



**CITY OF
MONASH**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
COUNCIL
HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2020**

at 7.00 pm

**Council Chambers
293 Springvale Road,
Glen Waverley**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MONASH CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SPRINGVALE ROAD GLEN WAVERLEY
ON 10 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT: A de Silva, J Fergeus, S James, P Klisaris, G Lake, B Little, N Luo,
S McCluskey, R Paterson, T Samardzija, T Zographos

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

OPENING OF MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land. She stated that the purpose of the Meeting of Council was for the swearing in of the new Council following the conduct of the 2020 general elections as well as the election of the Mayor for the 2020/2021 term of office and for the election of the Deputy Mayor for 2019/2020.

**OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE & DECLARATION REGARDING THE COUNCILLORS'
CODE OF CONDUCT BY NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

The Oath or Affirmation of Office & the declaration regarding the Councillors' Code of Conduct were made by each of the Councillors-elect, before the Chief Executive Officer.

ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2020/2021

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for Mayor for the 2020/2021 term of office.

Cr Klisaris nominated Cr Little.

Cr de Silva nominated Cr Fergeus.

There were no further nominations.

The Chief Executive Officer called for a vote by a show of hands for each nominee, in the order that the nominations had been received.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that as Cr Little had received the majority of votes, he was duly elected as Mayor for 2020/2021. The Chief Executive Officer congratulated Cr Little on his election and handed him the gavel as a symbol of office.

The Mayor assumed control of the meeting and made his acceptance speech.

A copy of the text of the Mayor's speech is appended to the minutes.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2020/2021

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021.

Cr James nominated Cr McCluskey.

Cr Fergeus nominated Cr de Silva.

There were no further nominations.

The Mayor called for a vote by a show of hands for each nominee, in the order that the nominations had been received.

Following the show of hands, the Mayor advised that as Cr McCluskey had received a majority of votes, he was duly declared elected as Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021.

The Councillors present each took the opportunity to make their acceptance speech and to speak on the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.12 pm

MAYOR: 

DATED THURSDAY THE 22ND DAY OF APRIL 2021

SPEECH BY CR BRIAN LITTLE, MAYOR

Good Evening

In the spirit of reconciliation, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their confidence in me and their endorsement of my nomination as Mayor. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the next 12 months – I really believe that this is the start of what will be a terrific term for Council. With the world opening up and COVID restrictions easing there is now a buzz around and a sense that everybody wants to make up for lost time. And I feel the same is true in this place.

A warm welcome to our new Councillors – Nicky Luo, Tina Samardzija and Anjalee de Silva, it is wonderful to have you on board and it is wonderful to have more women's voices in the chamber. With new faces comes new skills and experiences and new perspectives and I have no doubt that you will each be making a very valuable contribution over the next four years. If I can say just one thing – this is a large and complex organisation and the way things happen aren't always straight forward. It is quite astonishing the range of activities that Council is involved in. You may find it a little overwhelming to begin with but don't be afraid to ask. There is a wealth of experience to draw on, both around this table and in the staff that support us. From a personal perspective I make a commitment now to make myself available to the three of you to answer whatever questions you might have. Look, I'm always looking for a good excuse to go for a coffee and a chat.

Next, it is my privilege to acknowledge our outgoing Mayor Stuart James. Stuart, your leadership during the past 12 months has been extraordinary. In what has been undoubtedly the most difficult challenge we have faced, you led with conviction and compassion. I know you found it frustrating that so many of the events and activities you should have been involved in were cancelled because of COVID. What you probably don't realise is just how much you matured over those twelve months – what we all observed was how much your confidence and your voice as a leader grew stronger. And you, with no doubt some help from Jarrod, mastered the art of chairing meetings over first Microsoft Teams and then Zoom. That wasn't easy. It isn't the same as a live meeting and I know you found it quite stressful. Thank you.

I also want to acknowledge former Deputy Mayor and Councillor MT Pang Tsoi for his service during the year and wish him all the best for the future. I had a chat with him a few days ago and I know he is disappointed not to have got back in, but he expressed a real appreciation for his time on Council.

This year has without doubt been the most challenging we have faced as a Council and a community. I am so proud of the collective work of many of the Councillors here tonight, and our former colleagues, in making decisions to care for our community during the pandemic when many in our community were struggling with the loss of their jobs, anxiety about their businesses and concerns about their future.

These decisions included extending the hardship assistance program to include a rate deferral, suspending footpath trading fees and a 10% waiver on all rates for the 2020/21 financial year.

Economic recovery will take some time but we have proven that working together, we can achieve great things. I am heartened by the support we are already seeing for our businesses and the many stories of kindness to others that are being shared.

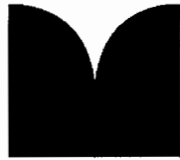
We have been, and continue to be, extremely fortunate to have the leadership and experience of our outstanding CEO Dr Andi Diamond, her executive team and the staff of Monash who have been committed to supporting and caring for our residents and business community as the pandemic took hold. Monash has held firm in not letting staff go and it is a tribute to the commitment of our staff and their willingness to be flexible in what they do that Council has been able to continue to provide services across almost the full spectrum of council activities. It has been extraordinary in how so many services managed to find a way to function online and found new ways to bridge the communication gap when face to face was not possible. Also a special thank you to Greg Talbot who has been at the forefront of Monash's response to the pandemic and steered the ship through some pretty choppy seas. Now that the gyms are opening up it will be great to see the Active Monash staff get back to what they do best.

As we move into recovery from COVID there will of course be challenges ahead, but also much to look forward to. We are looking forward to the long-awaited reopening of our fantastic Oakleigh Recreation Centre incorporating the gymnastics centre for Waverley gymnastics, a project that owes much to the tenacity and fortitude of our CEO and former mayor Stuart James. And of course we all welcome the reopening of gyms, libraries and facilities, and the delight we have in welcoming the public back these much-loved places in Monash.

Sadly whilst at this stage Council is not holding live, in-person events, there are some online activities planned including our much-loved carols which will be an online event on 20 December.

I would just like to acknowledge the support I have had from my family. As many people here would know I lost my wife, Jan, last year to ovarian cancer. Jan was my greatest support, and to a significant degree the reason I became involved in council. I miss her greatly but I have three great grown-ups in my camp in Kathryn, Cameron and Andrew who in their own way every day give me courage and support. Up to now I have not acknowledged publically the amazing support I received at Jan's funeral last year – it was overwhelming just how many from the Monash family came on that occasion and supported me and my family. It was amazing and from the bottom of my heart I would like to say a rather belated 'thank you'.

Finally, as your Mayor, I give my commitment that I will work with each Councillor around the table for the betterment of this wonderful city and to make the next twelve months the very best they can be for the Monash community.



CITY OF
MONASH

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

"I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Anjalee de Silva

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

"I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Josh Fergeus

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

"I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

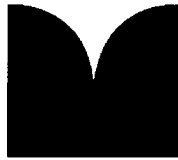
I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Stuart James

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

OATH OF OFFICE

"I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Paul Klisaris

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND

Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

"I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Geoff Lake

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

"I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Brian Little

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND

Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

OATH OF OFFICE

"I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Nicky Luo

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

OATH OF OFFICE

"I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Shane McCluskey

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

OATH OF OFFICE

"I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Rebecca Paterson

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND

Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

"I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

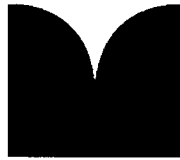
I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Tina Samardzija

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND
Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
MONASH

OATH OF OFFICE

"I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the **Local Government Act 2020** and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement".

Councillor Theo Zographos

DATED AT GLEN WAVERLEY in the State of Victoria this 10th day of November 2020, before me.

ANDI DIAMOND

Chief Executive Officer