

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Minutes of the Public Voice Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 5.35pm.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor N Nelmes), Councillors M Byrne, J Church, D Clausen, C Duncan, K Elliott (*arrived 6.10pm*), J Mackenzie, A Rufo, E White and P Winney-Baartz (*arrived 6.34pm*).

IN ATTENDANCE

J Bath (Interim Chief Executive Officer), P Chrystal (Director Planning and Regulatory), E Kolatchew (Interim Manager Legal and Governance), J Gaynor (Manager Strategic Planning), P McCarthy (Team Co-ordinator Strategic Planning), J Dunkerley (Urban Planner), K Baartz (Communications Manager) and K Sullivan (Council Services/Minutes/Webcasting).

MESSAGE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Lord Mayor read the message of acknowledgement to the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

PRAYER

The Lord Mayor read a prayer and a period of silence was observed in memory of those who served and died so that Council might meet in peace.

APOLOGIES

MOTION

Moved by Cr Rufo, seconded by Cr Clausen

The apologies submitted on behalf of Councillors Dunn, Luke and Robinson be received and leave of absence granted.

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Clausen

Councillor Clausen declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. He stated that a number of persons present and speakers had been known to make political donations in the past to the Labor party and would remain in the Chamber for discussion of the item.

Lord Mayor, Councillor Nelmes

The Lord Mayor declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. She stated that a number of persons present and speakers had been known to make political donations in the past to the Labor party and would remain in the Chamber for discussion of the item.

Councillor Byrne

Councillor Byrne declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. He stated that a number of persons present and speakers had been known to make political donations in the past to the Labor party and would remain in the Chamber for discussion of the item.

Councillor Byrne further stated that he was a member of the executive on Newcastle Trades Hall Council and as he had no land holding there was no benefit from financial gain nor an employment relationship which could be perceived as a private benefit or advantage.

Councillor Duncan

Councillor Duncan declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. She stated that a number of persons present and speakers had been known to make political donations in the past to the Labor party and would remain in the Chamber for discussion of the item.

Councillor White

Councillor White declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. She stated that a number of persons present and speakers had been known to make political donations in the past to the Labor party and would remain in the Chamber for discussion of the item.

Councillor White further stated that she was a representative for a trades union to Trades Hall and as this was not a paid position, there was no financial benefit to herself nor had she been involved in the discussions at Trades Hall as to their position to be presented tonight.

Councillor Church

Councillor Church declared a potential conflict of interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. He stated that he was employed by a local real estate agency and may benefit from time to time if development application approvals were successful and if the agency was appointed to sell or market properties in the rail corridor.

Councillor Winney-Baartz

Councillor Winney-Baartz declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition of Rail Corridor and Adjacent Land Rezoning, Development Control Plan and Planning Agreement. She stated that a number of persons present and speakers had been known to make political donations in the past to the Labor party and would remain in the Chamber for discussion of the item.

PUBLIC VOICE SESSIONS

ITEM-1 PV 18/10/17 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF RAIL CORRIDOR AND ADJACENT LAND REZONING, DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN AND PLANNING AGREEMENT

The Public Voice provided an opportunity for members of the community to present their comments on UrbanGrowth's Gateway Proposal, currently on public exhibition.

Speakers in support of the Gateway Proposal were Chris Chapman, Bob Hawes, Chelsea Beach, Neil Slater, Courtney Dolan and Daniel Wallace.

Issues addressed were:

- the revitalisation projects currently underway and the positive impact these were having on the city
- the need for action after many years of decline
- the impact on businesses seen as a short term pain for long term gain
- seeing the land used rather than left vacant
- the need to create job opportunities and security

Speakers in opposition to the Gateway Proposal were Ron Brown, Elaine Street, David Stewart, Barbara Ferris, Alan Squire and Therese Doyle.

Issues addressed were:

- the need to retain the corridor as a transport corridor for cycling, light rail and other forms of transport
- the impact of zoning changes on existing properties
- the need for a Hunter wide integrated transport plan
- the differences in the original documents and the documents currently on public exhibition
- traffic congestion and longer journey times

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues of concern.

The Lord Mayor indicated that the rail corridor was currently zoned SP2 and enquired if the zoning remained in place could it be used for recreational purposes.

Councillor Mackenzie requested an update on the status of the development of Newcastle Railway Station. The Lord Mayor responded from the Chair.

Councillor Clausen referred to a question raised in a presentation regarding subdivision of the land and enquired whether Council had received a development application to subdivide the rail corridor land since the original planning proposal.

Councillor Church enquired whether a 'hybrid' zoning could be proposed to allow for both development and presentation over the corridor. The Lord Mayor questioned did such zoning exist.

The Director of Planning and Development stated that he would take the questions on notice and provide a detailed response to Councillors.

The Planning Proposal, Voluntary Planning Agreement and Development Control Plan is currently on exhibition will be reported to Council in December.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.