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## **Council *Kaunihera* OPEN MINUTES**

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 9:30am.**

### **PRESENT**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mayor Paula Southgate
<b><i>Heamana</i></b>	
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Deputy Mayor Angela O'Leary (Via Audio-Visual)
<b><i>Heamana Tuarua</i></b>	
<b>Members</b>	Cr Maxine van Oosten (Via Audio-Visual)
	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

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*The meeting was opened by Kaumatua Tame Pokaia.*

*Mayor Southgate presented a gift on behalf of the Council to Cliff Whittaker noting his 51 years' service to the Council.*

### **1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Council accepts the apologies for partial attendance from Cr Macindoe and early departure from Cr van Oosten.

**2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Hutt)

That the Council confirms the agenda noting the late attachment to Item 9 (Chair's Report) informing the Council of the delegation that visited Hamilton's Sister City Chengdu, China, which happened at the time the agenda was prepared.

**3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***

Cr Macindoe noted an interest in Item 10 (Bylaws Review Determination Report) but noted he was not conflicted and would participate in the discussion and vote on the matter.

Cr Macindoe noted an interest in Item 12 (Wairere Drive Speed Limit Change – Deliberations and Adoption Report) but noted he was not conflicted and would participate in the discussion and vote on the matter.

At the time of the item, Cr Wilson noted an interest in Item C4 (District Licensing Committee Matters) but was not conflicted and participated in the discussion and voted on the matter.

**4. Public Forum – *AAtea koorero***

**Raymond Mudford** spoke to Item 11 (Independent Capital Review Project) expressing his concerns about the complexity of the report, which did not provide simple solutions to address issues of feasibility, budgets and project management.

**5. Confirmation of the Council Open Minutes 20 March 2025**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Tauariki)

That the Council confirms the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 March 2025 as a true and correct record.

**6. Confirmation of the Elected Member Open Briefing Notes 19 March 2025**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Hutt)

That the Council confirm the Open Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 19 March 2025 as a true and correct record.

**7. Confirmation of the Elected Member Open Briefing Notes 26 March 2025**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

That the Council confirm the Open Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 26 March 2025 as a true and correct record.

**8. Confirmation of the Elected Member Open Briefing Notes 9 April 2025**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

That the Council confirm the Open Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 9 April 2025 as a true and correct record.

**9. Chair's report**

Mayor Southgate spoke to the report noting a correction in the report regarding her future visit to Korea where she is to meet with global leaders, not other New Zealand leaders, and thanked the delegates who went to Chengdu, China. Cr Wilson spoke to the attachment to the report thanking

Cr Huata and the General Manager Strategy, Growth and Planning for attending the conference and the role of Chengdu as an active sister city. Mayor Southgate responded to questions from Elected Members concerning clarity on the proposed motion.

**Resolved:** (Cr Huata/Mayor Southgate)

That the Council

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the costs for Mayor Paula Southgate and Cr Maria Huata, to attend the LGNZ Annual General Meeting and Conference, to be covered by the 2026 'Conference by resolution budget', covering registration costs, flights, and accommodation, noting that some of the costs of Mayor Paula Southgate will be covered by LGNZ due to her position as Metro Sector Chair;
- c) notes that any other Elected Member that wishes to attend the conference can do so using their professional development fund; and
- d) approves Mayor Southgate, Cr Wilson and Cr van Oosten to attend the 2025 China-NZ Mayoral Forum with flights (up to \$2500) to be covered by the 2025 Members' individual Professional Development Fund, by allowing the transfer from another Members allocations, noting that the Chief Executive will also attend, to ensure Hamilton's Sister City relationship with Chengdu continues to grow as a diplomatic, economic and cultural asset.

*Cr Macindoe left the meeting (9.56am) during the above item. He was not present when the matter was voted on.*

## **10. Bylaws Review Determination report**

The Council and Community Services Unit Director spoke to the report highlighting how the review came about at the request of Elected Members and noted that a further update will be provided to the June 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee meeting. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the effect of climate change, Bill of Rights, possible changes to Alcohol Control Bylaw, process of review of bylaws, cost effectiveness of the review in comparison to the development of new bylaws and Policing powers.

