



CITY OF
M O N A S H

**MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING OF
MONASH CITY COUNCIL**

HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022

at 7.00 p.m.

**Council Chambers
293 Springvale Road,
Glen Waverley**

**MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SPRINGVALE ROAD GLEN WAVERLEY ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT: Councillors A de Silva, J Fergus, S James, P Klisaris, G Lake, B Little, S McCluskey, N Luo, T Samardzija, R Paterson, T Zographos

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Nil.

OPENING OF MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting and stated that the purpose of the Additional Meeting of Council was for the election of the Mayor for the 2022/2023 term of office and for the election of the Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

ITEM 1: ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2022/2023

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for Mayor for the 2022/2023 term of office.

Cr Klisaris nominated Cr Samardzija.

Cr Fergeus nominated Cr Fergeus.

There were no further nominations.

The Chief Executive Officer called for a vote by a show of hands for each nominee, in the order that the nominations had been received.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that as Cr Samardzija had received the majority of votes, she was duly elected as Mayor for 2022/2023.

The Chief Executive Officer congratulated Cr Samardzija on her election.

The Mayor assumed control of the meeting and made her acceptance speech, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2022/2023

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

Cr Stuart nominated Cr Luo.

Cr Fergeus nominated Cr Fergeus.

There were no further nominations.

The Mayor called for a vote by a show of hands for each nominee, in the order that the nominations had been received.

The Mayor advised that as Cr Luo had received the majority of votes, she was duly elected as Mayor for 2022/2023.

The Chief Executive Officer congratulated Cr Samardzija on her election and invited her to make an acceptance speech. A copy of Cr Luo's speech is appended to the minutes.

Councillors present then took the opportunity to speak on the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023 and on the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2021/2022.

The outgoing Mayor, Cr Stuart took the opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of his term of office and congratulated Cr Samardzija and Cr Luo on their election.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.27 pm.

MAYOR:



.....

DATED 13 DECEMBER 2022

SPEECH BY CR SAMARDZIJA, MAYOR

Firstly, congratulations to Councillor Stuart James for your terrific year as Mayor. I have enjoyed working with you this past year as Deputy Mayor. I think we made a great team, and I thank you for your leadership and support during my time on council. You've been very generous with your time and advice.

You show up. You're one of the hardest working councillors, dedicated to your local community, full of ideas and energy. A collaborative councillor who brings people together. A great team player.

Observing you in action has certainly been good preparation for the great responsibility that now lies ahead for me.

Thank you to my fellow councillors for placing your confidence in me as Mayor. It is an honour and privilege to serve in this leadership role.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you all, along with our CEO Andi Diamond, the executive leadership team and council officers over the next year in this role.

This next year Council must continue to help our community recover from COVID. The past three years have been a challenge and strain for us all, but there is so much that is positive and hopeful within our community.

Since becoming a councillor, the resilience and positivity I see within our community has been one of my biggest inspirations.

There are so many wonderful people among us who think first – what can I do to help others? Not, what's in it for me? These are the people that inspire me every day to keep going and do what I can to make things better. People who see someone who needs helping, something that needs improving, and just get on and do it. With no desire to claim plaudits or credit.

The best way that council can support our community is to continue providing our core services in an efficient and effective manner, with a focus on local issues and local people.

This reflects why I ran for council – the simple but powerful motivation to make sure more is done for families and residents, while keeping rates low and ensuring council services represent the best value for money.

As Mayor, my priorities will revolve around those core aspirations of local amenity, services and infrastructure for the people of Monash. I will focus on local issues and people, and making sure local projects meet contemporary community needs.

With two young children, I know the important role Council plays in the lives of families. We need to provide good services and infrastructure for our youngest residents and their families such as kindergartens, playgrounds, and maternal and child health facilities. And do what we can to empower fathers as well as mothers to care for their children.

I want Council to help our local community to be healthier and more active. Doing more in particular to help women and girls stay active in ways that suit them, be that participating in organised sport, using our active recreation centres, or simply getting out and about in our parks and local communities. I want council to do more to help mothers to prioritise their own health and wellbeing, because I know it can be so easy to prioritise caring for children and others and put ourselves second.

And when we plan for and provide these things, we need to ensure our migrant community is part of that.

This means more than just festivals and celebrating their food and culture, as important as those things are.

It means including migrants in everything that we do – their perspectives, lived experiences, hopes and dreams.

It means fostering the same expectations about customer service levels in them.

That it is their place to have a say in the community they form part of.

That it is their place to call up and complain if they find something wanting.

That this too is their place.

And Council should help them have the confidence to participate in our consultation processes when we set our council budget, when we develop the details for local projects. And to use and make the most of our local facilities, which are here for all.

And speaking of migrants, I want to thank the very best ones that I know. I want to thank my parents Janja and Mile for their unlimited well of support for me and my family. Thank you for looking after our kids, Mila and Ivan, for the meals and the time and the love. I'm so lucky to have you.

Thank you to my brothers Joey and Michael for making it here tonight, I love you both very much. And thank you to my partner Blake. Thank you for helping and supporting me, as well as pushing and challenging me.

SPEECH BY CR LUO, DEPUTY MAYOR

Thank you, good evening everyone.

I am delighted to be elected Monash Council's Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months and I am honored by the support and confidence in me from my Councillor colleagues.

I congratulate our new Mayor, Cr Tina Samardzija, on her appointment. I know Tina will be a committed, proactive, thoughtful and hardworking Mayor for the people of Monash.

I look forward to work with you Tina and supporting you to enrich our community.

I also want to thank our outgoing Mayor, Cr Stuart James, on an outstanding year in what has been at times challenging circumstances. Stuart, you have lead with great integrity, passion and courage and have been a great example to us all of the leadership.

Thankyou for your hard work, commitment and friendship.

I also want to acknowledge the executive leadership team at Monash. Lead by CEO Dr Andi Diamond and officers for their hard work and support during the past year.

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead. In the upcoming years my focus will be as it has always been at my time on Council is to build greater connections with our community.

I'm passionate about promoting intercultural relationships and supporting the wonderful diverse multicultural community in Monash.

Our seniors are an important cohort and I have been privileged to spend time with them during many gatherings.

Building greater social inclusion for seniors is a priority for me, and also youth mental health has been a huge part of my life, and I will be focusing my energy on supporting young people in our community.

Monash is a wonderful place to live. It is a safe respectful community and our diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

I'm excited by the year to come and what we can achieve together.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. My parents that are here supporting me always looking after my children, my two kids and also my extended family that are currently overseas unable to be here. My step mum, my dad my brother and also my uncle and aunties overseas supporting me. Hopefully, they will be able to watch online the elections. Also the friends and the community for their support and for believing in me.

Thank you.
