



# City of Whitehorse

## MINUTES

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### Statutory Council Meeting to Elect Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Held on

**Monday 8 November 2021**

at 7:00pm

**Members:** Cr Barker, Cr Carr, Cr Cutts, Cr Davenport, Cr Lane, Cr Liu, Cr McNeill, Cr Massoud, Cr Munroe, Cr Skilbeck, Cr Stennett

**Mr Simon McMillan**  
Chief Executive Officer

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Meeting opened at 7:00pm

**Present:** Cr Barker, Cr Carr, Cr Cutts, Cr Davenport, Cr Lane, Cr Liu, Cr McNeill, Cr Massoud, Cr Munroe, Cr Skilbeck, Cr Stennett

**Officers:** S McMillan, S Cann, J Green, L Letic, S Sullivan, S White, V Ferlaino, J Russell, N Jones, D Hastas

*In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Whitehorse City Council's Governance Rules 2020, the Chief Executive Officer was the temporary Chairperson of the meeting, and the Returning Officer for the election of the Mayor but had no voting rights. The Chief Executive Officer facilitated the election of the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2020 and Whitehorse City Council's Governance Rules 2020.*

## 1 PRAYER

The Prayer and Aboriginal Reconciliation Statement was read by the temporary Chairperson Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon McMillan.

### 1a Prayer for Council

*We give thanks, O God, for the Men and Women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our City.*

*Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundations they have laid.*

*Direct our minds that all we plan and determine, is for the wellbeing of our City.*

***Amen.***

### 1b Aboriginal Reconciliation Statement

*Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from communities who may be present today.*

## 2 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The temporary Chairperson Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon McMillan, introduced Councillors and members of staff and welcomed members of the public viewing the meeting via Council's live streaming service.

There were no apologies.

**3. Address by Immediate Past Mayor and Immediate Past Deputy Mayor**

- 3.1 Immediate Past Mayor, Councillor Andrew Munroe addressed the meeting on his year as Mayor.
- 3.2 Immediate Past Deputy Mayor, Councillor Raylene Carr addressed the meeting on her year as Deputy Mayor.

**4. Term of the Mayor**

- 4.1 The *Local Government Act 2020* states that:
- at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council. (*section 25 (1)*)
  - before the election of the Mayor takes place, Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a 1 year or a 2 year term. (*section 26 (3)*)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Massoud, Seconded by Cr Munroe

***That Council resolves to elect the Mayor for a term of one year commencing 8 November 2021 until the date of the next Council meeting for the Election of the Mayor.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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## 5. Election of the Mayor

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### **SUMMARY**

*The election of the Mayor took place in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Whitehorse City Council Governance Rules 2020 which requires:*

- *voting at a meeting that is open to the public be conducted openly by show of hands;*
- *that the election of the Mayor be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer.*

### **5.1 The Role of the Mayor and Specific Powers of the Mayor**

#### 5.1.1 The Role of the Mayor

Section 18 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* defines the functions of the Mayor to include:

- a) Chair Council meetings; and
- b) Be the principal spokesperson for the Council; and
- c) Lead engagement with the municipal community on the development of the Council Plan; and
- d) Report to the municipal community, at least once each year, on the implementation of the Council Plan; and
- e) Promote behaviour among Councillors that meets the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct; and
- f) Assist Councillors to understand their role; and
- g) Take a leadership role in ensuring the regular review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer; and
- h) Provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is setting the agenda for Council meetings; and
- i) Perform civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the Council.

#### 5.1.2 Specific Powers of the Mayor

Section 19 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* defines the following specific powers of the Mayor to:

- a) Appoint a Councillor to be the chair of a delegated committee;
- b) Direct a Councillor, subject to any procedures or limitations specified in the Governance Rules, to leave a Council meeting if the behaviour of the Councillor is preventing the Council from conducting its business;
- c) Require the Chief Executive Officer to report to the Council on the implementation of a Council decision.

### **Election of the Mayor**

- 5.2 The temporary Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon McMillan outlined how the Election of the Mayor would be conducted.
- 5.3 The temporary Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon McMillan called for nominations for the position of Mayor, for a term of one year commencing 8 November 2021 until the date of the next Council meeting for the Election of the Mayor (*as previously resolved by Council under Item 4 of the agenda*).

There were two nominations for the position of Mayor.

Councillor Barker nominated himself, seconded by Councillor Davenport.

Councillor Liu nominated herself, seconded by Councillor Munroe.

- 5.4 Each candidate for Mayor in order of nomination was allowed three minutes to address fellow Councillors.
- 5.5 In accordance with Whitehorse City Council's Governance Rules 2020, Mr Simon McMillan acting as the Returning Officer conducted the vote for the election of the Mayor for the 2021-2022 Mayoral Term.

