

Council Meeting Minutes

Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

22 November 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



OUR MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

OUR VALUES

Respectful
Community driven and focused
Trusted and reliable
Efficient and responsible
Bold and innovative
Accountable and transparent
Recognised

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of Hobsons Bay City Council are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Governance/Governance-Rules>

Members of the public attending Council meetings must abide by the standards of behaviour set out in section 13.3 of the Governance Rules. Any person engaging in disruptive or disorderly behaviour may be required by the Chairperson to leave the meeting in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Chairperson:

Aaron van Egmond

Chief Executive Officer

Councillors:

Cr Daria Kellander

Altona Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Altona Meadows Ward

Cr Rayane Hawli

Altona North Ward

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson

Laverton Ward

Cr Kristin Bishop

Spotswood Ward

Cr Lisa Bentley

Williamstown Ward

Cr Michael Disbury

Williamstown North Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement.....	5
2 Apologies	5
3 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.....	5
3.1 Determination of Mayoral Term	5
3.2 Election of Mayor	7
3.3 Mayoral Response.....	8
3.4 Election of Deputy Mayor.....	9
4 Close of Meeting	10

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 November 2024 at 6.33pm.

Present

Chairperson

Aaron van Egmond

Chief Executive Officer

Councillors

Cr Daria Kellander

Altona Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Altona Meadows Ward

Cr Rayane Hawli

Altona North Ward

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson

Laverton Ward

Cr Kristin Bishop

Spotswood Ward

Cr Lisa Bentley

Williamstown Ward

Cr Michael Disbury

Williamstown North Ward

Officers

Mr Aaron van Egmond

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Rachel Lunn

Director Sustainable Communities

Mr Matthew Irving

Director Infrastructure and City Services

Ms Diane Eyckens

Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel

Ms Paula Giaquinta

Lead Governance and Business Support

Mr Sean Ryan

Governance Officer

Ms Susan Magro

Governance Officer and Minute Taker

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in accordance with rule 2.4 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, he would be the temporary Chairperson for proceedings relating to the election of the Mayor.

The Chairperson opened the meeting, welcomed Councillors and members of the gallery, and acknowledged that Council is gathered on the land of the Kulin Nation and offers its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

A particular welcome was extended to former Citizen of the Year Geoff Mitchelmore OAM, the outgoing mayor Cr Matt Tyler at this point, and later in the meeting further arrivals were noted: former mayors and councillors Angela Altair OAM, Sandra Wilson, Jonathon Marsden, Carl Marsich, Colleen Gates, Peter Hemphill and Leigh Hardinge; Kate De Marco, Dr Marilyn Olliff and former Citizen of the Year Barry Hansen; and former Town Clerk of the City of Altona, John Shaw.

The Chairperson also welcomed and congratulated the newly elected Councillors and invited them to introduce themselves by name and ward.

2 Apologies

No apologies were called.

3 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The procedure for the election of the Mayor followed section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

3.1 Determination of Mayoral Term

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Resolves the Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Mayor on 22 November 2024.
2. Resolves the Deputy Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Deputy Mayor on 22 November 2024.
3. Notes that the next election of the Mayor, to be determined when Council adopts its annual timetable of meetings, must be held on a day that is as close to the end of the one-year term as is reasonably practicable.

Motion

Moved Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council:

- 1. Resolves the Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Mayor on 22 November 2024.**
- 2. Resolves the Deputy Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Deputy Mayor on 22 November 2024.**
- 3. Notes that the next election of the Mayor, to be determined when Council adopts its annual timetable of meetings, must be held on a day that is as close to the end of the one-year term as is reasonably practicable.**

Carried Unanimously

Cr Kellander proposed to postpone the meeting for 15 minutes.

Procedural Motion

Moved Cr Daria Kellander, seconded Cr Kristin Bishop:

That Council defers the meeting until 7pm.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting recommenced at the planned time and the Chairperson called for a procedural motion to recommence the meeting.

Procedural Motion

Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Kristin Bishop:

That Council resumes the meeting at 7pm.

Carried Unanimously

3.2 Election of Mayor

The Chairperson invited nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2024-25.

Cr Daria Kellander was nominated by Cr Rayane Hawli and accepted the nomination.

In accordance with section 26 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and rule 2.1.2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, as there were no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Kellander **to be duly elected as Mayor**.

the Chief Executive Officer assisted Cr Kellander with the Mayoral robe and presented her with the Mayoral Jewel of Office.

The Chairperson invited other Councillors to congratulate Cr Kellander.

Cr Bentley congratulated Cr Kellander on her newly elected position and stated that Cr Kellander has worked really hard over the last four years and has earned the position.

Cr Hawli congratulated Cr Kellander and said that she is looking forward to serving with Cr Kellander on Council. Cr Hawli said that Cr Kellander is well respected within the community for always asking the tough questions, her willingness to lend a hand and her determination to fight for the people. She wished Cr Kellander all the best on her first term.

