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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ÁRAS AN CONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2015.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CHÉAD CRUINNÍÚ BLIANTIÚIL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ A THIONÓLADH IN I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, THRÁ LÍ, AR AN 22 MEITHEAMH, 2015.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. T. O'Brien
Cllr. G. Spring
Cllr. S. Locke
Cllr. P. Daly
Cllr. T. McEllistrim
Cllr. P. McCarthy
Cllr. N. Foley
Cllr. J. Finucane**

Apology/Leathscéal Cllr. T. Ferris

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. C. O'Sullivan	Delegated Executive for the MD of Tralee
Mr. G O'Brien	Meetings Administrator
Ms. J. O'Sullivan	CO

The meeting commenced at 10.20am.

Mayor J. Finucane welcomed all present. He said as outgoing Mayor he wanted to thank all the members, Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan, Mr. Ger O'Brien and their administration staff with whom he worked with over the past 12 months.

He spoke of the purchase of the Fels Point hotel by the Henggeler family which secured 70 jobs and which will also provide a permanent home for the Rose of Tralee. He said the Rose of Tralee regional finals will take place in Tralee next year which will have a huge significance to the area, as the entire festival will then be taking place in Tralee.

He also said that he has met with a number of industries and businesses and was hopeful for one or two positive announcements in the near future.

He mentioned the amalgamation of the IT Tralee with Cork IT which he said is a crucial step and will hopefully happen sooner rather than later. He said that the

concerns of the staff will have to be met but that progress is being made and that further discussions will be taking place over the next few months.

He said that the Tralee Municipal District is a strong catalyst for economic development and that he hopes to see continued progress. He said he hoped to see the Tralee Municipal District continue working as a committed unit for the betterment of the community.

Cllr. S. Locke congratulated Mayor. J. Finucane and said that he had a fruitful year as Mayor of Tralee. He acknowledged the great work carried out by him.

Cllr. T. O'Brien congratulated Mayor. J. Finucane on his great year as Mayor of Tralee. He said that he represented the Town wonderfully and that any events he attended he did so admirably.

Cllr. N. Foley said she also wanted to be associated with the members' sentiments. She said that Cllr. J. Finucane had an outstanding year as Mayor and that he was a great representative for the Tralee Municipal District at every level. She said that he had a great interest in the advancement of the Tralee Municipal District and has set the standard for the coming years.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said that he wanted to be associated with the previous members' sentiments. He said that Mayor J. Finucane carried out his role as Mayor very professionally.

Cllr. G. Spring said that as a newly elected Councillor he was glad to have worked with Mayor J. Finucane and to have gotten to know him personally. He said that he represented the Municipal District very well.

Cllr. P. Daly congratulated Mayor J. Finucane on his year. He said that he always had Tralee's interest at heart. He said that he chaired the meetings with great experience and had a good handle on all issues that arose.

Cllr. T. McEllistrim said that there were a lot of changes to local Government throughout the year and that Mayor J. Finucane was a great representative for Tralee as Mayor.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan said that he wanted to congratulate Mayor J. Finucane on his year as Mayor. He said that it was a very challenging year with the dissolution of the Town Councils and the new Municipal Districts but that the Mayoral duties were carried out in a seamless manner. He said that he wanted to thank Mayor J. Finucane on behalf of the staff of Tralee Municipal District and for all his assistance over the past 12 months.

15.06.22.01 Election of Mayor

Cllr. N. Foley PROPOSED Cllr. T. McEllistim be elected as Mayor of Municipal District of Tralee. Cllr. N. Foley said that he has served for a number of years in Kerry County Council and comes from a family with a strong political background.

The proposal was seconded by outgoing Mayor, Cllr. J. Finucane.

Cllr. P. Daly PROPOSED Cllr. S. Locke be elected as Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee. He said that he served the Municipal District well over the past year and that he was at the fore in many of the water campaigns.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Locke.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For Cllr. T. McEllistim: Cllrs. J. Finucane, N. Foley, P. McCarthy,
T. McEllistim, T. O'Brien, G. Spring (6)

For Cllr. S. Locke: Cllrs. P. Daly, S. Locke (2)

Absent: Cllr. T. Ferris (1)

Mr. G. O'Brien declared that as Cllr. T. McEllistim had received an overall majority, he was deemed elected Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee.

Cllr. T. McEllistim addressed the meeting;

I am very honoured to have been nominated as the Mayor of Tralee Municipal District, and to accept the responsibilities that your trust has entitled me to. I would like to sincerely thank my proposer and seconder and supporters.

We all know that the changes to Local Government are bedding in, and it's a credit to all involved that so much progress has been made.

I look forward to working with my council colleagues and our council officials and staff to maximise the potential of Tralee Town and the surrounding areas.

We must play our part in maximising our case for IDA visits, and continue to insist on our fair share with regard to attracting investment, companies and industry to Tralee.

We must promote Kerry Technology Park in co-operation with the IDA.

The Denny site holds much potential, and we must advance the opportunities it holds, to increase employment and business for Tralee town.

We must also acknowledge businesses in providing jobs for local people

2016 is just around the corner. It is an opportunity not only to look back and commemorate the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of the Easter rising but also to recognise and re-invigorate the aspirations of the proclamation of independence.

The signatories of that proclamation sought a better, fairer future for our people, we need to measure how we can live up to those aspirations now and into the future. Being a republican member I feel it will be important to mark the occasion as a Municipal Authority.

Being Mayor involves a lot of ceremonial activities, but it is also I believe our opportunity to raise issues and head campaigns.

As Mayor I am calling for Tralee to be designated and given city status. Regarding our town of Tralee, I note a recent good initiative called ~~%The~~ the living City Initiative+a scheme designed to get our cities back on their feet following the recession; and to attract businesses back into city centres. Some of the cities involved in this scheme have similar populations to Tralee for example Kilkenny and I believe in any case that the scheme would be well suited to other towns. Regenerating our town centre is vital and I believe we should seek to have this scheme extended here. I believe free parking should be introduced on a trial basis for a half day to encourage businesses into Tralee Town Centre.

Is iontach an mbaile mór atá againn, agus ag deireadh an bhliain seo chugainn, tá súil agam go mbeidh sé níos fearr ná mar a bhfuil sé anois. Go raibh maith agat.

15.06.22.02 Election of Deputy Mayor

Cllr. T. O'Brien PROPOSED that Cllr. G. Spring be elected as Deputy Mayor.

The proposal was SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane.

No further proposal was received, Mr. G O'Brien deemed Cllr. G. Spring to be elected Deputy Mayor.

Mayor T. McEllistrim congratulated Cllr. G. Spring and said that they were the two longest serving families in politics in Kerry at Council level. He said he looked forward working together in the coming year.

The meeting concluded at 10.45am.

Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee