

Minutes of September Ordinary Council Meeting 2014

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting (Adjourned) of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk at 3.00 p.m. on Friday 19th September, 2014.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. O. Tully.

Members: Councillors: P. Bell D. Breathnach M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, I. Munster, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Officials J. Martin, Chief Executive
F. Pentony, Director of Services
J. McGuinness Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
C. Moss, Senior Executive Officer
P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies M. T. Daly, A/Director of Services

Minute No. 211/14

Local Property Tax Local Adjustment Factor for 2015

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Oliver Tully reconvened the ordinary meeting of Council adjourned at the meeting of Monday 15th September 2014.

The business of the meeting is to consider by resolution the setting of a local adjustment factor in accordance with The Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 as amended.

Minute No. 212/14

The Chief Executive Mrs. Joan Martin in referring the members to her report confirmed again that as Chief Executive and Chief Accounting Officer for the local authority, it was her advice to the members, that the Authority could not sustain a percentage cut in the property tax. The Chief Executive confirmed to the members that it was a matter for them to decide where the cuts would be made to realise any cut in the property tax rate.

The Chief Executive and the Head of Finance addressed the member's questions and responded to their proposals as to where cuts might be made. The Chief Executive reiterated that the members may only make cuts in discretionary spending and matters such as accommodation for staff and other ring fenced project funding could not be altered by the members.

Extensive explanations were presented in regard to, rent arrears, capital projects, Rates write off, improvements in the tendering process, diesel sludge clean ups and low cost safety measures funding. Clarification in regard to significant staff reductions and the single delivery of services across the county that has been ongoing for some years was also outlined. Explanations were offered in respect of the accrual accounting practices and the importance of cash flow to the authority.

The Chief Executive clarified for the members that they could not make a decision to cut the local property tax rate by 15% or any percentage and then cede that matter to the Chief Executive to find the savings.

Other issues that were clarified included the arrangement in regard to the LEO office and other agency services and the legal obligation placed on the Chief Executive to present a balanced budget.

Minute No. 213/14

The Cathaoirleach in noting that a number of proposals were being offered including from Cllr. Munster, that we proceed with the vote to reduce the LPT by fifteen percent, from Cllr. Minogue that a workshop be held, suggestion from Cllr. Callan that legal advice be sought on the matter, sought the members indulgence to allow him determine how best the business of the meeting could be progressed.

Minute No. 214/14

Proposed by: Cllr. Oliver Tully

Seconded by: Cllr. Declan Breathnach

and resolved:

To adjourn the meeting to Monday 29th September at 5.00pm and that a workshop be held in the interim to facilitate addressing the members questions in regard to the matter.

On a show of hands it was recorded that fifteen (15) were in favour of the motion and nine (9) were against.

Minute No. 215/14

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting to 5.00pm on Monday 29th September 2014 to consider further and finally the matter of the Local Property Tax Local Adjustment Factor for 2015. He noted that a workshop would be facilitated by the Chief Executive on Wednesday 24th September to deal with any questions and clarifications required by the members in respect of the matter. Members were asked to submit questions or clarifications sought by close of business on Monday 22nd September.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of Council held on:-

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____