

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2022, AT 4PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor D. Butler, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Costelloe.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Architect, Planning, Environment and Place-Making (Mr. S. Hanrahan).

Votes of Sympathy

At the outset and with the permission of the Mayor, the Council extended its sympathy to the following on their recent bereavements:

- Gordon Daly, member of staff, on the death of his father, Peadar Daly.
- The family of the late Ben O'Sullivan, member of An Garda Síochána.
- The family of the late Paddy Condon
- The family of the late Tony Purcell

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Current Crisis in the Ukraine

The Mayor stated that he had called the Special Meeting to discuss the current crisis in the Ukraine.

Councillor Galvin described the crisis as heartbreaking and suggested countries bordering the Ukraine should be congratulated for embracing people fleeing the conflict. He called on the local authority, members of the public, the Department of Housing and the Government to

help support those in need. He suggested the Council appoint a coordinator within the Housing directorate.

The Mayor outlined that there are protocols in place within the Council to support a humanitarian crisis.

Councillor Secas expressed her appreciation to the Mayor for his warm words and compassion expressed at the Vigil at City Hall. She thanked the Members for showing their support to the Ukrainian community in Limerick and commended the organisations and individuals in Limerick for their generosity and responsiveness. She condemned the invasion of Ukraine and called for an end to this war. Councillor Secas acknowledged the border countries who have taken in refugees fleeing the Ukraine and described the bravery and resilience shown by the Ukrainian people and described the heartbreaking scenes of missiles, rockets and shells hitting cities and towns, destroying residential buildings, killing and injuring innocent people. Councillor Secas recounted her own personal experience of residing in a country during an armed conflict. She expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian community in Limerick.

Councillor O'Brien described the events in the Ukraine as heartbreaking. He suggested Members exercise caution when commenting on international affairs. Councillor O'Brien emphasised the importance of Ireland's neutrality. He raised the matter of a Russian owned large-scale employer within Limerick.

Councillor Sheehan stressed the importance of unequivocally condemning the actions of Russia and thanked Councillor Secas for her profound emotional contribution.

Councillor Scanlan expressed dismay at the dreadful circumstances in the Ukraine. He concurred with Councillor O'Brien's sentiments with regard to neutrality and expressed concern with regard to Europe's reliance on coal and fuel from Russia. Councillor Scanlan reiterated the need for a coordinator as he was in receipt of a number of queries from constituents offering accommodation to those fleeing the Ukraine.

Councillor O'Hanlon outlined his delight that the Ukrainian flag could be seen on Council buildings in a show of support. He suggested the Council issue an invitation to the Ukrainian community to march in the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade with their flag alongside the the Irish flag. He indicated that everyone in the free world can be proud of the President of the Ukraine and we all condemn Russian's actions. Councillor O'Hanlon highlighted that many people in Russia do not agree with this war.

Councillor Sheahan K expressed his concern at the rising cost of fuel and called on the Government to act responsibly. He shared the concerns of Councillor O'Brien in relation to a Russian owned company in the region.

Councillor Mitchell reiterated the comments of the other Elected Members and expressed dismay at the heartbreaking and unprovoked action. Councillor Hartigan described the actions of Russia as a disgrace.

Councillor Collins M. advised the Elected Members that measures were in place in Newcastle West and many areas to compile medical supplies and funding. He expressed thanks to the Road Haulier's Association for their willingness to participate in the delivery of supplies to countries bordering the Ukraine.

Councillor Takukdar extended his solidarity to the people of Ukraine and condemned the brutal and unacceptable murder of civilians. He re-iterated the concerns already expressed in relation to Ireland maintaining a neutral stance but helping in every way feasible.

Councillor Ryan E. expressed his thanks to Councillor Secas for her contribution. He outlined his concern as to how this would be allowed to happen and urged support for the people of the Ukraine. Councillor Teskey expressed his concern for the welfare of the people of the Ukraine and agreed with sentiments expressed in relation to a Russian-owned company in the region. He proposed that the Council put a coordinator in place within the Housing Directorate in anticipation of families fleeing the Ukraine and arriving in Ireland.

Councillor McSweeney echoed sentiments of his colleagues and complimented Councillor Secas for her contribution. He agreed that the Council should issue an invitation to the Ukrainian community to march in the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade. Councillor Leddin echoed the sentiments of Councillor Teskey's and proposed a cross-agency group should work together to help those seeking shelter. Councillor Collins J. welcomed the symbolic intervention of convening a meeting to show support for the Ukraine and a democratically elected government.

Councillor Secas supported the proposed action of the Council appointing a coordinator and working within a cross agency group.

Mayor Butler reminded members of the collection in Cleeves and expressed thanks to those who had contributed. He noted many Russian people based in Limerick do not support the war. Mayor Butler expressed his thanks to Councillor Secas for inviting him to speak at the Vigil. He acknowledged the work of the Red Cross and encouraged anyone with capacity to welcome Ukrainian people fleeing to Ireland into their homes.

Mayor Butler summarized the action points from the meeting. It was agreed that members of the Ukrainian community would be invited to join the St. Patrick's Day parade and bring their flag. It was agreed that the Council would appoint a coordinator within the Housing Directorate who would liaise with other agencies. He encouraged those present to donate and help in any way possible. Mayor Butler outlined that arrangements had been made for a truckload of medical supplies to leave Limerick on Saturday morning and the response has been overwhelming. Councillor Keary pledged a sum of his GMA and encouraged everybody to donate what they can.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Mayor

Date: _____