

Council Meeting Minutes 19 November 2021

01-15-016
RDC-1205002**Minutes****Council meeting held Thursday 19 November 2021, 9.30am
Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Chadwick (Chair)
Cr Donaldson (Deputy Chair), Cr Bentley, Cr Kai Fong, Cr Kumar,
Cr Macpherson, Cr Maxwell, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Tapsell, Cr Wang,
Cr Yates
- APOLOGIES:** None
- STAFF PRESENT:** G Williams, Chief Executive; C Tiriana, DCE-Chief Executives Group;
O Hopkins, DCE-District Leadership & Democracy;
J.P Gaston, DCE-District Development;
S Michael, DCE-Infrastructure & Environmental Solutions;
G Rangī, DCE-Te Arawa Partnership;
N Michael, Senior Communications Advisor;
R Dunn, Governance Lead;
H King, Governance Support Advisor.

The meeting opened at 9.30am.

The Mayor welcomed elected members, media, staff and members of the public.

**1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI
OPENING KARAKIA**

Cr Donaldson opened meeting with a Karakia.

**2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA
APOLOGIES**

None

**3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest reported.

Point of order – Breach of Standing order 20.8 (Non-Financial conflicts of interest)

The Mayor raised a point of order against Cr Macpherson.

Letters from Grey Power and RDRR published in the Rotorua Daily 18 November 2021. (Attachment 1)

Letter from RDRR signed by Cr Macpherson as Chairperson of RDRR.

The Mayor ruled that this be noted and the matter be dealt with outside this meeting.

**4 NGĀ TAKE WHAWHATI TATA KĀORE I TE RĀRANGI TAKE
URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

**5 NGĀ TAUNAKITANGA A ĒTAHI ATU KOMITI
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

Resolved

That the Report “Recommendations from other committees” be received.

Moved: Cr Yates

Seconded: Cr Kai Fong

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

TEMPORARILY SUSPEND STANDING ORDER 21.5

Resolved:

- 1) That the Committee, temporarily suspend ‘Standing Order 21.5 to allow full debate**
- 2) The reason is to allow members sufficient opportunity to undertake Representation Review deliberations.**

Moved: Cr Kai Fong

Seconded: Cr Raukawa-Tait

CARRIED

Cr Yates requested to move a motion, and asked the Governance team to put it up on the screen.

Seconded by Cr Raukawa-Tait

Cr Yates foreshadowed she would move the 2.4.4 model if the motion on the table was lost.

Cr Macpherson asked to put forward an amendment.

Discussion took place around proposed amendments

The Chair moved that the meeting adjourn for 5 minutes.

Moved: Mayor Chadwick

Seconded: Cr Donaldson

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9.55am and re-adjourned at 10.00am

The Chair confirmed that Cr Macpherson’s amendment cannot be accepted.

Mrs Hopkins explained that Cr Macpherson amendment is a direct negative to the proposed recommendation so cannot be received

Cr Tapsell requested further clarification on the motion stating she believes what is in front of them today was previously voted down at the recent Strategy, Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

Mr William's advised that 5a is the model that was voted on at the Strategy, Policy & Finance Committee meeting and is contained in today's recommendation so Cr Yates has put forward a motion which includes additional aspects that were included in the report. Cr Yates's has also foreshadowed an intent should 5a fail she wishes to move a further motion which has been accepted by the Chair.

Substantive Resolution:

That Council;

- 1. Confirm its commitment and ongoing support for Māori wards as made by Council on 21 May 2021.**

Moved: Cr Yates

Seconded: Cr Raukawa-Tait

CARRIED

- 2. Affirm that voters on the Māori electoral roll should not be permanently locked into a minority and should have equal opportunity as those on the general roll to vote for a Council they consider will best represent their interests (voter parity)**

Point of Order

Cr Yates raised a point of order during Cr Macpherson's discussion around voting parity. The Chair ruled that this is not a point of order and allowed Cr Macpherson to continue.

Point of Order – Language

The Chair raised a point of order during Cr Tapsell's discussion asking her to withdraw and apologise for the use of the word manipulation, as you're implying colleagues are being manipulative. Cr Raukawa-Tait agreed with this Point of order

Cr Tapsell withdrew the perception that this was a manipulation of councillors. The concern is with the process.

