

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES: of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Rodney District Council which commenced at 3.20 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Centreway Road, Orewa on Thursday, 11 March 2010.

PRESENT: Penny Webster, Mayor (Chairperson)
Crs Ross Craig
Pat Delich
Michael Goudie
Gaye Harding
John Kirikiri
Dave Parker QSM
Grahame Powell
June Turner
Greville Walker
Wayne Walker (until 3.54 p.m.)
Suzanne Weld

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (Rodger Kerr-Newell)
Assistant Chief Executive (Warren McLennan)
General Manager: Strategy (Rory Palmer)
General Manager: Communications (David Anderson)
Executive Manager (Paul Garbett)
Chief Legal Officer (Rob Goldsbury)
Research Manager (Carol Hayward)
Democracy Services Officer (Raewyn Morrison)
Democracy Services Manager (Ellen Barrett)

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115/03/10 APOLOGIES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Goudie/Turner

That the apologies from Cr Taylor (for absence) and Cr W Walker (for absence from the meeting from 3.54 p.m.) be received and sustained.

Carried

116/03/10 REQUEST FROM NORTHERN ACTION GROUP – LOCAL BILL

FILE REF CG/14/1

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 and 2A

Note: Several members of the Northern Action Group were present at the meeting.

The Mayor, Penny Webster, read out a letter she had received from the Northern Action Group (NAG) asking that the Council promote a local Bill through Parliament requesting that the boundaries of the

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new Auckland Council be reconsidered to effectively exclude the area north of the southern boundary of Rodney District's Northern Ward. With the agreement of the Council, the Mayor then invited Mr Bill Townson, spokesperson for NAG, to address the meeting.

Mr Townson advised that NAG's request reflected the wishes of the community expressed in a recent petition, which had been initiated in October as a result of the select committee's decision relating to the future of Rodney District being overturned. He said that the NAG petition excluded the area covered by a separate petition initiated earlier by the people of Wellsford, and that members of the public had been canvassed at community events such as the Kowhai Festival, but mostly through a direct door-to-door approach. Mr Townson said the sum total of signatures from both petitions had been 6,836 and, given that the organisers had been able to contact only 50% of the area's residents, this indicated that 80% of residents were in support of both areas being excluded from the Super City.

In response to questions, Mr Townson advised that:

- Although signatures had not been compared with the electoral roll, canvassers were able to ascertain from the number of rejections that almost 100% of people from the western area of the Northern Ward were in favour of the split, with approximately 80% of the balance also in favour.
- Those canvassed were asked to sign a statement that they strongly opposed the inclusion of northern Rodney in the Super City and supported the move to revert to the Local Government Commission's original proposal.

The General Manager: Strategy (Rory Palmer) summarised the agenda report and explained the processing of a local Bill.

The discussion which followed focussed on the options available to the Council, the results of a recent Colmar Brunton poll which had indicated that an average of 73% of Rodney's residents would prefer the district to be excluded from the Super City in its entirety, and concerns relating to the effect on both the affected and balance areas should a Bill splitting the current Rodney District succeed.

3.54 p.m. Cr W Walker retired from the meeting.

Harding/Turner

That the Council prepare and progress a local bill promoting that Rodney District be excluded from the Auckland Council and be established as a unitary authority.

Division

For the Motion

Craig
Harding
Parker
Powell
Turner
Webster
Weld

Against the Motion

Delich
Goudie
Kirikiri
G Walker

Carried

Cr G Walker requested that his vote against the decision be recorded for the following reasons:

- The interests of the NAG (Northern Action Group) had been completely ignored; and
- The RDC quest for 'unitary' status would not be supported by a majority of ratepayers in the south-west who have had massive rates rises during the last five years.

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Cr Delich requested that his vote against the decision be recorded for the reason that the interests of the NAG (Northern Action Group) had been completely ignored.

The Mayor, Penny Webster, thanked representatives of the Northern Action Group for their attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.02 p.m.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD THIS 15TH DAY OF APRIL 2010

MAYOR

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