

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually via Zoom on Monday 12th February 2024 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, C. Higgins, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. Murphy, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: I. Byrne, C. Connolly, F. Fahy, N. Larkin, M. O'Connor
Apologies	Cllr. A. Cheevers B. Barrett, A/Director of Services
Present (Executive)	Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive – Interim Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services (Online) Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner (Online) Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Engineer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Engineer (Online) Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Martin, A/Senior Executive Officer (Online) Mr. D. Redington, Climate Action Co-Ordinator Mr. D. Greally, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. P. Foley, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer

Note: The Minutes of the Meeting and Agenda Items are recorded in the order of their consideration.

Mr. P. Foley, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor E. Hoare welcomed all to the meeting and proposed a minute's silence for Mr. John Bruton, former Taoiseach, who recently passed away. He further proposed that the meeting finish at 6.30pm with a 15 minute break and to take agenda items in the following order, 1, 2c, 2b, 2a, 4c and 4a. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 8th January 2024

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 1 and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins

1(a) Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 8th January 2024

The minutes of the January meeting were agreed and adopted.

There were no matters of accuracy. Matters arising were as follows:

Cllr. M. Cubbard queried sports clubs, signage and licencing. He understood that a club did submit a request last December and it was refused. He asked for clarification on this and asked what correspondence the City Council currently has with clubs.

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to page 10 of the minutes under AOB and to his proposal to invite the National Transport Authority (NTA) to a future Council meeting to give a presentation and queried when will this happen?

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty referred to the cleaning of Walter Macken flats and asked if the purchase order had issued to contractors and asked for an exact date for commencement of works.

Cllr. N. McNelis referred to flying a flag in solidarity with Palestine and asked for advice from the Chief Executive on this matter.

The Executive responded as follows:

In relation to query raised regarding sports clubs' signage and licencing, Mr. P. Greene informed members that he was not aware of any club seeking permission but agreed to follow up on this matter.

In relation to the query on the proposal to invite the NTA to present at a Council meeting, Ms. P. Philbin agreed to follow up on this matter.

In relation to the query on the Walter Macken Flats, Ms. E. Fanning responded that a purchase order had issued, and works are due to commence in the coming weeks, subject to weather conditions.

In relation to the query of flying a flag in Solidarity with Palestine, Ms. P. Philbin suggested flying a Peace flag in line with other Local Authorities.

Cllr. C. Connolly asked if the SPC folders on the Extranet Share Point for Elected Members could be updated.

Mayor E. Hoare referred to the Climate Action Fund and asked if a Local Authority can apply for money to retrofit sports club centres.

Mr. D. Redington responded that the Climate Action Fund is open to all groups subject to meeting the criteria and informed Members that Tiarnan McCusker,

Community Climate Action Officer with Galway City Council, should be the first point of contact.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(c) St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2024 for adoption

The Mayor referred Members to agenda item 2(c) and invited comments.

A discussion followed and a number of queries/clarifications were raised by Members and responded to by Ms. E. Fanning, Mr. G. McMahon and Mr. L. Blake.

Cllr. A. Curran asked if there was any provision for bus providers to increase capacity or routes over the weekend and Proposed the following motion. This was Seconded by Mayor E. Hoare and agreed.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands in favour of NOM05/2024.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran NOM 05/2024	Seconded By: Mayor E. Hoare
That this council will write to the 3 main public and private transportation companies in the city, namely Bus Eireann, City Direct and Irish Rail, to ask them to consider a fare-free day for their services during the St. Patricks, Macnas and the Galway Arts Festival parades, to promote safer, accessible and sustainable methods of travel during these family events	
In Favour: 17 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 Present: 17 The motion was carried.	

Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands for the adoption of agenda item 2(c).

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
2(c) To adopt the St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2024.	
In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Present: 16 Item 2(c) was adopted.	

2(a) Consideration of the Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, the Chief Executive's Report on the Consultation Process and Environmental Assessments and to adopt by resolution the Galway City Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 2(a) and invited Mr. D. Redington, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, to give a presentation.

Members complimented Mr. D. Redington on his presentation and the draft plan. A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by Members as follows and responded to by Ms. E. Fanning and Mr. D. Redington.

Cllr. J. Connolly referred to a presentation on the GH2 Project and asked if this can be confirmed. Ms. P. Philbin responded that a presentation date has yet to be finalised but will most likely be on the April agenda.

Mayor E. Hoare invited further clarifications from Members.

Cllr. C. Higgins referred to planning issues and in particular, obtaining planning permission in Galway City, and referred to NOM 11A/2023, submitted on 13/02/2023, requesting an urgent meeting with Minister Darragh O'Brien, Minister Kieran O'Donnell and Minister Eamon Ryan.

Cllr. C. Higgins proposed the following motion. This was Seconded by Mayor E. Hoare and agreed. Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands in favour of this

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins NOM 06/2024		Seconded By: Mayor E. Hoare		
That this Council writes to Minister Darragh O' Brien requesting a meeting takes place with the Senior Management Team and City Councillors during his scheduled trip to Galway on Monday 19th of February as per our motion that was passed unanimously in February 2023.				
In Favour: 13	Against: 3	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2	Present: 16
The motion was carried.				

Mr. D. Redington responded to queries raised and reminded Members of an information event on Climate Action Funding which is taking place on 20th February and asked anyone interested in this event needs to register for same.

Mayor E. Hoare thanked Damien Redington. He informed Members that the Plan has been Proposed by Cllr. Martina O'Connor and Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and called for a show of hands to adopt the Draft Climate Action Plan as set out.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. O'Connor		Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons		
2(a) To adopt the Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, the Chief Executive’s Report on the Consultation Process and Environmental Assessments and to adopt by resolution the Galway City Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029				
In Favour: 17	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 1	Present: 17
Item 2(a) was adopted.				

Mayor E. Hoare proposed to take agenda items 7, 9 & 10. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
<p>(a) Correspondence received on 11/01/24 from the OPR – response to NOM40/23 query re meetings.</p> <p>(b) Correspondence received on 15/01/24 from Minister H. Humphreys – Acknowledgement re NOM01/2024.</p> <p>(c) Correspondence received on 17/01/24 from CCMA – Response to NOM39/2023.</p> <p>(d) Correspondence received on 19/01/24 from Mayo County Council – Resolution passed at January meeting.</p> <p>(e) Correspondence received on 19/01/24 from Offaly County Council – Support for GAZA</p> <p>(f) Correspondence received on 30/01/24 from Wexford County Council – Resolution passed at January meeting.</p> <p>(g) Correspondence received on 30/01/24 from Sligo County Council – Resolution on Legislation on use of bicycles/E-Scooters.</p> <p>(h) Correspondence received on 06/02/24 from Sligo County Council – Resolution on provision of additional bus services.</p>	
It was agreed by Council to note correspondence.	

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
Training title and Provider	Date and Location
A AILG Module 1 – Training Programme - Elected Members Briefing: Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct, and Local Representation Allowance Update	Thursday 25 th January 2024 The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk (Retrospective)
B Celtic Conferences – Conference on The First Homes Scheme – Helping Homeowners get onto the property ladder	23 rd , 24 th & 25 th February 2024 McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
C AILG Training Webinar 1 – Session 1: Introduction to advertising on Facebook and Instagram	26 th January 2024 (Retrospective) Webinar – Online
Session 2: Planning Budgets, Tracking Results, and getting authorised to run political ads on Meta	2 nd February 2024 (Retrospective) Webinar - Online
Event	Date & Location
D Galway Association Coventry Annual Dinner Dance 2024	23 rd March 2024 Brittania Royal Court Hotel, Coventry
Training and Events were noted and approved by Council.	

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. John Bruton (Former Taoiseach) RIP.• Ms. Margaret Francis, RIP.• Mr. Frank Crowe, RIP.• Mr. Michael Coppinger, RIP.• Mr. Oliver Kane, RIP.• Ms. Anna Marie Leonard (Ní Lionnain), RIP.• Ms. Maura Burke (née Mary Melody), RIP.• Mr. Liam Bradshaw, RIP.• Ms. Ann Bacon (née Doyle), RIP.• Mr. Sean McNamara, RIP.• Mr. John Cotter, RIP.• Mr. Fred Monaghan, RIP.• Ms. Margaret Collins, RIP.• Mr. Peter Coyle, RIP	
Votes of Sympathy were noted and approved by Council.	

Cllr. D. Lyons Proposed to extend the meeting to deal with agenda item 4(c). This Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and agreed.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(c) Proposed safety improvements/ toucan crossing at the Seamus Quirke Road / Browne Roundabout – update prior to public consultation.

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 4(c) and invited comments.

Mr. U. Finn and Mr. D. Greally presented on this item.

A discussion followed and a number of queries & clarifications were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. C. Connolly asked for further clarification on the location of pedestrian crossings and queried if it was possible to make an amendment to this plan before it goes for public consultation.

Mr. U. Finn clarified crossings outlined in the plan and informed Members that if this plan is amended here today, it will require Galway City Council to go back to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for approval and that he couldn't give any guarantee that it would be successful. He also informed Members that there is no statutory requirement under Section 38 to go to public consultation.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a Proposer and Seconded and for a show of hands in favour of the proposed plan. Cllr. F. Fahy Proposed the plan. This was Seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. M. Cubbard
4(c) Proposed safety improvements/ toucan crossing at the Seamus Quirke Road/ Browne Roundabout – recommend to go to public consultation.	
In Favour: 13	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Present: 13	
This was agreed by Council.	

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE – NOT CONSIDERED

- (a) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025 for adoption (plan attached)

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS – NOT CONSIDERED

- (a) Chief Executives Report for January 2024 & Quarterly Reports for period October to December 2023 (reports issued 05/01/2024).
- (b) Chief Executives Report for February 2024 (report attached).

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS – NOT CONSIDERED

None

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS – NOT CONSIDERED

- (c) Chief Executives Report for January 2024 & Quarterly Reports for period October to December 2023 (reports issued 05/01/2024).
- (d) Chief Executives Report for February 2024 (report attached).

5. NOTICES OF MOTION – NOT CONSIDERED

NOM 8/2022

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 16th May 2022

Response issued 18/05/2023

Response issued 06/10/2023 - Request to leave on the agenda.

I am calling on Galway County Council to have full consultation with Galway City Council public representatives in relation to the Master Plan for the Galway Airport Site.

I believe that as it is jointly owned with the county council the city council need to have full consultation in this process and it should not be solely for County Council.

NOM 17/2022

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the on the 10th Oct 2022.

Response issued 05th April 2023 Resubmitted 10th April 2023 (Not included in Special meeting on 22/05/23 as Cllr. Lyons had three motions on this agenda).

I request Galway City Council to progress the installation of a lighted pedestrian crossing on the Barna Road at the laneway that exits from the Rusheen Woods to the Barna Road. This laneway since upgraded is widely used by residents who walk the back Promenade. It is my understanding that the necessary drawings have been completed for some time for a pedestrian crossing at this location.

NOM 18/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on the 23rd June 2023

That the council will create a warm weather response contingency plan for the city to be actioned during forecasted spells of warm and dry weather. This contingency plan will consider amongst others the council's approach to water safety, transportation, refuse and waste, public spaces, sanitation facilities and recreational areas.

NOM 19/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 22nd June 2023

In view of the recent petition by the Mincloon Residents seeking a footpath in their area from the junction of the Clybaun Road to the junction of Bóthar Stiofáin, I request Galway City Council to forward this request to the National Transport Authority and pursue it as a pilot Active Travel Project, which could be replicated in other parts of the city which is similar to the Ragoon Road, lacking the necessary infrastructure like footpaths and public lighting.

NOM 22/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell on 7th July 2023

Call on Galway City Council to re-examine the junction at Roscam and consider removing a number of bollards in order to facilitate motorists trying to get out of the estate to get to work and to school.

NOM 26/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 26th July 2023

I request Galway City Council, Roads Department/Active Travel Department to prepare the necessary drawings and seek funding from the National Transport Authority for the provision of a lighted pedestrian (zebra) crossing south of the roundabout on the Cappagh Road. The provision of a lighted zebra crossing at this location would make it safer for users of the Cappagh Park facilities to cross this busy road.

NOM 27/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 8th August 2023

I am Calling on Galway City Council to support the retention of VAT at 9% for the food related businesses and we are calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% vat rate to the end of 2024.