Following the vote, Councillor Tina Liu having reached an absolute majority of votes was declared Mayor of the City of Whitehorse.

- 5.6 The Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon McMillan as Returning Officer congratulated Councillor Liu on her election as Mayor.

At this point, Councillor Liu briefly left the Council Chamber to be fitted with the Mayoral robe and medallion and then returned and assumed the Chair.

- 5.7 Address and expression of appreciation by incoming Mayor.

Councillor Liu thanked the Councillors for their support. Councillor Liu advised that it was a tremendous honour and privilege to be elected as Whitehorse Mayor for the next 12 months. Councillor Liu acknowledged the work of immediate past Mayor Councillor Andrew Munroe and immediate past Deputy Mayor Councillor Raylene Carr for their work over the last 12 months. Councillor Liu said she looked forward to working with the Councillor group, the Council administration and the community for the upcoming Mayoral year.

- 5.8 Councillors then congratulated Councillor Liu on her election as Mayor.

## 6. Office of Deputy Mayor

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### **SUMMARY**

*The Local Government Act 2020 provides that a Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor. Council is required to determine whether to establish an office of the Deputy Mayor for the 2021/2022 Mayoral term, and then call for nominations for a Deputy Mayor.*

### **Office of Deputy Mayor**

Section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) states that:

- 1) A Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.
- 2) If the Council has established an office of Deputy Mayor, the provisions of the LGA 2020 relating to the office of Deputy Mayor apply.
- 3) If a Council has not established an office of Deputy Mayor, section 20B in relation to an Acting Mayor applies.

Council is required to determine whether to establish an office of the Deputy Mayor, and then call for nominations for a Deputy Mayor for the 2021/2022 Mayoral term should it be determined to establish the office of Deputy Mayor. Any Councillor (except the Mayor) is eligible for election to the office of Deputy Mayor.

### **Financial Implications**

The Deputy Mayor receives a Councillor allowance, however the LGA 2020 does not permit a level of remuneration for the office of Deputy Mayor. There is a budget allocation for Mayoral and Councillor Allowances to meet statutory requirements.

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Munroe, Seconded by Cr Lane

#### ***That:***

1. ***Council resolves to establish an office of the Deputy Mayor.***
2. ***An election be conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Whitehorse City Council Governance Rules, to appoint a Deputy Mayor.***
3. ***Council note that the term of the Deputy Mayor is identical to the term of the Mayor, as resolved by Council under item 4 of this Agenda.***
4. ***Council note that the Local Government Act 2020 does not currently permit a level of remuneration over and above that available to Councillors for the position of Deputy Mayor.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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## 7. Election of the Deputy Mayor

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### **SUMMARY**

*The election of the Deputy Mayor took place in accordance with sections 25 (1) and 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Whitehorse City Council Governance Rules 2020 which requires:*

- *the election to be chaired by the Mayor, and the Mayor to be the Returning Officer for the Election of the Deputy Mayor.*
- *the election of the Deputy Mayor to be held at a Council Meeting that is open to the public, with the method of voting to be carried out by a show of hands.*

- 7.1 The Mayor as Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor, for the Mayoral term of one year commencing 8 November 2021 until the date of the next Council meeting for the Election of the Mayor (as previously resolved by Council under Item 4 of the Agenda).

There were two nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Barker nominated Councillor Stennett, seconded by Councillor Davenport.  
(*Councillor Stennett accepted the nomination*)

Councillor Massoud nominated herself, seconded by Councillor Munroe.

- 7.2 Each candidate for Deputy Mayor in order of nomination was given up to three minutes to address the Councillors.
- 7.3 In accordance with Whitehorse City Council's Governance Rules 2020, the Mayor acting as the Returning Officer then conducted the vote for the election of the Deputy Mayor for the Mayoral term of one year commencing 8 November 2021 until the date of the next Council meeting for the Election of the Mayor (as previously resolved by Council under Item 4 of the Agenda).

Following the vote, Councillor Massoud having reached an absolute majority of votes was declared Deputy Mayor of the City of Whitehorse.

- 7.4 The Mayor as Returning Officer congratulated Councillor Massoud on her election as Deputy Mayor.
- 7.5 Councillor Massoud thanked her fellow Councillors for putting their faith in her to support the Mayor. Councillor Massoud advised she is excited to be working with Councillor Liu and feels it will be another year of growth as a Council, and all will work together to produce great outcomes for the community. Councillor Massoud thanked her family for their ongoing support in her local government journey.



**8. Close Meeting**

Meeting closed at 7:56pm

**Confirmed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2021**

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**CHAIRPERSON**