
Council Kaunihera OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 28 August 2025 at 9:33 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson <i>Heamana</i>	Mayor Paula Southgate
Deputy Chairperson <i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary
Members	Cr Maxine van Oosten Cr Moko Tauariki Cr Ewan Wilson Cr Tim Macindoe Cr Louise Hutt Cr Andrew Bydder Cr Geoff Taylor Cr Sarah Thomson Cr Emma Pike Cr Maria Huata Cr Anna Casey-Cox Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf

In Attendance	Megan Crockett, Tompkins Wake
----------------------	-------------------------------

The meeting was opened with a karakia. The Council observed a moment of silence for the passing of Dame Peggy Koopman-Boyden.

1. Apologies – Tono aroha

There were no leaves of absence.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take

Resolved: (Cr van Oosten/Cr Macindoe)

That the Council confirms the agenda noting that Item 13 (Public Places Bylaw Review Programme - Approval to Consult) will be taken after Item 8 (Chair’s Report).

3. Declarations of Interest – Tauaakii whaipaaanga

Cr Macindoe declared an interest in Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD) but felt he was not conflicted.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

Vanessa Williams (Hamilton City Business Association) spoke in support of Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD) and Item 13 (Public Places Bylaw Review – Approval to Consult) and supported the proposal to review the Safety in Public Places Bylaw to ensure businesses could continue to operate noting that there was a reduction in antisocial behaviour with increased Police presence.

Holly Snape (Community Waikato) spoke in support of Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD) and talked of a previous experience of antisocial behaviour and how activating the space changed the behaviour.

Chris Fulford (Salvation Army) spoke to Item 13 (Public Places Bylaw Review – Approval to Consult) noting the direction of the proposed bylaw changes was against the homeless and in support of Option 2 for Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD).

Mareta Matenga (The Serve Trust) spoke in support of Option 2 for Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD) and encourage the use Maaori values of aroha and manaakitanga to address the root causes of antisocial behaviour.

Jeremy Mayall (Creative Waikato) spoke to Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD) supporting the staff recommendation noting the collaboration between community groups and Creative Waikato created effective engagement and holding public art events created connection and community pride.

May Low and **Thomas Gibbons** (Waikato Community Lands Trust) spoke to Item 8 (Chair's Report) spoke about the history, purpose and successes of the Waikato Community Lands Trust holding land in perpetuity for the Hamilton community (**Appendix 1** of these minutes).

Joe Wilson (Waikato Wellbeing Project) spoke to Item 9 (Social Support Initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD) in support of the staff recommendation, encouraging activating the social space by filling it as opposed to chasing people out of the area.

5. Confirmation of the Council Open Minutes 31 July 2025

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Council confirms the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31 July 2025 as a true and correct record.

6. Confirmation of the Elected Member Open Briefing Notes 30 July 2025

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Council confirms the Open Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 30 July 2025 as a true and correct record.

7. Confirmation of the Elected Member Open Briefing Notes 6 August 2025

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr van Oosten)

That the Council confirms the Open Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 6 August 2025 as a true and correct record.

8. Chair's Report

Mayor Southgate spoke to the report highlighting how the role of local government had changed because of Local Waters Done Well, the Central Government push for a core services focus, Code of Conduct, the potential for the amalgamation of councils and Mayoral engagements. Cr Casey-Cox noted that affordable housing was now embedded in Council strategy and Cr Huata spoke about reinvigorating the He Pou Manawa Ora strategy.

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)
That the Council receives the report.

The meeting was adjourned from 10.45am to 11.08am.

