

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA
ON TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021 AT 10.30AM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Hine Flood (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jeremy Harker, Cr Melissa Kaimoana,

IN ATTENDANCE: **Kitea Tipuna** (Tumu Whakarae Taupua Interim Chief Executive), **Gary Borg** (Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support), **David Doole** (Kaiurungi Matua Take Senior Rates Officer), **Courtney Hayward** (Kaiurungi Matua Kaupapa Here me te Mana Arahi/Senior Policy and Governance Advisor)

1 KARAKIA

Karakia was given by Kitea Tipuna

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2021/20

Moved: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

Seconded: Cr Hine Flood

That the apology received from Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke and Cr Danika Goldsack be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A maximum of 30 minutes has been set aside for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda. Up to 5 minutes per person is allowed. As per Standing Order 14.14 requests to speak must be made to the meeting secretary at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson.

5 GENERAL ITEMS**5.1 REVENUE AND FINANCING AND RATES REMISSIONS POLICIES HEARING AND DELIBERATIONS****RESOLUTION 2021/21**

Moved: Cr Hine Flood

Seconded: Cr Melissa Kaimoana

That Council

- a) Receive the attached submissions and thank all submitters for taking the time to make a submission on the proposed updated Revenue and Financing and Rates Remissions Policies.
- b) Adopt the proposed Revenue and Financing Policy, with an amendment to include 3 differentials for residential land use. As per LGA S101(3)(b) Council has considered the provisions and overall impact of allocation of revenue on the community, and the revenue needs of the organisation and considers it appropriate to utilise 3 differentials for the land use residential, assessed by capital value
- c) Adopt the proposed Rates Remissions and Postponement Policies and direct the CEO to develop an additional Rates Remission Policy to consider the rating valuations impact on the horticulture industry
- d) Directs the Interim Chief Executive Officer to explore appropriate parameters for a Forestry Indigenous land use code

Simon Hall from Ashland Investments Limited spoke to his submission. He wished to clarify his use of Council services as he uses less than an average farm and therefore thinks a pastoral rural or protected forest differential would be more appropriate rather than the current commercial rate he is paying which is double that of rural.

His Worship the Mayor told Mr Hall that Council have started a process and Mr Hall's rate differential is lower than what he used to be on. He understands what Mr Hall is saying however Council needs to understand more about Mr Hall's business. Mayor Little noted that making any changes could set a precedent and that there would need to be further research done and a guarantee that there won't be milling on the property.

Councillor Flood noted that the Council wants to take steps to encourage the type of development Mr Hall is doing.

Councillor Kaimoana acknowledged the good work that Mr Hall was doing and noted that we did hear his feedback in the rates review which resulted in a change in differential for Ashland Investments. Councillor Kaimoana reiterated that Council appreciates the type of work Mr Hall is undertaking.

Councillor Harker said that he agreed with a lot of the points that were raised in the submission and that Council needs to clarify that what is being done currently at the property will carry in to the future.

Group Manager Finance and Corporate Services noted that the process to date has demonstrated extensive community engagement and that Ashland Investment is at the moment a unique case for the district.

The Interim Chief Executive reiterated the need for Council to better understand the work being undertaken at Ashland Investments.

The meeting adjourned at 10.58am

The meeting reconvened at 11.40am

Ross Stevenson and Mike Montgomery spoke to the submission that Mr Stevenson made via zoom video call. The submitters indicated that they were speaking on behalf of the horticulture industry and noted that they were facing significant cost increases in Kiwifruit licences, Hawkes Bay Regional Council Rates and Wairoa District Council Rates.

Mr Montgomery spoke about his property in Wai Station Road Nuhaka, he acknowledged and understands that rates rise, however he was concerned about ensuring fair and even distribution. He noted that orchards in Wairoa aren't like the "rockstar" ones in the Bay of Plenty and suggested adjusting rates for productivity decrease compared to premium land. Wairoa doesn't have the infrastructure for orchards and this results in extra cost in processing. Mr Montgomery also noted that orchards employ a lot of people – more than forestry of farming on a per hectare basis and that his orchard provides a substantial economic benefit to Nuhaka.

The Interim Chief Executive noted that we could look at a remissions policy, acknowledging concerns from the horticulture industry.

The meeting adjourned at 11.51am

The meeting reconvened at 11.55am

Elected members discussed written submissions. The submission from Mahia Ratepayers Association had a proposed new rates distribution – the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services noted that representatives from the Mahia Ratepayers Association had been into Council to discuss this.

The Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services explained the analysis he had undertaken for illustration based on submissions and noted that there are some modest movements but close to the ultimate decision.

His Worship the Mayor noted that any considerations made have all residential properties in mind and not just those in Mahia. It might be appropriate to go back to some differentials for the purpose of equity.

Councillor Flood noted that the models discussed stays faithful to the principles of the rates review.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 12.44PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON