



COUNCIL MINUTES

for the Special meeting

Tuesday 19 October 2021

in the Colonel Light Room,
Adelaide Town Hall



Present - The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Sandy Verschoor (Presiding)
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Couros
Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Donovan, Hou, Khera, Knoll, Mackie, Martin, Moran and Snape.

Acknowledgement of Country

At the opening of the Special Council Meeting, the Lord Mayor stated:

‘Council acknowledges that we are meeting on traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.

And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations who are present today.’

Acknowledgement of Colonel William Light

The Lord Mayor stated:

‘The Council acknowledges the vision of Colonel William Light in determining the site for Adelaide and the design of the City with its six squares and surrounding belt of continuous Park Lands which is recognised on the National Heritage List as one of the greatest examples of Australia’s planning heritage.’

Apologies and Leave of Absence

Apology:

Councillor Hyde

Reports for Council (Chief Executive Officer’s Reports)

1. Item 4.1 – Public Submissions - Representation Review Consultation [C]

The Lord Mayor addressed the meeting as follows:

‘Welcome Councillors, members of the public, and staff.

This special meeting of Council has been convened for the purposes of section 12(10) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to provide an opportunity for persons who have made written submissions to Council on our consultation process for the City of Adelaide representation review to appear personally before the Council and to be heard on their submission.

We have requests from 9 individuals to appear before us tonight.

In accordance with Council’s standing orders, I will invite each person who has requested to address us to take a seat at the table, to introduce themselves and they will then have five minutes to put their view to Council about the representation model that was the subject of the consultation.

There is no facility for questions and answers tonight as the purpose of this meeting is for Council to listen and hear the views of our constituents. If there are matters of significant fact raised, I will ask the administration for clarification.

Otherwise, the representations we hear tonight will help inform the considerations and analysis that the administration will undertake in forming appropriate advice and recommendations to Council at a further special meeting that that will be convened on 26 October 2021.

At that meeting Council will consider an updated representation review report for submission to the Electoral Commissioner.

At the conclusion of the representations tonight, and as there are no other items for consideration on the agenda for this special meeting, I will call the meeting to a close.’

Jenny Boisvert addressed the meeting on the following points:

- Support retention of area and ward Councillors mix, election of Lord Mayor at large, reduction in total number of Councillors but not at the loss of representation, if that is the case the status quo should remain.
- Reduction should be in both ward and area Councillors if there is a reduction.
- Wards should be of equal size and elector numbers.

- Needs to be a balance met for the needs of both business and residential.
- Retain 3 wards with 2 Councillors each.
- 3 Area Councillors or 4 if the current number is kept.

During the presentation, Councillor Khera entered the Colonel Light Room at 5.11pm.

Susan & Jeffrey Collins addressed the meeting on the following points:

- Worst example for representation to date.
- Option 2 was supported by the reviews of the independent consultants and the city community and should've been recommended to the commissioner.
- Concerned Council is sticking with Option 3 even though this is not the preferred option – boundaries are illogical, ward Councillor representation altered giving the central ward likely control at Council meetings, disadvantaging the north and south ward representation.
- The review process and administration advice gave a clear and obvious choice.
- Option 2 should be recommended to the Electoral Commissioner.

Heather Nimmo addressed the meeting on the following points:

- Council needing to work collaboratively with residents, listen to what they have to say.
- What is proposed is unfair.

Tony Leviston addressed the meeting on the following points:

- Current ward boundaries should be maintained.
- North Ward shouldn't be split into 2.
- Current number of ward Councillors should continue.
- Current number of Councillors should remain.
- Community feedback has been ignored, results have been misrepresented.
- There wasn't strong support for changes in either of the consultations.

During the presentation, Councillor Knoll left the Colonel Light Room at 5.21pm

Elbert Brooks addressed the meeting on the following points:

- On behalf of the North Adelaide Society.
- Objection and complaint regarding the process.
- Two key content matters - quota and criteria.
- Option 2 was the preferred option by the consultants of the two options chosen to consult on.
- North Adelaide Society objects to option 3, overwhelming support for minimal change and retention of the current number of Councillors and representation of 12 members, with 3 area Councillors.

During the presentation, Councillor Knoll re-entered the Colonel Light Room at 5.28pm.

Geoff Goode addressed the meeting on the following points:

- Lived in North Adelaide for over 50 years and majority of time there has been wards and they're a good thing as long as there is a balance with area Councillors.
- Current situation of 12 is close to perfection.
- This matter is to do with the electors not the elected.
- Option 3 is only about self interest, it's almost like having no wards.
- In favour of Option 2 which is pretty much the status quo, is also a more attractive way of attracting candidates in the future.
- Reject Option 3.

Elizabeth Rushbrook addressed the meeting on the following points:

- On behalf of South East City Residents Association – representing the community of interest.
- Uneven levels of growth across the city has created this situation, some readjustment of ward representation is required.
- The Lord Mayor should be elected by all electors.
- Wards should be retained with boundaries being as close as possible to the existing.
- Option 2 is supported.
- Option 3 is rejected.
- Support 3 area councillors.
- Option 3 splits our area of interest, leaves 1 Councillor for South Ward, 3 Councillors for other residents but located in a large ward that stretches across the City.
- Reputational damage to Council.
- Reflect the views of communities interest.

The Lord Mayor called forward Stephanie Johnston, who was not present.

Closure

The Special meeting closed at 5.41pm

Clare Mockler,
Chief Executive Officer

Sandy Verschoor,
Lord Mayor

Documents Attached for Reference

Nil