

ITEM NO. 1

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 25th June, 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr. J. Long, Mayor

COUNCILLORS : M.Byrne,G. Fahy, J.Gilligan, M. Hourigan, C. Hurley, P. Kennedy, K.Kiely,J. Leddin, K. Leddin, J. Long, D. McCarthy, G. McLoughlin, O. McLoughlin, K. O’Hanlon, M. Quinlivan, D. Scully and T. Shortt

STAFF : Mr. K. Lehane, City Manager
Mr. O. McLoughlin, Director of Service
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service
Mr. P. Murnane, Head of Finance
Mr. J. Delaney, Senior Executive Officer

Cllr. Jim Long said it was an honour to have served as Mayor of Limerick City He thanked his wife Mary and three daughters for their support over the past 12 months.

He said that being Mayor had a big impact on his family life but their support was constant. He thanked his two sons for their support over the telephone from faraway.

He paid tribute to Cllr.Kiely, his Deputy Mayor, for his support throughout the year.

The Mayor paid tribute to the former Manager Tom Mackey, current Manager Kieran Lehane, Directors and staff of the City Council for all their work during his year as Mayor.

He said his personal highlights of the year were the Civic Reception in Southill and the Freedom of the City for Paul O’Connell.

He thanked the people of his own local electoral area including Ballinacurra Weston, Ballinacurra Gardens and Our Lady of Lourdes parish for delivering to him his life time ambition of being Mayor.

He said the work he did in forging links abroad will pay dividends in terms of future foreign investment from Slovenia,Estonia,the United States of America and China.

He said China has identified Limerick and the Mid West as a target for their investment.

He concluding by thanking the Councillors for their assistance and the media who have been so kind to him. He paid tribute to Laura Ryan from Limerick Communications Office.

Cllr.Scully on behalf of the Fine Gael said the Mayor had done the City pride.

He said the Mayor had done much to promote Limerick as a destination for the education of foreign students.

He paid tribute to the Mayor's wife and wished the Mayor a well deserved break.

Cllr. Tom Shortt on behalf of the Labour group, said the Mayor avoided controversy and was tremendously successful in promoting Limerick. He said the Mayor had kept his fellow councillors informed of all new initiatives and worked hard to ensure that councillors had a say in the amalgamation process. He said,he had a world view as Mayor and praised the initiatives he had undertaken in this regard.

He congratulated the Mayor personally and politically on his year and wished him the best.

Cllr. O'Hanlon warmly congratulated the Mayor on a wonderful year in Office and Cllr.Kiely on his year as Deputy Mayor. He thanked the Mayor's family in particular. He paid tribute to his work since the amalgamation announcement and to his work on retaining the VEC offices in the City. He said the Mayor had given long hours to the Office and managed the operation of Council meetings efficiently and effectively.

Cllr. Gilligan said it is generally accepted that the Mayor had an outstanding year in the Office. He said the Mayor should now enjoy a break and look back on his year with pride.

Cllr.Quinlivan said he was struck by the Mayor's personal story and that he was a truly inclusive Mayor.

He said it was clear, throughout the year, that the Mayor came from a loving and supporting family.

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin paid tribute to work the Mayor did on the purchase of the Opera Centre building.

The City Manager addressed the meeting and said the Office of Mayor can only be fully understood by former Mayors and members of the City Council. The Mayor has to make difficult choices and balance sometimes competing interests. The Manager said the decision to hold a Civic Reception outside of City Hall was a courageous decision.

He expressed the hope that the management and staff had been of great assistance to him and wished the Mayor the very best.

Cllr.Kennedy said the Mayor had done a tremendous job in furthering the interests of the City.

Cllr. Kennedy then referred to an agreement made in 2009 . The agreement provided for his Mayoralty in 2012/13 and in return Cllr.Kennedy agreed to support all other Fine Gael nominees over the lifetime of the Council.

He said he remained a member in good standing and submitted that the agreement should be honoured

He said that three separate investigations have made no findings against him.

He said that Fine Gael had not imposed any sanction against him.

He emphasized that he attended every meeting for which he claimed and refunded expenses .He participated fully in these meetings. He said he made an honest and genuine mistake and that once made aware of it, he corrected it.

At the Wednesday morning meeting, Cllr. Kennedy made a presentation in relation to the expenses claim and set out the facts in detail. He was the only councillor who spoke and assumed that the matter had been dealt with as there was no indication of concern expressed at that meeting.

He then said that with regard to this Mayoral election, in the best interest of the City and Fine Gael, he will not be opposing whoever is nominated by Fine Gael.

He thanked the members who agreed to give him the facility to make the statement and copies of it are available for members if they wish.

1. NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR

His Worship the Mayor asked for nominations to fill the Office of Mayor of the City until the election of a successor and to install the successful candidate into the Office if the Council should so decide.

Cllr. Tom Shortt formally proposed Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin to the Office of Mayor.

Cllr. Scully formally seconded the proposal.

Cllr. O' Hanlon formally proposed Cllr.K.Leddin to the Office of the Mayor. Cllr. Gilligan formally seconded the proposal.

A roll call vote was held which resulted as follows:

FOR CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN

His Worship the Mayor Cllr. Long, Cllr. M.Byrne, Cllr. K. Kiely, Cllr. G. Fahy, Cllr. M. Hourigan, Cllr. C. Hurley, Cllr. P. Kennedy, Cllr. D. McCarthy, Cllr. G. McLoughlin, Cllr. O.McLoughlin, Cllr.T.Shortt, Cllr.J. Leddin and Cllr. D. Scully (13)

FOR CLLR. K. LEDDIN

Cllr. J. Gilligan, Cllr. K. Leddin, Cllr. K. O'Hanlon and Cllr. M Quinlivan.

(4)

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Long declared Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin elected to the Office of Mayor by a roll call vote of 13 in favour of Cllr. Mc Loughlin against 4 in favour of Cllr. K. Leddin.

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin then took the Chair as Mayor of the City.

Cllr. G.McLoughlin then spoke as the new Mayor of the City. He paid tribute to his supporters including Shannon Rugby club, Star Rovers, the residents of St. Mary's parish and all those in his electoral area who supported him.

He said by engaging with local people we can create a positive environment. He said the under usage of the waterways in Limerick is a concern to him.

He said public life is not a thankless job. He paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor Jim Long.

Limerick city, he said, has been built by people from diverse backgrounds working with a common objective. The people of Limerick city expect the members to express our differences honestly.

He continued that Limerick is a changing, confident City with many challenges including poverty and safer neighbourhoods .

It is vitally important that measures are taken to boost employment. During the past three years we have battled the global recession. He said that we must continue to work on attracting industries and incentivise local creativity.

He wanted a green, sporting and shopping City.

He said we need to look at alternative transport options in particular cycle lanes.

He identified the use of social media to promote City services and initiatives.

He concluded by looking forward to the working with the members, staff and the new Manager for the City and County.

Cllr. Scully congratulated the Mayor on his election. He said he was a man with a huge heart who actively gets involved.

Cllr. Joe Leddin warmly congratulated the new Mayor on his election. He said he will do the people of Limerick proud.

Cllr. O'Hanlon said it was a proud moment for the Mayor's and his family.

Cllr. Orla O'Loughlin said on behalf of the O'Loughlin family it was a huge honour.

Cllr. Gilligan said the Mayor would have the full support of the Council. He said the Mayor would bring his many life experiences to the Office.

Cllr.Kathleen Leddin wished the new Mayor the very best in the year ahead and thanked her own supporters.

Cllr.Hurley congratulated the Mayor on his election.

The Mayor paid tribute to Cllr.Kennedy.

The City Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the City Council, joined with the members in congratulating Cllr. McLoughlin on his election as Mayor. He assured him of the full support of the staff for the coming year.

2. NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Scully formally proposed Cllr. Maria Byrne for the Office of Deputy Mayor. Cllr. Shortt formally seconded the proposal.

As there were no other nominations to the Office of Deputy Mayor, the Mayor formally declared Cllr.M. Byrne elected to the Office of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Cllr. J.Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed that the meeting stand adjourned to Thursday, 28th June, 2012 at 4.00 p.m.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

**CONN MURRAY
CITY AND COUNTY MANAGER**

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2012.

MAYOR OF LIMERICK