

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2015, AT 10.30 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor K. Sheahan, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Butler, Byrne, Collins (J), Collins (M), Crowley, Donegan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O’Dea, O’Donnell, O’Hanlon, Quinlivan, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (M), Teefy.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Clifford, McMahon and Sheahan (J).

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. P. Dowling), Director, Travel and Transportation (Mr. P. Crowe), Meetings Administrator (Mr. E. Griffin), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from the Director of Environment and Water.

The Mayor thanked everybody for attending the Special Meeting explaining that it was being held in order to pass a Vote of Sympathy for former Councillor and Mayor, Frank Prendergast, who had passed away. Deep sympathy was expressed to his wife Mary, his children, Conor, Eoghan, Orla and Aedín, grandchildren, his two brothers and two sisters, extended family, friends, neighbours and community, for their great loss. The Mayor said that the late Frank Prendergast had been a close friend of his and that he had made a tremendous contribution to life in Limerick and would be very much missed by everyone who knew him.

Members thanked the Mayor for calling the Special Meeting. They acknowledged Frank Prendergast's great love and passion for music, literature, sport and the Irish language and made reference to his encyclopaedic knowledge of history. It was stated that the former Councillor was very much respected amongst his electorate, he had served two terms as Mayor of Limerick City and was a Labour TD for Limerick East from 1982 to 1987. It was pointed out by Members that he had a deep pride in being from Limerick and in his Labour heritage.

It was said that Frank Prendergast was born into a family of bakers and that he was immensely proud of his upbringing. He was deeply committed to the Labour Movement and through both the ITGWU and the Labour Party, he fought to improve the living and working conditions of ordinary people across the City. He had served all the people of Limerick with tenacity and dedication.

He was a passionate believer of education and was a fluent Gaeilgeoir. He was a regular contributor to Irish language programmes and publications. He was extremely proud of the development of Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh, where he was Chairman of the Board. Members acknowledged that this was a role that he was particularly proud of and one that he had carried out with great energy. It was stated that one of the greatest accolades he could have had was having the memorial library named after him.

He was described as a fantastic ambassador and advocate for Limerick all his life and particularly so during his two terms of Mayor in 1977/1978 and 1984/1985. He was a pillar of the community who fought hard for issues and for the people he represented. He was very much respected by his constituents. In turn, he was extraordinarily helpful, professional, hardworking and committed to the area he represented.

Members referred to his great mind and said he was a gifted speaker. It was said that he could deliver a speech and impart knowledge in such an interesting way. He was described as a man who saw the bigger picture and who had a strong social conscience. It was said that he was extremely proud of the traditions and history of Limerick and that Limerick had lost a treasured son.

The Chief Executive paid tribute to Frank Prendergast on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff and extended sincere sympathy to his wife Mary, family, community and friends. He said he had the pleasure of serving with him in the Council. He went on to say that the tributes were well deserved and perfectly described Frank Prendergast. As a Councillor, he had been extraordinarily supportive and had always been generous with his time, knowledge and experience. He had an unwavering passion and belief in Local Government and the people it served. He concluded by saying that he was an inspiration to all and would be sadly missed.

Some Members were of the view that it would be a fitting tribute to Frank Prendergast if those Members who wanted to wear the old City Council Ceremonial Robes to his funeral could do so if they wished.

At the suggestion of the Mayor, it was agreed to take a short adjournment to allow the Party Leaders to discuss the matter with the Executive.

Upon resumption, it was noted that it had been agreed that, on this occasion, those Members who wished to wear the Robes to the funeral could do so.

Signed:

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**Mayor**

Date:

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