Cr Grima congratulated Cr Kellander and acknowledged that, while they may not always agree on how they represent the community, she remains committed to supporting the Mayor and expressed a desire to be more cohesive and inclusive and pledged to work with the Mayor and the entire Council to the best of her ability. She said she was looking forward to working with the Mayor and Council group to make a “cohesive, inclusive and fantastic” environment for the community and her colleagues.

The Chief Executive Officer as Chairperson offered congratulations and invited Cr Kellander to take the chair at the head of the Council table and say a few remarks. Cr Kellander chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3.3 Mayoral Response

Cr Kellander thanked the Chief Executive Officer and all in attendance.

Cr Kellander began her mayoral speech by acknowledging the achievements of all Councillors at the table, commending their election as representatives chosen by their constituents. She emphasised the privilege of being an elected Councillor and expressed her gratitude and commitment to the role. She noted that the newly elected Councillor group includes five first-term Councillors and two re-elected incumbents and that the group has achieved the highest level of female representation in Hobsons Bay's history, with five out of seven Councillors being women. She formally introduced her fellow Councillors, recognising their diverse backgrounds and shared goal of serving the community.

Reflecting on her personal story, Cr Kellander shared her family's migrant history, highlighting Hobsons Bay's rich cultural diversity, home to people from over 150 countries and celebrating more than 80 faiths. She acknowledged the hard work of residents over generations in shaping Hobsons Bay into a vibrant place to live, work and play. She said that the upcoming year is an opportunity to build a strong foundation and deliver on the community's priorities: enhancing service delivery, supporting the local economy, protecting the natural environment and maintaining open, transparent, and integrity-driven governance. Cr Kellander reiterated the community's call for Council to focus on getting the basics right, especially in light of cost-of-living pressures, and pledged to work hard to deliver value for ratepayers' money.

Cr Kellander took time to thank her supporters, including the residents of Altona and Seaholme for re-electing her as their Councillor. She described her campaign as a grassroots campaign fuelled by encouragement from the community and expressed her gratitude to past Councillors for their guidance, particularly acknowledging Angela Altair OAM, Hobsons Bay's longest-serving female Councillor and a pioneer for women in local government. Cr Kellander also thanked local organisations including traders, sports clubs and multi-faith communities for their continued support.

Cr Kellander shared personal reflections on balancing public service with family life, expressing appreciation for her husband Brent, her parents and her in-laws for their unwavering support. She noted that her journey as a Councillor began as a young mother, and she credited her "village" for helping her navigate the challenges.

Looking ahead, Cr Kellander expressed her excitement about working collaboratively with the new Councillor group over the next term. She emphasised the importance of unity, shared commitment and a collective focus on making Hobsons Bay the best it can be.

In closing, she pledged to ensure that everyone in the community is heard and respected, urging her fellow Councillors to get to work and deliver the best outcomes and services for the municipality.

3.4 Election of Deputy Mayor

The Chairperson invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2024-25.

Cr Rayane Hawli was nominated by Cr Michael Disbury and accepted the nomination.

In accordance with rules 2.8.2 of the Governance Rules, as there were no further nominations the Chairperson declared Cr Rayane Hawli be duly elected as Deputy Mayor and invited other Councillors to congratulate Cr Hawli.

Cr Bishop congratulated Cr Hawli, expressing enthusiasm about working together. She commended Cr Hawli's maturity and the professionalism and great values that she brought to the position. Cr Bishop said that she looks forward to collaborating closely in the future.

Cr Grima congratulated Cr Hawli, emphasising the privilege and honour of serving the community. She appreciated Cr Hawli's enthusiasm, inquisitiveness and shared values, expressing excitement about working with Cr Hawli as Deputy and within the Councillor group.

Cr Keys-Macpherson congratulated Cr Kellander on the mayoral election and expressed eagerness to collaborate on various matters while engaging in robust and productive debates. He also congratulated Cr Hawli on becoming Deputy Mayor, highlighting their growing friendship since their campaign and election journey. Cr Keys-Macpherson said he values Cr Hawli's advice and looks forward to working closely over the next year, observing that the communities of Laverton and Altona North share many of the same issues.

Cr Kellander congratulated Cr Hawli, expressing excitement about working together and serving Hobsons Bay. Noting that Cr Hawli is the first female Lebanese councillor, Cr Kellander praised her strength, bravery and dedication, qualities admired since their meeting during Cr Hawli's election campaign.

The Chairperson invited Cr Hawli to speak.

Cr Hawli thanked all the Councillors for their kind words and congratulated the newly elected Mayor, expressing confidence in her experience, determination and skills to fulfil the role of Mayor and lead Hobsons Bay toward positive change. She also extended congratulations to all councillors on their election success and expressed her gratitude and honour in being elected Deputy Mayor.