9. Public Places Bylaw Review Programme - Approval to Consult

The Strategy and Policy Advisor and Unit Director Community Services spoke to the report highlighting the purpose of the review including minor updates to improve clarity to help staff respond to events, staff and stakeholder input and recorded a formatting error on pages 115 and 121 where clause 3.6 would remain and clause 7.3 would be removed. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning new amendments, damage to public property, guidelines for City Safe Officers, definition of bathing, safe storage of personal property, process to enforcement, cost of the review, public seating, statistics, Maaori Wardens, definition of antisocial behaviour, stakeholders in the consultation, roles of City Safe and Police, prosecution, cost of prosecution, advice and experience of other councils, consultation period, education first - enforcement later approach, role of bylaws, safety for local businesses, definition of personal property and removal of rubbish outside of businesses.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Macindoe)
That the Council receives the report.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Macindoe)
That the Council:

- a) approves the draft Statement of Proposal (**Attachment 1**) subject to amendments required by further resolutions on this matter;
- b) approves for public consultation, including a focus on engagement with the Central Business District residents, Businesses and Community Groups, the proposed amended Safety in Public Places Bylaw 2020 (**Attachment 2**); and
- c) notes that public consultation will be undertaken from February 2026.

Those for the Motion:	Mayor Southgate, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillors Bydder, Pike, Taylor, Naidoo-Rauf, Wilson and Macindoe
Those against the Motion:	Councillors Hutt, Casey-Cox, van Oosten, Thomson, Tauariki and Huata

The Motion was declared carried.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Mayor Southgate)

That the Council approves for public consultation, including a focus on engagement with the Central Business District residents and businesses:

- a) the proposed amended Public Places Bylaw 2016 (**Attachment 3**).
- b) proposed amended Trading in Public Places Policy (**Attachment 4**) subject to the removal of the requirement at Clause 25 of the Trading in Public Places Policy to have public liability insurance for an outdoor dining permit.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Mayor Southgate)

That the Council approves for public consultation, including a focus on engagement with the Central Business District residents and businesses proposed amended Trading in Public Places Policy (**Attachment 4**) subject to the addition of a section to allow businesses to place one footpath sign as described in paragraph 3 Schedule 2 as of right, without the need for a permit, as long as they adhere to the conditions within clauses 50 to 64.

Cr Wilson and Cr Taylor dissenting.

10. Social support initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD

The Head of Community Partnerships, Funding & Events spoke to the report noting that staff had talked to different Councils about proposed activations as well as working with local service organisations. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning funding, future potential costs, collaborating parties and inclusion of Matariki.

Resolved: (Deputy Mayor O'Leary/Cr Wilson)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report
- b) requests that staff return to the relevant Committee of the new Council with a proposal to develop a new Hamilton Central City Safety Plan that addresses antisocial and criminal behaviour in public places and the growing visibility and complexity of social issues; and
- c) notes that:
 - i. staff will partner with community groups to develop and deliver a series of whanau based events during summer 2025/26, with an evaluation report back to the Community and Natural Environment Committee (or equivalent committee) in June 2026;
 - ii. staff will work with service providers to investigate an expanded community outreach model for the city;
 - iii. on 1 July 2025, Te Whare Korowai opened the Te Rito Awhi (The Hub) drop in service, piloting the first stage of their aspiration to develop a multi-service space for those 18 plus who are housing vulnerable;
 - iv. staff will work with the Ministry of Social Development and service providers to ascertain interest in piloting a Street Guardians programme in Hamilton Kirikiriroa; including funding options;
 - v. the multi-agency individual support service for the street community is being progressed;
 - vi. staff will increase promotion of available Council grants to social providers, and encourage applications from those that can demonstrate an impact on antisocial behaviours; and
 - vii. staff, with Waikato-Tainui and Maaori Wardens, facilitate a city-wide social sector hui for March 2026 to co-design a collaborative response to address homelessness and issues associated with homelessness, with a report back to the Community and Natural

Environment Committee (or equivalent committee) in June 2026.

11. Council Submission to the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill

The Corporate Planning and Advocacy Manager spoke to report noting that there was a misunderstanding about Development Contributions and that this would be removed from the submission. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the definition of core services and waste.

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr van Oosten)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the Council submission to the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill (**Attachment 1**) for lodging with Parliament's Governance and Administration Select Committee subject to the removal of all commentary relating to Development Contributions and inclusion of the direction provided at the meeting; and
- c) delegates Mayor Southgate and the Chief Executive to speak at the Governance and Administration Select Committee hearings in support of Council's submission.

Those for the Motion: Mayor Southgate, Councillors Hutt, Casey-Cox, van Oosten, Thomson, Tauariki and Huata

Those against the Motion Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillors Bydder, Pike, Naidoo-Rauf, Wilson and Macindoe

The Motion was declared carried.

Cr Taylor left the meeting (2.20pm) and was not present when the matter was voted on.

12. Adoption of Events Policy

The Head Of Community Partnerships, Funding & Events took the report as read.

Resolved: (Deputy Mayor O'Leary/Cr Pike)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report and;
- b) adopts the Events Policy with the following changes to clause 3 (a) Customer Service: "Council will provide clear communication and timely customer service to support a streamlined and responsive event permitting process".
- c) requests that staff continue to engage with event stakeholders on the progress and rollout of the actions listed in the Events Enablement Work Programme; and
- d) requests that staff report back in 12 months to the appropriate committee with feedback from stakeholders on the policy's effectiveness and any recommendations for further improvement.

Cr Taylor rejoined the meeting (2.56pm) and was present when the matter was voted on.

13. Deliberations and Adoption Report - Draft Tree Policy

The Programming and Planning Manager took the report as read. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning levels of service, right tree right place policy and damage to infrastructure.

Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Mayor Southgate)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) adopts the Tree Policy as outlined in **Attachment 2** of the staff report.

14. Recommendations to the Council from Open Committee Meetings

Recommendation from the Community and Natural Environment Committee meeting of 5 August 2025

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Pike)

That the Council approves the schedule for the Development Contributions Community Grant (**Attachment 1**) to be included in the Community Grants Policy (**Option 2** of the staff report).

Recommendation from the Strategic Growth and District Plan Committee meeting of 12 August 2025

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Pike)

That the Council approves Private Plan Change 19 – Ruakura Electricity National Grid Corridor be made operative on 11 September 2025, in accordance with Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**Option 2** of the staff report).

Recommendation from the Finance and Monitoring Committee meeting of 26 August 2025

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Pike)

That the Council:

- a) approves the capital movements as identified in the Capital Portfolio Monitoring Report on the agenda;
- b) notes the draft Financial Strategy position for 30 June 2025 for Debt to Revenue, Net Debt and Balancing the Books as set out in paragraphs 55 to 57 of this staff report; and
- c) notes that there may be further adjustments in the preparation of the annual report.

Cr Taurariki left the meeting (3.33pm) and was not present when the matter was voted on.

15. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
---	--	--

C1. Confirmation of the Council Public Excluded Minutes 31 July 2025) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Confirmation of the Elected Member Closed Briefing Notes 30 July 2025		
C3. Confirmation of the Elected Member Closed Briefing Notes 6 August 2025		
C4. Minor Transport Improvement Construction Contract Award		
C5. All of Government Energy Supply Contracts		
C6. Recommendations to the Council from Public Excluded Committee Meetings		
C7. Confirmation of the Council (CE Review Committee Matters) Public Excluded Minutes 26 June 2025		
C8. Recommendations from the CE Review Committee		

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C2.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C3.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C4.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C5.	to enable Council to carry out negotiations to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (j)
	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	

Item C6.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C7.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C8.	to protect the privacy of natural persons	Section 7 (2) (a)
	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)

The meeting moved into Public Excluded at 3.34pm.


The meeting was declared closed at 4.50pm.

Appendix 1






OUR ASK



Inclusionary Zoning



We continue to look for funding and partnership opportunities

CONTACT US

Garden Place, Hamilton
wclt.org.nz
E. ilana@wclt.org.nz

