

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WILLIAM STREET, PAEROA ON WEDNESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2018 COMMENCING AT 1.00PM

PRESENT

J P Tregidga (His Worship the Mayor), Cr D A Adams (Deputy Mayor), Cr P D Buckthought, Cr C Daley, Cr R Harris, Cr G R Leonard, Cr M McLean, Cr P A Milner, Cr A Rattray, Cr D Smeaton, Cr A M Spicer, Cr D H Swales and Cr J H Thorp

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Ofsoske (Election Services), Messrs L D Cavers (Chief Executive), S B Fabish (Group Manager - Community Services) and Ms C Black (Council Secretary)

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

LATE ITEMS

There were late items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cr Milner declared a conflict of interest in regards to the Positive Paeroa submission.

HEARINGS OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW 2018

- Hearing Report (2432237)
- All Submissions Received (2432401)

RESOLVED

THAT the report be received, and

THAT the submissions to the Council's initial proposal, as adopted on 27 June 2018, be received, and

THAT Council hears those submitters who wish to be heard, and then considers all submissions as to whether the initial proposal is confirmed or amended when Council resolves its final proposal on 29 August 2018.

C18/388

Spicer/Harris

CARRIED

His Worship the Mayor opened the hearing at 1.05pm and invited submitters wishing to speak to their submissions to present.

1.05pm: Mary Carmine

Summary of submission:

Mrs Carmine stated she wished to address the setting of elected member's remuneration by the Remuneration Authority.

She was not concerned about reducing the 'number' of councillors but about the 'publicity' regarding Councils' representation proposal. She argued against the point that if the number of elected members was reduced it would make the Council more effective and costs would be less. Reducing the number of councillors must reduce the diversity of people on Council. She believed that the notion that Council should be leaner and more efficient by a lesser number is flawed.

Commented that the Council is only doing the review, because the law says it has to. This is not 'fair' representation. You are treating one ward (Waihi) differently from the other two wards.

She emphasised that the review should be focussed on what is 'fair' representation. She believed the councillors do not represent the whole district, they represent the ward. They represent the people that voted for them. This is to ensure that the district has a fair representation for the district.

Mrs Carmine did not agree that the Waihi Ward should have the same number of members as the Plains and Paeroa Wards.

Response:

The Mayor explained that the Remuneration Authority has undertaken, since the 2016 election, a stringent process to evaluate salaries for the councillors acting in their roles, particularly, where their roles require additional responsibility.

1.15pm: Mike Hayden

Summary of submission:

Mr Hayden stated that councillors are paid an insufficient amount for what they do. Disagreed with the notion of a leaner and efficient council.

Disagreed that a reduction of number would make the council more efficient.

Asked the question - where is the inefficiency? Is it staff or is it councillors that are less efficient?

He agreed that representation should be a district-wide view. Fewer councillors narrows vision.

He believed that a comparison should have been made with a council of the same size as Hauraki. Disagreed with the comment that there is no other district in the country that has the over representation that Hauraki has. Hauraki is one of the worst at being over-represented. There is no explanation for this statement.

Mr Hayden referred to the public notification process involving the Waikino community as a farcical exercise. He believed it to be a lack of understanding on Council's behalf as a community of interest. Waikino would not have moved the boundary to Paeroa.

There is imbalance in there. Council is admitting that Waihi could justify having another councillor in that ward.

Agreed that Hauraki should be viewed as 'one' district.
Supported that all ward members support each other and hoped it still existed.

Asked what has changed in the district since the last review in 2012?

In conclusion, he proposed that he supported 4/4/4 or 4/4/5 (1 extra in Waihi Ward), or, if there is support for 3/3/3, then a Waihi Community Board be formed.

Community Boards

Mr Hayden explained the history of when Hauraki District had community boards.

He was dissatisfied that Ward Committees have been dissolved. Community boards should replace them. He believed it would remove parochialism. The Waihi community would receive more effective representation and the costs would be less. Supported that the Waihi Ward be allowed to establish a community board.

Mr Hayden considered community boards provide a good 'training ground' for becoming councillors.

Response:

Cr Leonard – do you agree with 4/4/5 – with no community board?

Mr Hayden – confirmed 4/4/5 – without community board and 3/3/3 – with community board.

1.40pm: Sara Ann Howell

Summary of submission:

Mrs Howell suggested that in considering the population numbers in the three wards the following number of councillors should be represented in each Ward:

Waihi – 4
Paeroa – 3
Plains – 3

Response:

It was advised that 3/3/4 would comply with the +/- 10% rule.

1.42pm Kerry Single

Summary of submission:

Mr Single stated he believed there to be no diversity now. He suggested the real reason is about funding.

Reasons for any proposed change. The reason Council has proposed 3/3/3, is not reason enough to justify change. He compared the 2012 representation review. Similar reasons in both reviews.

Ward councillors are elected to represent that ward. Suggested that 'at large' councillors be elected to represent the whole of district.

There are notable differences between Waihi and the other two wards. Social, demographic and economic differences.

Waihi is reliant on mining in the area. There are also physical and topographical differences and the history of the area is different from the other two wards.

Waihi has a 'distinct' difference. It has its own community of interest. Paeroa and Plains Wards are linked together but Waihi Ward is different referring to telecommunications link and weekly newspaper (Hauraki Herald does not come to Waihi anymore only to Plains and Paeroa areas).

He suggested retain the status quo of 4/4/4 or 3/3/3 – with a community board for Waihi (other wards can decide for themselves) or 'at large'.

Believed a community board would work well in the Waihi community.

There are no longer ward committees in existence since the 2016 election - this is limiting decision-making with the community.

It is not about money. He believed that elected members should be treated like employees of any organisation e.g. KPI's, job descriptions etc.

1.55pm Mike Reehal

Summary of submission:

Mr Reehal spoke briefly on the history of Waihi. Supported Council for what they have achieved over the years for Waihi.

He emphasised the fact that the mining activity is increasing creating more issues to consider. Referred to the company's current application for consent in Waihi.

Income coming from Waihi are ratepayers, Mine Company, farmers, commercial, retail, and an increasing older generation. A lot of people are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to stay in Waihi. Rates affordability is an issue.

There is a lot of regulatory matters to consider in the area. Building codes are changing. There are a lot of old buildings in Waihi. Investment into commercial buildings has not been there in the past. We need to rejuvenate our town.

Support of 4 councillors is marginal but we currently have good representation. There should be not be change for change sake.

Waihi needs to have 4 councillors in the Waihi Ward to deal with the challenges. Did not support the proposal of 3/3/3.

2.00pm: Dave Utting

Summary of submission:

Mr Utting queried the casting vote of the Mayor in situations where there is a split. 9 is not enough councillors. Wards have to be within +/-10% of the population. The census does not take into account non-resident ratepayers. That would change the figure.

Stated that Whiritoa is a large community of non-resident ratepayers.

Believed the census was not quite correct. Huge bias because of the non-inclusion of non-resident ratepayers. Census population figures do not reflect correctly.

Response:

Agreed with point that non-resident ratepayers are not included in population figure. Cannot do anything about this, the census is the process to ascertain population numbers, and it is the census data we must use for this process under legislation.

Consideration of Written Submissions (not spoken)

The Mayor and councillors considered each written submission individually and provided feedback on the content of each submission.

Bowater, Rob
Carlisle, Deb
Clark, Michelle
Curd, John
Fyfe, Arlene
Gentil, Brian
Gentil, Glenis
Gentil, Josh
Harris, Shirley
McKenna, Carolyn
Marr, Jan
Mouat, Elizabeth
Mouat, Neil
Phillips, Margaret
Prince, Heather
Roycroft, Caroline
Roycroft, Glen
Ruddell, Robyn
Simpson, Annette
Taylor, Denis
Taylor, Sandra Margaret
Tilsley, Jo
Walters, Anna
Willetts, Owen
Wilson, Helen
Wilson, John F.

The hearing adjourned at 2.27pm for a tea break.

The Mayor reconvened the hearing for deliberations at 2.45pm

DELIBERATIONS:

Mr Dale Ofoske - Election Services Advisor, advised that Council must now confirm or amend its initial proposal. If it amends its initial proposal, what are the amendments and what are the reasons for the changes? Council must also provide reasons for any rejection of submissions (as required for inclusion in the final proposal public notice). Officers will then prepare a report on the outcome of the hearings for Council to resolve a final proposal at their meeting on 29 August 2018.

Cr Adams moved:

THAT the original representation arrangement proposal of 3/3/3 be amended to 4/4/4, with no community boards.

Adams/Thorp

In putting the motion, a vote was taken on a show of hands.

A division was called.

Councillors voting against the motion that representation be 4/4/4 without community boards:

Cr Buckthought, Cr McLean and Cr Milner

Councillors voting in support of the motion that representation be 4/4/4 without community boards:

Cr Adams, Cr Thorp, Cr Leonard, Cr Smeaton, Cr Daley, Cr Spicer, Cr Rattray, Cr Swales, Cr Harris and His Worship the Mayor

RESOLVED

THAT the initial representation arrangement proposal of 3/3/3 without community boards be amended to 4/4/4 without community boards.

C18/389

Adams/Thorp

CARRIED

The hearing closed at 3.10pm

The meeting closed at 3.15pm

CONFIRMED

J P Tregidga

Mayor

29 August 2018