management, governance team and staff for facilitating this occasion. I also couldn't do this job justice without the steadfast belief, support, love and encouragement from my wife Michelle, (a great sounding board for me) also from my children Regan and Emma along with her husband Karl, and my father Tony and father-in-law Laurence & his partner Barbara. Yes, the Mayorality and Council, are family affairs, and I'm deeply indebted to my family for helping keep me nurtured, grounded, enthused and in touch.

Tonight, the members of this Council have made a solemn public pledge to serve this City and an Oath to its communities, to paddle and navigate this 'waka', the good ship 'Te Papaioea'.

It's a pledge for us to do our very best on your behalf, meeting your expectations in a fair and fiscally prudent manner, listening to, understanding, and acting on your concerns, while taking every opportunity to advance this City and continue to make it a great place for all to prosper and live in.

We will continue to show leadership, by building on existing arrangements, forging new partnerships, and fostering new initiatives, while maintaining, improving, and developing what has been entrusted to us. And by promoting our catalyst projects such as the Central NZ Te Utanganui Distribution Hub and regional Freight Ring Road. Our regional Food Strategy, to maximise our position as NZ's Food Innovation City, and how we also respond to the challenges of Climate Change.

That, I think's enough from me. Thank you again everyone for your commitment to local democracy, for your support of Palmerston North city in being here this evening.

This new Council is now sworn in and ready to conduct business.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa.