

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

An Adjourned Annual Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Thursday, 28th June, 2012 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

IN THE CHAIR : Cllr. G. McLoughlin, Mayor

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

STAFF : Mr. K. Lehane, City Manager
Mr. O. O'Loughlin, Director of Service
Mr. G. Dillon, Acting Director of Service
Mr. D. Keane, Acting Director of Service
Mr. P. Foley, Acting Director of Service
Ms. D. Minogue, Acting Director of Service
Mr. P. Murnane, Acting Head of Finance
Mr. K. Reeves, Acting Senior Planner
Mr. V. Murray, Senior Engineer
Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

STATUTORY BUSINESS

3. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed to fix meetings of City Council for twelve months as per schedules submitted.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Scully, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 28th May, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

2. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Scully, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Adjourned Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 5th June, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

3. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Scully, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 28th May, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

Cllr. K. Leddin stated that at the Meeting she pointed out that she was in school with the late Bobby Byrnes's wife, Helen, and not Bobby, as stated in the Minutes and she asked that they be amended accordingly.

4. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Scully, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 13th June, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

Cllr. Byrne pointed out that she attended this meeting, however, was not recorded in the minutes as attending and she asked that the minutes be amended accordingly.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE, 2012.

The Chairman's Report, Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 11th June, 2012, was noted.

Cllr. Fahy welcomed the Water Mains Rehabilitation Projects Works and stressed the importance that all communities are made aware of and understand the project as it will cause a lot of disruption. This project will further enhance and improve quality and water pressure and give better water services to the communities. He also welcomed the completion of the works in John's Square.

In reply to Cllr. Kiely, Acting Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that full funding has been committed for the new link road from Coonagh to Knockalisheen and will be given on an annual basis. He referred to Cllr. Kiely's enquiry regarding payment to landowners that are entitled to compensation as a result of this new link road and was informed by the Acting Director that lands will be valuated and compensation awarded as soon as possible.

Cllr. Hurley stated that he would be totally opposed to Cllr. Gilligan's proposal to make Athlunkard Bridge one way from Limerick to Clare.

Cllr. Quinlivan thanked the City Council for carrying out work on the roads in Moyross and urged continuance of same. He said the traffic problems in Corbally are causing major disruption adding that this is due to Limerick city not getting it's boundary extension.

Cllr. McCarthy agreed with Cllr. Quinlivan adding that there are 14,000 cars coming in from Corbally each day and he accepted the Acting Director of Services's report on the matter.

The Acting Director of Service informed members that work in John Square is now completed and will be opened tomorrow to traffic. He said the finished product is very satisfactory.

Cllr. Shortt welcomed the completion of the works adding that he appreciated traders were inconvenienced while the works were taking place, however, the completed works will be a bonus to the area and to the city.

Cllr. Shortt drew attention to Athlunkard Bridge which is dangerous for cyclists. This is a very busy bridge and, in his opinion, there should be no overtaking of cyclists on this bridge and a sign should be erected to this effect. There is very little provision for cyclists in the city and suggested that a forum be set up to listen to cyclists suggestions and problems they experience while cycling throughout the city. He congratulated all involved in Bike Week and especially the Bike Parade.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin and Cllr. K. Leddin joined with Cllr. Shortt in congratulating all involved on the Bike Parade and Bike Week which involved a full week of activities.

The Acting Director of Service accepted Cllr. Shortt's view regarding Athlunkard Bridge and cyclists, however, pointed out that Smarter Travel is now in operation and he assured Cllr. Shortt that cyclists will be well catered for in same and agreed to enter into discussions with cyclists. He added that €9m has been allocated for this project.

In reply to Cllr. Shortt, the Acting Director stated that the City Council is presently in the process of procuring signage for the Nicholas Street area.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR. FAHY, SECONDED BY CLLR. SCULLY AND UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO TAKE ITEM NO. 13 AT THIS STAGE

13. PRESENTATION ON WATER MAINS REHABILITATION PROJECTS WORKS PACKAGE 1

Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy, Senior Executive Engineer gave presentation on Water Mains Rehabilitation Projects Works Package 1.