Emphasising the unique strengths each councillor brings, she pledged to foster a collaborative and professional team to fulfil their commitments and rebuild trust in the Council. Cr Hawli highlighted her personal journey, sharing how her parents enabled her success and acknowledging the support of her family and community.

She reflected on the inspiration she provides to young women and girls and the importance of encouraging youth and diverse individuals to take on advocacy roles. She stressed the need to stand up for one's beliefs and the power of every voice.

Cr Hawli recognised that this election signaled a desire for change and urged a renewed focus on transparency, accountability and inclusivity to ensure the Council is seen to work for all members of the community, especially those who feel neglected, and that this is how they will bring the community together.

4 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.26pm.

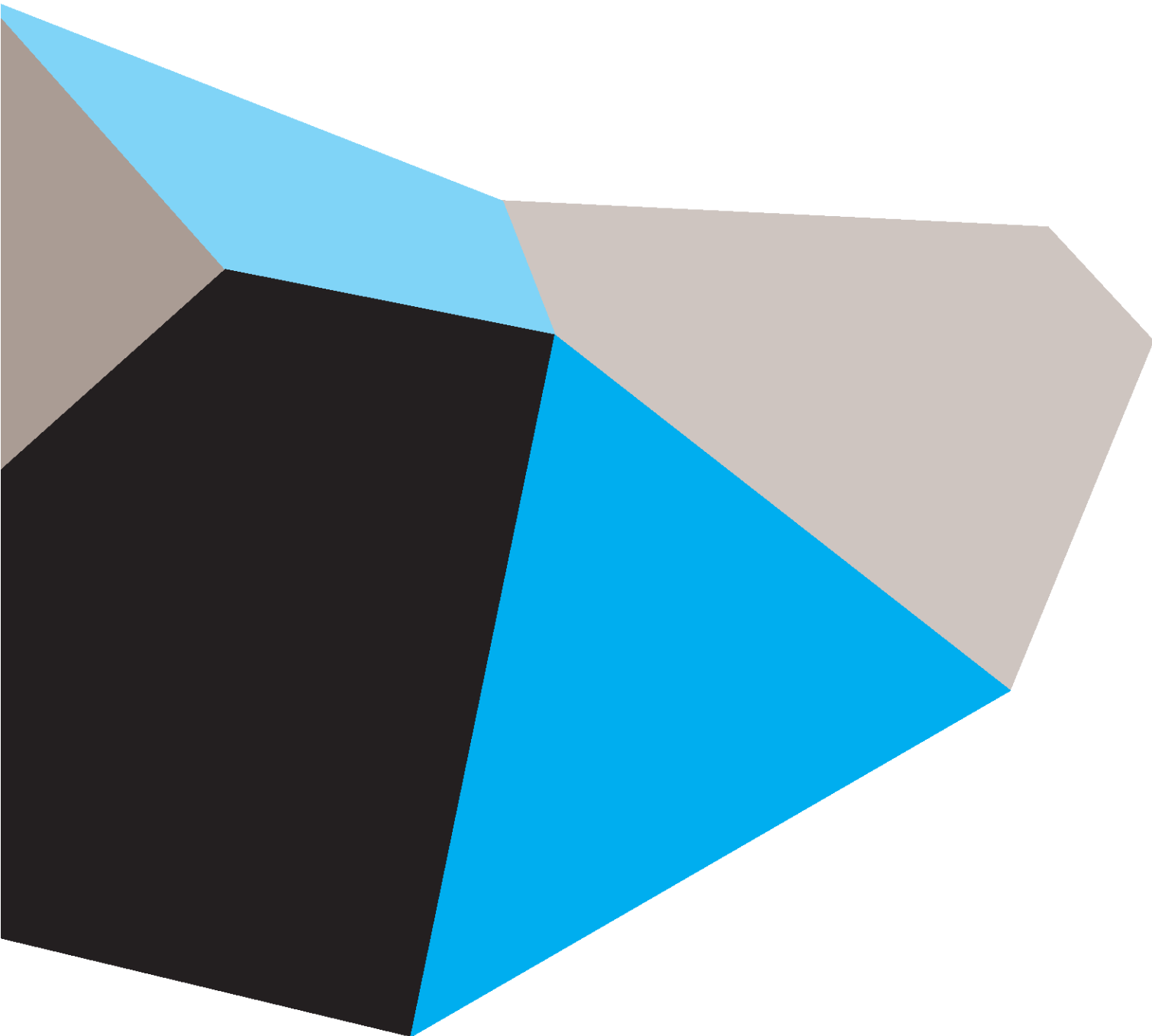
Chairperson – Cr Daria Kellander

Signed and certified as having been confirmed

10 December 2024

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COUNCIL





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