NOM 29/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. Larkin on the 11th Sept 2023

The people of Roscam really need us as elected representatives to properly represent their needs. Considering the unsustainable return junction at Roscam between South Doughiska Road and the Road up to housing estates - Ros Caoin, Renaissance, Boireann Beag , I am calling on this Council to support the democratic campaign fought by residents in 2019 and commitments from Galway City Council to formalise two vehicular lanes to alleviate traffic congestion and

after such Galway City Council liaises with stakeholders to create a safe cycle network for exiting the estates.

NOM 30/2023

Submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on the 11th Sept 2023 Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons

That this Council commits to placing double yellow lines outside the front driveways (only) of properties on Threadneedle Road on the grounds of safe access and egress as per resident's requests.

NOM 37/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 2nd November 2023

That the planning notices provided to elected members would include all applications made for licences to Galway City Council under section 254 of Planning and Development Act, 2000.

NOM 50/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 14th November 2023

I propose that when the next council is formed following the 2024 local elections, that an SPC dedicated to climate action be created. This will require changes to the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme. This was committed to in the program for government, and the formation of the next SPC's will be the first opportunity to implement this step.

Rational: It was committed to in the PFG. Currently climate action shares an SPC with multiple functions and it simply does not get enough time when the recreational and amenity and environment functions take up so much time. This may mean that we have 6 SPC's, as happens in some other LAs, or we could redistribute the other functions if it was decided to keep the number of SPCs at 5.

Section 34 Motion submitted on 8th January 2024

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

Seconded By: Cllr. P. Keane

NOM 02/2024

In the interest of facilitating fundraising endeavors of Clubs to whom Pitch Licenses are granted, Galway City Council resolves to insert an amendment to the current Licenses to allow for Pitch-side Advertisement Hoardings.

NOM 03/2024

Submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on the 29th January 2024

That the government recognises the urgent situation of the crisis facing the hospitality sector and acts swiftly to provide immediate support to SMEs in the hospitality sector by way of a suite of measures. Failure to do so, risks irreversible damage to our economy and loss of countless jobs and livelihoods. Recognising the urgency of the matter Galway City Council calls on the Government to take the following immediate actions to support SMEs in the hospitality sector;

- (1) Reduce the VAT rate to 9%
- (2) Extension of Warehouse Tax scheme in line with calls from the Restaurant Association of Ireland which will give businesses a viable opportunity to pay back what they owe over an extended period.
- (3) An overhaul of the electric support which is one of the most crippling costs to SMEs in the hospitality sector at present.

6. QUESTIONS – NOT CONSIDERED

Q4/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 10th April 2023

Can Galway City Council urgently look at the design of Upr and Lwr Clybaun Road and Upr and Lwr Ballymoneen roads as pedestrian crossings at this roundabout are not safe and the speed coming off these is very high. Elected members of the West Ward met with Garda Superintendent last week and also raised this but there needs to be a design change to make these areas safe.

Q7/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on the 31st August 2023

What are the constraints and barriers (financial, legal, resource based or otherwise) that is stopping the installation of red light cameras at busy traffic junctions in the city, which record and fine motorists who break red lights.

Q8/2023

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 6th November 2023

Please outline a time frame for completion of the Renmore Neighbourhood Project Framework Scheme, which will provide junior and senior playgrounds, if there are no objections; to include target dates for each of the following stages:

Stage I: Feasibility and Concept Design

Stage II: Preliminary Design for Planning Consent and Development for Initial Pre-Tender Cost estimate

Stage III: Tender Action, Evaluation and Award

Stage IV: Construction

Stage V: Handover

Q9/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on 20th November 2023

Can the Council be provided with a list of all the Traffic Signal Controlled Junctions and the Pedestrian Crossing Signal Locations that are connected to the UTC system?"

Q1/2024

Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on 23rd January 2024

The Galway City Development Plan in section 5.10 in specific objective 29 states: "Continue the phased recording of Public Rights of Way in accordance with OPR good practice guidance and make publicly available by inclusion in the website inventory and by use of the plan variation process. The website will be updated within one year of adoption of the plan."

Can I please get an update of how much progress has been made. The plan is more than a year old, so the inventory should be in place.

11. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING – NOT CONSIDERED

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – NOT CONSIDERED

The meeting concluded at 19:25

DRAFT