

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE  
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020 BY ZOOM**

**PRESENT**

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan (Mayor)	Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. John Hearne
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Jody Power	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Frank Quinlan	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Seanie Power	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Mary Roche, Cllr. Ger Barron, Cllr. Declan Clune, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Pat Nugent, Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell, Cllr. James Tobin, Cllr. Adam Wyse

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS  
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

Mayor, Councillor Damien Geoghegan opened the special meeting as arranged to convey a vote of sympathy on the unexpected passing of former city councillor and two time Mayor of Waterford Pat Hayes. The Mayor expressed his own sympathies to Pat's wife Bridie, his daughter Eimear, sons Emmet, Mark, Michael and Padraig. Pat was known to all through his involvement in politics, through his proud affiliation to the Labour Party and of all the traditions that came with politics. He was a great friend and ambassador to the arts community in Waterford and was a regular visitor to many shows and events in the Theatre Royal and Garter Lane. He was known far and wide across the country through his involvement with the Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA) where he served as joint honorary treasurer of LAMA with former colleague the late John Carey. His passing has evoked a great sadness throughout the county and country.

Cllr. Seamus Ryan formerly proposed the vote of sympathy for his friend and former councillor Pat Hayes. Pat was first elected and topped the poll in 1991 for the then Ward 1 which subsequently became Waterford City North, he was re-elected three times before retiring in 2013. During his 22 years on the council, he served as Mayor on two occasions, first as the Millennium Mayor and in then in 2011. He also worked with An Post and was dedicated to several based community based organisations, he epitomised the values of public service in society. After his retirement from public life he remained a great source of advice to party colleagues, he was widely respected by all who knew him and our thoughts

are with his wife, family and all his friends. He was a great supporter of Mount Sion School and GAA club, he was a top of the town man, chair of Garter Lane and in recent years a board member of the Holy Ghost residential home. He was the Mayor that led Waterford's marking of the new millennium and the Mayor of the City that afforded a mighty welcome to the 2011 Tall Ships race.

Cllr. O'Sullivan seconded the proposed vote of sympathy and extended sincere sympathies on behalf of the Fine Gael party. She noted that Pat was a good friend with whom she shared many coffees and any time they met she always left with a list of jobs that he had passed on for addressing. He served on the Board of WIT and she had the pleasure of serving on the Board of the Holy Ghost with Pat, which he was very proud of. He was one of life's true gentlemen.

Cllr. Brennan extended sympathies to wife Bridie, family, friend and the Labour Party. Pat was always good-humoured and made time to talk when you met. He enjoyed involvement with the St. Herblain twinning committee. Deeply saddened by his passing and he will be sorely missed by all that knew him. Mayor noted apologies from Cllr. Ger Barron who wanted to join meeting but was unable to do so due to internet problems.

Cllr. Pratt first interaction with Pat was when canvassing for Brian O'Shea; he was always amicable and great to work with and sent his condolences to wife Bridie and family.

Cllr. Daniels very saddened at passing of Pat Hayes, served with Pat for his full 22 years on the city council, he cherished his time serving as Mayor and was a great ambassador at all events he attended. He was a dedicated and committed councillor for the city, took great satisfaction in working for his constituents and continued to work on committees after his retirement. He was truly a family man who took great pride in his family; he extended his sympathies to Bridie and family.

Cllr. Griffin extended his condolences, teamed up with Pat on the 'fiver' fundraiser for Spraoi and saw how important he was to everyone. He only recently offered his support to the Debenhams workers, which showed the true character of Pat.

Cllr. Kelly very saddened by Pat's passing, he was lucky to serve with Pat on the council from 2004 – 2009, he was always an absolute gentleman, good to new councillors and always provided advice, noting that you always need to remember where you came from and need to look after the people on the ground. Very well represented by Pat when visited New York to present the Waterford Crystal Millennium ball to the then Mayor of New York, Rudy Giuliani. He was a proud Mount Sion man and always supportive to the Holy Ghost. Sympathies to all family on the loss of a true family man.

Cllr. Mulligan knew Pat personally while never served on the council with him. Pat always impressed about what he knew about local and national current affairs, he was a true ambassador for the city and region.

Cllr. O'Leary while didn't serve on the council with Pat, knew he was an honest and sincere councillor, he always wanted what was best for Waterford and his family can be very proud of his work and what he achieved. Committed to promotion of our culture and involvement in the Mount Sion GAA club.

Cllr. Murphy pass on sympathies and condolences on his unexpected and untimely death, he was a very visible and effective councillor for his constituents and his Ward, a proud man from the top of the town. He was a very charming man, a gentleman and always gave great advice.

Cllr. E. Quinlan passed on condolences on behalf of his family who knew Pat personally. For someone who gave so many years to public service he continued to give support to his community beyond his political life and he was committed to the top of the town.

Cllr. F. Quinlan extended deep sympathies to the Hayes family; he was a real gentlemen with a good word for everyone.

Cllr. Phelan extended sympathies to Pat's family and friends, while attending a function that Pat officiated at as Mayor he was struck by the dignity he brought to the office and the esteem he was held in, it was a real testament to his character.

Cllr. Brazil lucky to serve as County Mayor in 2011/2012 when Pat was City Mayor, he was a true gentleman and always had time to talk which is a great attribute to have. Condolences to Bridie and his family.

CE Michael Walsh joined to offer condolences on behalf of the executive, noting that he got to know Pat very well over the years, he did an exceptional job while Mayor during the Tall Ships and at all events he

attended. He was a gentleman and a facilitator who wanted above all else to move Waterford forward collectively, represented his community passionately and did it with great dignity. He was distinctively a sociable man who represented the office very well and Bridie was a great support to him. Very sorry for Bridie and the suddenness of his passing. In the context of Covid 19 and the restrictions, it is a shame that we cannot mark his funeral in the traditional manner. Pat served his city as a two time Mayor and did a lot over his time so this meeting is a meaningful way to show the shared collective respect from the existing council for a man that served the city and community well.

Mayor thanked all for attending and their lovely contributions, giving a true reflection of the essence of Pat Hayes, he was a warm and engaging personality, when you met and spoke to Pat he always made you feel that you were the centre of his attention, which was a wonderful trait that he had. He gave fantastic representation to Waterford, he was immensely proud of Waterford and Waterford can be immensely proud of the representation that Pat Hayes always gave. Mayor requested that an on-line Book of Condolences be opened to allow the people of Waterford to express their sympathies to Pat's family. There is no doubt that if circumstances were different we would be attending his funeral as a body robed to convey the proper deserved respect to Pat and his family.

Cllr. J. Power acknowledged that Pat was part of his extended family, he was a true gentleman, a caring man with a genuinely care for people. He showed personal interest since he joined the council, he passed sympathies to Bridie, he goes to God with a life well lived and left the world a better place having been in it.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_