The Acting Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) informed Members that there will be localised disruption while this project is underway. However, all affected houses will be given advanced warning and flyers will be dropped off eight weeks before the work commences. Water will be turned off for eight to ten hours per day and as a result there may be a lot of complaints.

Cllr. J. Leddin thanked Mr. O'Shaughnessy for his detailed presentation. Limerick City Council has a very good reputation for the quality of the water. Frequent updates are given by the staff on the matter which highlights the amount of investment that has been put in to the quality of water and the treatment plants. Most of the water network is eighty to one hundred years old and this project is about water conservation and leakage. It will also improve the pressure of water and is a very worthwhile project. The success of this project is down to good communication with the public as there is a fear among the public regarding noise, disruption and parking and urged communication in advance of commencement. Members can talk to the public and allay their fears. He stressed the importance of the contractors and staff involved having valid ID. He said this is a very worthwhile project and he would wholly support it.

Cllr. O'Hanlon welcomed the presentation adding that the City Council's Water Department personnel do an excellent job in providing a clean and efficient service to the people of Limerick even during the freezing conditions.

Cllr. Hourigan referred to the €7m allocated to this project and enquired if this is adequate for this project to be rolled out across the whole city.

Cllr. Scully complimented staff also on the excellent water service they provide and expressed concern that this level of service will deteriorate if a National Water Authority is set up. In his opinion, a state body could not match the existing level of service. He pointed out that local management and Councillors have an input into the setting up of this new body and they should make their views known.

The Acting Director of Service thanked Members for their good wishes adding that water is an essential service and he is very satisfied with all staff working in this area who meet the requirements and needs essentially. He pointed out that problems do crop up unexpectedly but assured members that staff do their utmost to resolve these as quickly and efficiently as possible. The setting up of a National Water Authority is a government initiative. He stated that the City and County Managers Association have regular meetings and they have raised similar queries to those which the members have raised here today. He stressed that water mains rehabilitation and conservation is an ongoing series. He added that an audit has been carried out and there is a target for each project. He assured Members that two leaflets will be going out to members of the public shortly.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18TH JUNE, 2012.

The Chairman's Report, Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 18th June, 2012, was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Scully, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to approve the following Recommendation from the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 18th June, 2012 :

“To approve the Review of the Development Contribution Scheme”.

Members fully supported the report by Dr. Chris McInerney and the University of Limerick students on 'Reviewing Limerick 2012'.

Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed the review of the Development Contribution Scheme and wished to acknowledge the work done to date by the staff in the Planning and Development Department in preparing these schemes. The review of the Scheme is a reflection of the current economic situation. He welcomed the joint team meetings with Limerick County Council and the proposal to reduce charges. He pointed out that there are enough apartments in the core city centre and asked that houses be included in the new scheme. He welcomed prioritising the city centre, incorporating regeneration including the Opera Centre Site and decreasing contributions for commercial buildings. He said the branding and marketing of the city is very important and he paid tribute to the staff of the Communications Office for doing their best in promoting Limerick City on limited resources.

Cllr. Kennedy said that it is important to ensure that the new headquarters of the amalgamated authority is City Hall.

Cllr. Gilligan stated that there are many wishes expressed in the presentations given to the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning SPC Meeting, however, a balanced approach needs to be taken. He thanked the students in the University of Limerick on 'Reviewing Limerick 2012'. He said the Opera Centre Site is the key area that needs to be addressed in the city.

Cllr. Shortt expressed concern that it is nine months since the last meeting of the Management Committee of the Market Trustees and added that meetings are necessary for the progression of the city. In his opinion, there should be a longer lead in period to Year of Culture for Limerick and proper planning on all initiatives is required which should involve consultation with the local people and businesses.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked for an update on the Opera Centre Site. He expressed concern at the detrimental effect the shopping centres in the suburbs are having on the city centre and said parking charges is a very serious issue for the city. Streets are being redesigned with little or no on street parking adding that some people do not like using multi storey car parks.

STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by Cllr. Scully, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders for twenty Minutes.

Cllr. Kiely suggested that Council Meetings should commence at 2.00 p.m. and finish before 5.30 p.m. as it is not fair to keep staff any later at these meetings.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin agreed with Cllr. Kiely and agreed to consider the matter.

The City Manager informed Members that the equalisation of rates is included in the terms of reference for the amalgamated City and County Council adding that staff both here and in the county have been trying to achieve a reduction over the last few years, however, to achieve a reduction by 2015 is a huge task but said it will be looked at and agreed to keep Members informed. He endorsed Members wish to have the headquarters of the amalgamated authority here in City Hall adding that this is the best located building in the country with views of the meeting of the waters and is right in the heart of the city.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of the following :

Limerick Southern Green Route Ballinacurra Creek to Punches Cross Quality Bus Corridor.
Limerick Riverside Improvement Strategy City Quays Main Works Contractors with Specialists and PSCS.

Submitted letter from Willie O'Dea, T.D., acknowledging receipt of Limerick City Council's letter on the subject of the VEC Headquarters and stating that he would be happy to work with Members to maintain the Headquarters in Limerick city, if at all possible.

8. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and unanimously agreed to approve Disposal of Property as follows in accordance with Notices already circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 :

- (a) Disposal of land consisting of 0.2356 hectares situate at Sarsfield Park in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG 3037 to the O.P.W. or their nominees for development/use by An Mhodscoil, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to approve Disposal of Property as follows in accordance with Notices already circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 :

- (b) Disposal of Freehold (Ground Rent) under Section 26 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act, 1978 as per attached Section 183 Notice.

9. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and unanimously agreed to approve participation by Members at the following conferences :

Seminar 'Looking Globally, Legislating Locally: The Irish Legal Capacity Bill'

Held in The Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 2

3rd April, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €340.54

Conference Fee : Nil

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Seminar 'Nuclear Developments across the Irish Sea and Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland'

Held in Dundalk Town Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth

20th April, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €439.78

Conference Fee : Nil

IBIS Evening Lecture 'Should Ambulances stop at the Border? The challenge of co-operation in healthcare provision'

Held in The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin

13th June, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €340.54

Conference Fee : Nil

National Tourism Conference 'Pride in our Country – Pride in our Place'

Held in The Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow

21st - 23rd June, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €396.37

Conference Fee : €140.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Local Authority Housing'

Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway

13th - 14th July, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95

Conference Fee : €150.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
entitled 'Bullying and Stress in the Workplace'
Held in The Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry
20th - 21st July, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €229.49
Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Mind Mapping and Efficient Reading
Techniques'
Held in The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
20th - 22nd July, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €425.91
Conference Fee : €100.00

32nd Annual MacGill Summer School and Arts Week entitled 'Reforming and Rebuilding Our State'
Held in The Glenties, Co. Donegal
22nd - 27th July, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €924.18
Conference Fee : €150.00

John Hewitt International Summer School entitled 'The State of Hope'
Held in The Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh
23rd - 27th July, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €828.18
Conference Fee : €200.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
Entitled 'Improving the Social Housing Stock'
Held in The Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo
27th - 28th July, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €318.10
Conference Fee : €150.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
Entitled 'Criminal Law for the Local Representative'
Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway
30th - 31st July, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95
Conference Fee : €150.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
Entitled 'Local Government Auditing'
Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway
3rd - 4th August, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95
Conference Fee : €150.00

William Carleton Summer School entitled '60 Miles for 60 Years Completed'
Held in The Corick House Hotel, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
6th - 9th August, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €641.22
Conference Fee : TBC

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
entitled 'Personal Insolvency Bill 2012'

Held in The Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry

10th - 11th August, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €229.49

Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by Celtic Conferences entitled

'Creating Employment Opportunities in Local Food Production'

Held in The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

10th - 12th August, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €425.91

Conference Fee : €100.00

Parnell Summer School 2012 'Sovereignty and Society'

Held in Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

12th - 17th August, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €842.66

Conference Fee : €250.00

The Lough Ree Environmental Summer School and Arts Festival 2012

Held in Lanesborough, Co. Longford

15th - 19th August, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €626.17

Conference Fee : € 50.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
entitled 'Freedom of Information'

Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway

17th - 18th August, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95

Conference Fee : €150.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
entitled 'Education (Amendment) (Protection of Schools) Bill 2012'

Held in The Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo

24th - 25th August, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €318.10

Conference Fee : €150.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises
entitled 'Development Initiatives for your Community'

Held in The Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo

7th - 8th September, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €318.10

Conference Fee : €150.00

Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend

Held in Strule Arts Centre, Townhall Square, Omagh, Co. Tyrone

7th - 9th September, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €573.58

Conference Fee : St£85.00

AMAI Centenary Annual Conference
Held in The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
13th - 15th September, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €368.02
Conference Fee : €175.00

2012 La Touche Legacy Seminar entitled 'Local Democracy – Myth or Reality'
Held in The Charlesland Golf and Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
28th - 30th September, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €482.61
Conference Fee : €150.00

10. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Submitted Financial Statement for the month of May, 2012, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

11. APPROVE INITIATION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR A PROPOSED VARIATION OF THE LIMERICK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 – 2016 PROPOSED REZONING FOR LANDS AT SOUTHILL

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and unanimously agreed to approve the initiation of the procedure for a Proposed Variation of the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016 Proposed Rezoning for lands at Southill.

Cllr. Quinlivan asked that a meeting be organised with the relevant stakeholders in relation to this matter.

12. MID WEST AREA STRATEGIC PLAN (MWASP) – A TWENTY YEAR PLANNING, LANDUSE AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY FOR THE MID WEST REGION

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to adopt the Mid West Area Strategic Plan (MWASP) – A twenty year planning, land use and transportation strategy for the Mid West Region.

14. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of Planning Proposals under consideration at 15th June, 2012 and Decisions taken from 21st May, 2012 to 15th June, 2012.

Cllr. Hourigan asked that a meeting be organised with the Councillors from the northside in relation to planning application Ref. No. 12/88 – Permission to hold concerts in accordance with the requirement of Condition No. 5 of the permission granted to Limerick Gaelic Grounds Development Committee under permission P08/358 at Pairc nGael, Ennis Road, Limerick. He pointed out that there is a lot of concern among residents in relation to this planning application and said this should be examined in conjunction with all interested parties.

15. CONSIDER DIRECTOR OF SERVICES REPORT DATED 29TH MAY, 2012

It was proposed by Cllr. Quinlivan, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed to approve Director of Services Report dated 29th May, 2012 and that the word 'temporary' be included as follows :

'Change of use from banking premises to temporary City Museum and Archives with offices and ancillary works at Nos. 7 and 8, Patrick Street, Limerick'. (C12/2)

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee :

“That Limerick City Council, in partnership with Limerick Regeneration, Weston Villas and Prospect FC, redevelop and upgrade Caledonian Park on a similar design and model used for Shelbourne Park, to include soccer pitches, perimeter running track and associated facilities”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. O'Hanlon paid tribute to the staff of the Environment Department for the major clean up carried out recently in Rhebogue.

Cllr. O. McLoughlin proposed that, from heretofore, tea / coffee be provided for future Council meetings.

This was seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed to approve Section 85 Agreement with Clare County Council in relation to the Real Time Passenger Information Scheme.

It was proposed by Cllr. Shortt, seconded by Cllr. O. McLoughlin and unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr. Joe Leddin to the membership of the Regional Health Forum West instead of Cllr. G. McLoughlin who was stepping down.

Cllr. Kiely asked that, as he is not connected to any political party, that he be invited to Party Leaders Meetings in the future.

THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED

A TRUE RECORD

**K. LEHANE
CITY MANAGER**

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2012.

MAYOR OF LIMERICK