

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 1st December, 1997
at the hour of 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor
(Councillor Maginness) (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Rodgers);
the High Sheriff (Councillor McCausland); and
Councillors Adamson, Alderdice, Attwood,
D. Browne, M. Browne, W. Browne, Campbell,
J. Clarke, M. Clarke, Cleland, Cobain, Conlon,
Crooks, Crowe, Dodds, Dow, Ekin, Empey, Ervine,
Hanna, Hartley, Hayes, Hutchinson, Jones,
B. Lavery, D. Lavery, Livingstone, Maskey,
McAuley, McBride, McCann, McCoubrey, McDonnell,
C. McGimpsey, M. McGimpsey, McKnight, McManus,
Molloy, Morgan, Newton, Proctor, H. Smith,
E. Smyth, H. Smyth, Stoker, Walsh and Wilson.

Reading of Scriptures

In accordance with Standing Order 9, the Lord Mayor read a short passage from the Scriptures.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Minutes

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maginness),
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Rodgers) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of the Council of 3rd November, 1997 be taken as read and signed as correct.

Office of High Sheriff

The Chief Executive reported that the High Sheriff (Councillor McCausland) had received a letter from the Northern Ireland Office inviting him, in accordance with normal practice, to submit to the Secretary of State the names of three people suitable for appointment to the Office of High Sheriff of the City for the year 1998. The Chief Executive advised the Council that the letter indicated that the Secretary of State

wished, so far as possible, to ensure that persons appointed to such posts were representative of the Northern Ireland community as a whole. The letter also pointed out that, in the past, women and members of the minority community had been under-represented in the Office.

The Council discussed the matter and agreed that it would submit one name only.

Accordingly, the Lord Mayor invited nominations in respect of the name to be submitted to the Northern Ireland Office for appointment to the Office of High Sheriff of Belfast for 1998.

Councillor J. Clarke was proposed by Councillor D. Browne and seconded by Councillor Crooks.

As no other nominations were received, it was accordingly,

Resolved - That Councillor Jim Clarke be and he is hereby nominated to the Northern Ireland Office for appointment to the Office of High Sheriff of the City for 1998.

Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Jones,
Seconded by Councillor Proctor,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee of 31st October and 21st November, 1997 be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Wilson,
Seconded by Councillor E. Smyth,

That the minute of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21st November under the heading "Education Funding in Belfast", agreeing to make a joint response to the Minister with the Belfast Education and Library Board, in relation to issues concerned with reduced funding, be amended to provide that the Council expresses its concern and opposition to the Government's proposal to withdraw funding from the Preparatory Departments of schools which would put further pressures on the controlled education sector budget.

After discussion, the amendment was carried.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor M. Browne,
Seconded by Councillor Maskey,

That the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21st November under the heading "Security Incident on 3rd November, 1997", that prosecutions be initiated against the persons involved in the incident at the City Hall on 3rd November for contravention of the City Hall Bye-Laws, be rejected and accordingly that no prosecutions be initiated in respect of this incident.

After discussion, a division on the amendment was demanded. A poll having been taken on the amendment, there voted for it twelve Members, viz., Councillors M. Browne, Conlon, Hartley, Hayes, B. Lavery, D. Lavery, Livingstone, Maskey, McAuley, McCann, McKnight and McManus; and against it thirty-one Members, viz., the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Rodgers); the High Sheriff (Councillor McCausland); and Councillors Adamson, Alderdice, D. Browne, W. Browne, Campbell, J. Clarke, M. Clarke, Cleland, Cobain, Crooks, Crowe, Dodds, Dow, Ekin, Empey, Ervine, Hutchinson, Jones, McBride, McCoubrey, C. McGimpsey, M. McGimpsey, Newton, Proctor, H. Smith, E. Smyth, H. Smyth, Stoker and Wilson. Seven Members, viz., the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maginness); and Councillors Attwood, Hanna, McDonnell, Molloy, Morgan and Walsh, did not vote.

The amendment was accordingly declared lost.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor McDonnell,

That the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21st November under the heading "Security Incident on 3rd November, 1997", to initiate a prosecution in relation to the incident which had occurred at the City Hall on 3rd November, be deferred by the Council pending the outcome of the Police prosecution.