Moved: Cr Yates

Seconded: Cr Raukawa-Tait

CARRIED

- 3. Affirm the electoral system for Rotorua should honour the Rotorua Township Agreement (1880) and meet the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.**

Point of order – Misrepresentation

Cr Donaldson raised a point of order during Cr Tapsell's discussion informing her of incorrect information. Cr Tapsell replied with her explanation. Reminding all that it's the Local electoral Acts system that is the problem for us.

Moved: Cr Yates

Seconded: Cr Raukawa-Tait

CARRIED

4. a. Agree that the ideal representational model for Rotorua would comprise;

- 1 Mayor elected at large
- 1 Māori ward with 3 seats (Te Ipu Wai Taketake ward)
- 1 General ward with 3 seats (Te Ipu Wai Auraki ward)
- 4 “At large” seats
- A Rotorua Lakes Community Board
- A Rural Community Board

b. Note that the preferred model (see 4a above) is not currently enabled under the current Local Electoral Act, Council instructs the Chief Executive to pursue the necessary statutory reforms, or other means, by which the preferred model can be adopted by Council at the earliest possible time, including if possible, prior to the 2022 election.

Moved: Cr Yates

Seconded: Cr Raukawa-Tait

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.12am and resumed at 11.22am

5. a. Notwithstanding 4 above, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the Local Electoral Act agree an interim representation model comprising;

- 1 Mayor elected at large
- 1 Māori ward with 1 seat (Te Ipu Wai Taketake ward)
- 1 General ward with 1 seat (Te Ipu Wai Auraki ward)
- 8 “At large” seats
- A Rotorua Lakes Community Board
- A Rural Community Board

b. Note that the interim model (see 5a above) falls short of Council’s preferred model however preserves the principles of voter parity (see 2 above)

Division noted:

For: Mayor Chadwick, Cr Maxwell, Cr Donaldson, Cr Yates, Cr Raukawa-Tait, Cr Wang

Against: Cr Macpherson, Cr Bentley, Cr Tapsell, Cr Kumar, Cr Kai Fong,

Moved: Cr Yates

Seconded: Cr Raukawa-Tait

CARRIED 6/5

The meeting closed 12.05pm

To be confirmed at a Council meeting on 16 December 2021



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Chair



CUSTOMER:	ROTORUA DISTRICT RESIDEN	PROOF TIME:	17/11/2021 10:33:03 AM	NZ-11710630AA
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EQUAL VOTING POWER PLEASE, NOT JUST OUTCOME PARITY

OPEN LETTER TO COUNCIL FROM ROTORUA DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS INC

Please, Elected Members, our members don't want absolute parity of outcomes from Māori and General wards, and co-governance, because of the disparity in electoral populations. There are 19,791 (28%) in the Māori Electoral Population and 51,618 (72%) in the General Electoral Population.

Council has been advised that the only lawful model with full parity would have 1 Māori seat, 1 General seat and 8 At Large seats. It was adopted at SP&F Committee by the casting vote of the chair. That would nearly take us back to what we have and value now; 10 councillors elected At Large and we believe on merit.

However, since Council has already decided to have a Māori ward, please blend parity with equal suffrage (equal voting power) to each voter. We suggest 3 Māori seats and 7 General seats. It was the most preferred option heard at the public hearings. Te Tatau has also asked for 3 Māori seats. Thank you.

Reynold Macpherson, RDRR Chairman, 484 Pukehangi Road, 021 725 708.

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CUSTOMER:	GREY POWER ROTORUA	PROOF TIME:	17/11/2021 1:17:26 PM	NZ-11710754AA
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DEMOCRACY PLEASE

OPEN LETTER TO COUNCIL FROM GREY POWER ROTORUA

With respect, Elected Members, please stop trying to divide up the seven seats on Council owing to the 72% of our community in the General Electoral Population, to boost the number of votes for the 28% of us in the Māori Electoral Population.

In our view it is unwise to steer an election to the advantage of any group. We advise avoiding the resentment that we believe gets generated when communities and countries lose proportionate and democratic representation.

Hence, we believe strongly that the number of councillors should follow according to the percentages in the respective electoral populations. This makes it simple and fair for all.

Please, let us vote democratically. Thank you.

Grey Power Rotorua Executive Committee, Felix Hohener Secretary, 021 737 694 • 1333 Eruera Street, Rotorua

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