

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020, AT 9.30 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor. M. Sheahan, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Butler, Costelloe, Galvin, Hartigan, Kiely, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), McSweeney, O'Hanlon, Secas, Teskey.

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Ryan (M).

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Service Operations (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. J. Clune), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. McCormack).

The Mayor thanked those present for attending the Special Meeting and outlined that it was being held in order to pass a Vote of Sympathy for former Mayor, Pat Kennedy, who had passed away. He expressed his condolences to his wife, Loretto, and children Tom, Loretto, Alex and Shane, on their loss. He stated that while Pat was a public figure most of his life, he was also a loving husband and father and his loss would be most keenly felt.

He went on to say that Pat had distinguished himself during his almost half a century serving the people of Limerick. He was a powerful politician and a man of integrity and conviction. His contributions to Limerick were hugely welcome and had helped shape the Limerick of today. Pat was first elected to the then Limerick City Council in 1967, at the age of 29, becoming an Alderman in the process. He was re-elected in subsequent Elections before he stood down at the 2014 Local Elections.

The Mayor stated that Pat served as Mayor of Limerick on two occasions, in 1974-75 and again in 1985-86. During his first term, he was involved in the campaign to have the Baggott Estate in Ballinacurra preserved as a recreational and amenity area, while during his second term he worked to have Merchant's Quay designated as an area for urban renewal. This facilitated the building of a new City Hall, which was now the Council's Corporate Headquarters.

In 2007, he achieved the rare distinction of completing 40 years on Limerick City Council and the longest period of service of any Mayor of Limerick since 1842. Pat was also the last Alderman in the history of Limerick City as the title was subsequently abolished by the Government.

Pat had also served in Seanad Éireann on two occasions, both on the Administrative Panel from 1981 to 1982 and from 1983 to 1992.

The Mayor welcomed former elected member Mr. Bill O'Donnell to the Chamber to mark the passing of Pat Kennedy.

Councillor Butler, on behalf of the Fine Gael Party, expressed his condolences and sympathy to Pat's wife Loretto and family. Councillor Butler referred to Pat's incredible career in politics and also referred to Loretto's work with various charities throughout Limerick and a family who are heavily embedded in the community. Councillor Butler recalled visiting the Kennedy home growing up and always received a warm welcome.

Councillor O'Hanlon, on behalf of the Fianna Fáil party, extended his sympathy to his wife Loretto and his family. Councillor O'Hanlon acknowledged his political career and referred to the various debates over the years in the Council Chamber.

Councillor Costelloe, on behalf of Sinn Féin, expressed his sympathy on the passing of Pat Kennedy and recalled numerous colourful debates. Councillor Costelloe acknowledged the advice that he passed on and referred to him as a man of the community.

Councillor B. Leddin, on behalf of the Green Party, wished to be associated with the expressions of sympathy and referred to the Leddin/Kennedy family political connections. Councillor Leddin acknowledged his career in politics and his larger than life personality.

Councillor Secas, on behalf of the Labour Party, also conveyed her sympathy to Pat's wife Loretto and his family.

Mr. Bill O'Donnell thanked the Mayor and Members for calling the Special Meeting to mark the passing of Pat and made reference to the Limerick East constituency. He recalled being introduced to Pat in 1973 and over the years became good friends. He acknowledged his work ethic and always had the best interest of his constituents. Mr O'Donnell acknowledged his passing and expressed his sympathies to his wife Loretto and family.

Councillor Kiely expressed her sympathies also to Pat's wife Loretto and family. Councillor Kiely referred to the advice that he offered the community which will not be forgotten. She also acknowledged the charity work which Loretto is involved in.

Councillor Teskey extended his condolences to the family and wife of Pat Kennedy. He acknowledged his successful career in politics as a testament to his character.

Councillor Hartigan also wished to be associated with expressions of sympathy to Pat's wife Loretto and family.

Councillor Leddin (J) acknowledged Pat's distinguished career in politics and referred to him as the heavyweight and political leader in the South Circular Road area. He acknowledged the friendship between the Leddin and Kennedy families. Councillor Leddin also acknowledged his belief in the concept of lifelong learning. Councillor Leddin expressed his condolences to his wife Loretto and family at this difficult time.

Councillor McSweeney wished to be associated with expressions of sympathy to Pat's wife and family.

The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor for calling the Special Meeting to mark the passing of Pat Kennedy. On behalf of Management Team, he wished to extend his sympathies to Pat's wife Loretto and family. He acknowledged Pat's distinguished career in politics and referred to Pat as a man of many talents. The Chief Executive acknowledged the role he played in his private and public life and offered his condolences to the family at this sad time.

Director, Service Operations, recalled the great memories throughout his successful career and recalled stories of a study visit to the US. Mr. Lehane wished to be associated with the expressions of sympathy to his wife Loretto and family.

The Mayor and Members observed a minute's silence to mark his passing and acknowledge his distinguished career in politics.

Signed:

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**Mayor**

Date:

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