After discussion, a division on the amendment was demanded. A poll having been taken on the amendment, there voted for it nine Members, viz., Councillors Attwood, Ervine, Hanna, Hutchinson, McDonnell, Molloy, Morgan, H. Smyth and Walsh; and against it thirty-eight Members, viz., the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Rodgers); the High Sheriff (Councillor McCausland); and Councillors Adamson, Alderdice, D. Browne, M. Browne, W. Browne, Campbell, J. Clarke, M. Clarke, Cleland, Cobain, Conlon, Crooks, Dodds, Dow, Ekin, Empey, Hartley, Hayes, Jones, B. Lavery, D. Lavery, Livingstone, Maskey, McAuley, McBride, McCann, C. McGimpsey, M. McGimpsey, McKnight, McManus, Newton, Proctor, H. Smith, E. Smyth, Stoker and Wilson. One Member, viz., the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maginness) did not vote.

The amendment was accordingly declared lost.

At the request of Councillor J. Clarke, the Chairman (Councillor Jones), with the consent of the Council, agreed to take back for further consideration the minute of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21st November under the heading "Requests for Civic Hospitality - The Royal Hospitals".

At the request of Councillor Newton, the Chairman (Councillor Jones), with the consent of the Council, agreed to take back for further consideration the minute of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21st November under the heading "Requests for Civic Hospitality - The Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster".

Amendment

Moved by Councillor McKnight,
Seconded by Councillor McManus,

That the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21st November under the heading "Nomination to Board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners", to nominate Councillor Campbell for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, be rejected and accordingly that Councillor Maskey be nominated for appointment to the Board.

A division on the amendment was demanded. A poll having been taken on the amendment, there voted for it eighteen Members, viz., the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maginness); and Councillors Attwood, M. Browne, Conlon, Hanna, Hartley, Hayes, B. Lavery, D. Lavery, Livingstone, Maskey, McAuley, McCann, McKnight, McManus, Molloy, Morgan and Walsh; and against it twenty-five Members, viz., the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Rodgers); the High Sheriff (Councillor McCausland); and Councillors Adamson, Alderdice, D. Browne, W. Browne, Campbell, J. Clarke, Cleland, Cobain, Crooks, Dodds, Dow, Ekin, Empey, Jones, McBride, C. McGimpsey, M. McGimpsey, Newton, H. Smith, E. Smyth, H. Smyth, Stoker and Wilson. Two Members, viz., Councillors Ervine and Hutchinson, did not vote.

The amendment was accordingly declared lost.

The original proposal relative to the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee was thereupon put to the meeting and passed in the following form:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee of 31st October and 21st November, 1997 be and they are hereby approved and adopted, subject to:

- (i) the amendment of the decision of 21st November under the heading "Education Funding in Belfast", agreeing to make a joint response to the Minister with the Belfast Education and Library Board, in relation to issues concerned with reduced funding, to provide that the Council expresses its concern and opposition to the

Government's proposal to withdraw funding from the Preparatory Departments of schools which would put further pressures on the controlled education sector budget;

- (ii) the omission of the minute of 21st November under the heading "Requests for Civic Hospitality - The Royal Hospitals", which is taken back for further consideration; and
- (iii) the omission of the minute of 21st November under the heading "Requests for Civic Hospitality - The Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster", which is also taken back for further consideration.

Client Services Committee

Moved by Councillor C. McGimpsey,
Seconded by Councillor H. Smyth and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Client Services Committee of 18th November, 1997 be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Contract Services Committee

Moved by Councillor D. Browne,
Seconded by Councillor C. McGimpsey and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Contract Services Committee of 29th October and 12th and 13th November, 1997 be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Development Committee

Moved by Councillor Dodds,
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Rodgers) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 4th, 13th, 17th and 19th November, 1997 be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Moved by the High Sheriff (Councillor McCausland),
Seconded by Councillor M. McGimpsey,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 10th and 26th November, 1997 be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

At the request of Councillor Dodds, the Deputy Chairman (the High Sheriff, Councillor McCausland), with the consent of the Council, agreed that the request from the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland that the Council enter into an agreement to remove snow and ice from footways and pedestrian areas would be discussed further by the Health and Environmental Services Committee at its next meeting.

The original proposal relative to the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee was thereupon put to the meeting and passed.

Town Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor H. Smyth,
Seconded by Councillor D. Browne and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 30th October (2) and 6th and 20th November, 1997, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Notice of Motion

Irish Language

The Council noted that the Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor Hayes concerning the Irish Language had been withdrawn.

Expression of Greetings

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maginness) wished the Members of the Council a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lord Mayor
Chairman