

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of The Hutt City Council held in the Wainuiomata Chambers, Wainuiomata Library, Queens Street, Wainuiomata on
Monday 18 April 2016 commencing at 10.00am

PRESENT: Mayor WR Wallace (Chair)
Deputy Mayor D Bassett Cr C Barry (from 10.10am)
Cr T Lewis Cr M Lulich
Cr C Milne Cr M Shierlaw
Cr M Willard

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cr Branch, Cr Bridson, Cr Cousins, Cr Finlayson and Cr McDonald.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T Stallinger, Chief Executive
Mr G Craig, Divisional Manager City Development
Mr B Monaghan, Divisional Manager City Promotions
Ms K Stannard, Manager Secretariat Services

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

Minute No. C 16201

"That the apology for lateness received from Cr C Barry be accepted and the apologies from Cr B Branch, Cr L Bridson, Cr M Cousins, Cr A Finlayson and Cr G McDonald be accepted and leave of absence be granted."

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

4. FREE PARKING IN LOWER HUTT CBD (16/444)

Report No. HCC2016/2/75 by the Divisional Manager City Development

Speaking under public comment, **Mr Mike Grigg** believed that Council was fast tracking the issue. He questioned who would be paying for the free parking and whether it would be paid through Hutt City ratepayers or business rates.

Mayor Wallace explained that the fee structure, approved by Council in 2015, extended to 30 April 2016 and Council would be deciding on whether to extend the period to 30 June 2016.

Cr Barry joined the meeting at 10.10 am.

The Divisional Manager City Development elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Divisional Manager City Development advised that the estimated cost to Council of two months first hour free parking in the HC2 zone could be more than \$155,000. He also advised that the additional information regarding benefits from free parking would be compared regionally and nationally. He said that he was not aware of any requests for a range of ways of recovering the lost revenue from parking fees. He highlighted that if Council agreed to extend the first hour free parking until 30 June 2016, then officers would be able to collect more evidence on the benefits of free parking in the CBD.

In response to a question from a member, Mayor Wallace advised that the General Manager Strategic Services had expressed concern with using funds currently allocated for CBD projects to cover the free parking. She had highlighted that stopping some of the CDB projects would slow down work and would have the opposite effect of attracting people to the CBD.

In response to a question from a member regarding the HC3 zone, the Divisional Manager City Development advised that an independent consultant would look at a combination of ways regarding the parking zones tariffs in the CBD which would include the HC3 zone.

In response to a question from a member, the Chief Executive advised that the estimated cost to Council of two months continued first hour free parking in the HC2 zone had increased from \$100,000 and may possibly be close to \$200,000. He highlighted, therefore, that \$155,000 was a reasonable estimate.

In response to a question from a member, the Divisional Manager City Development advised that the results up to now from the submissions to the Annual Plan on free parking had 142 supporting free parking and 106 opposing free parking.

Deputy Mayor Bassett said it was important for Council to receive additional information before making a decision on free parking permanently for the CBD. He expressed support for amending the free parking in the HC2 zone to 30 June 2016.

Cr Barry expressed concern with the extension period of two months for first hour free parking in the HC2 zone. He advised that he was not willing to spend \$155,000 when Council was already working within a tight budget.

Cr Lewis expressed support for Cr Barry's comments. She expressed concern that there had been no consultation undertaken in regard to Council spending \$155,000 on the proposed extension.

Cr Lulich expressed concern with the lack of information provided to Council and questioned, in the long term, what projects would miss out due to the negative variance.

Cr Willard expressed support for the extension period of two months for first hour free parking in the HC2 zone. She highlighted that it was important that Council considered all the options when reported to Council.

Cr Shierlaw explained that the \$155,000 was not a loss of revenue as Council was not spending a cent. He advised that Council's Revenue and Finance Policy contained a parking activity and the benefits of on-street parking. He considered that Jackson Street customers should be charged for parking.

Cr Milne expressed concern for the extension period of two months for first hour free parking in the HC2 zone. He highlighted that the estimated cost to Council of \$155,000 could be far higher. He expressed concern that there was no budget line for the extension.

Mayor Wallace expressed support for the extension period of two months for first hour free parking in the HC2 zone. He highlighted that it was important for officers to gather all the facts and options available when reporting back to Council.

Deputy Mayor Bassett expressed support for the extension period of two months for first hour free parking in the HC2 zone. He noted that if Council agreed to the extension then it would enable members to be provided with all the information to make an informed decision at its meeting to be held in June.

RESOLVED: (on the casting vote of the Chair)

Minute No. C 16202

"That Council agrees to amend the parking fees in the Shoppers (Green HC2) Zone for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 June 2016 to:

Shoppers (Green HC2) Zone

First hour Free

Second Hour \$1.50

Two Hour maximum duration

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Saturday P 120 (no charge)

Sunday and Public Holidays

Unrestricted."

For

Mayor Wallace
 Deputy Mayor Bassett
 Cr Shierlaw
 Cr Willard
 Total: 4

Against

Cr Barry
 Cr Lulich
 Cr Milne
 Cr Lewis
 Total: 4

CONSEQUENTIAL MOTION**RESOLVED:****Minute No. C 16203***"That Council:*

- (i) *asks officers to provide a report on a range of options in terms of how Council would fund the gap in parking revenue if in the event Council decides to adopt a policy of first hour free parking in the CBD as from 1 July 2016; and*
- (ii) *asks officers that this report be available for consideration at the June 2016 Community Plan Committee meeting."*

5. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.15am.

WR Wallace
MAYOR

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
 Dated this 24th day of May 2016**