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council receives the report.

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council determines (**Option A** of the staff report) that the Safety in Public Places Bylaw 2020 is the most appropriate mechanism for addressing issues relating to the management of antisocial behaviour in public spaces.

**Cr Hutt Dissenting.**

**Resolved :** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council determines (**Option A** of the staff report) that the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2015 is the most appropriate mechanism for addressing issues relating to the management of antisocial behaviour in public spaces.

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council determines (**Option A** of the staff report) that Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019 is the most appropriate mechanism for addressing issues relating to the management of antisocial behaviour in public spaces.

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council notes the Public Places Bylaw is the most appropriate mechanism for addressing issues relating to the management of antisocial behaviour in public spaces and is already under review.

**Cr Hutt Dissenting.**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the approves **Option 1** the proposed timeframes outlined in the staff report, noting staff will begin the review of the above bylaws including the preparation of draft statements of proposal, in line with relevant legislation.

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/Cr Hutt)

That the Council notes that a report informed by the Hamilton CBD Interagency Group and includes feedback from local businesses and residents, will be presented to the June 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee on identified gaps and opportunities to support street community in Hamilton City, including the role of Council and including recommendations for actions for Council to advocate to Central Government on.

*Cr Macindoe re-joined the meeting (10.41am) during the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.*

**The meeting was adjourned from 10.46am to 11.05am during the above item.**

## **11. Independent Capital Project Reviews**

The Executive Director Commercial & Advisory spoke to the report highlighting understanding of the policy and scope of the work programme. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning scope determination, authority of management, ability to reduce cost, land purchases in preparation for future programmes, procurement policy and procedure, author of scope, expectation document and developer feedback considerations.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to organise an Elected Member briefing on construction project management and budgeting, in particular for small to medium transport projects.*

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Thomson)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) notes that:
  - i. there is nothing arising from the independent scope and cost review that requires any changes to funding allocated for capital projects in Year 2 of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan; and
  - ii. staff are refining the Capital Project Cost Estimation guidelines to improve consistency of cost estimating across the organisation incorporating relevant lessons from the independent scope and cost review.
- c) requests the Chief Executive take the same fundamental approach to cost estimating capital projects for the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan, as undertaken for the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan refined in accordance with the Capital Project Cost Estimation guidelines alongside a review of market costs and conditions at the appropriate time; and

- d) requests the Chief Executive to report back as part of developing the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan a new approach to capital portfolio financial monitoring based around defining, monitoring and reporting on P50 and P95 estimating.

*Cr van Oosten retired from the meeting (11.48am) during the above item. She did not vote on the matter.*

**The meeting was adjourned from 12.25pm to 1.20pm.**

## **12. Wairere Drive Speed Limit Change - Deliberations and Adoption Report**

The Network and Systems Operations Manager spoke to the report highlighting the process of the consultation and subsequent hearing.

**Resolved:** (Cr Taylor/Cr Hutt)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) notes the feedback from public submissions received as a result of the consultation procedure including the hearing held at the 2 April 2025 Traffic, Speed Limits and Road Closure Hearings Panel, completed in accordance with Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Speed Limits Rule 2024 on the proposal to lower the speed limit on a section of Wairere Drive between Arthur Porter Drive and Pukete Road from 80km/h to 60km/h;
- c) approves that the speed limit on a section of Wairere Drive between Arthur Porter Drive and Pukete Road is lowered from 80km/h to 60km/h;
- d) notes that Council must submit the 'Alternative Method Proposal' to the New Zealand Transport Agency Director (using the template document) for approval before changing the speed limit; and
- e) notes that the new speed limit will come into effect in conjunction with the construction of traffic signals at Karewa Place intersection on Wairere Drive, which will be completed by Foodstuffs.

**Cr Bydder Dissenting.**

*Cr Huata re-joined the meeting (1.29pm) during the above item. She was present when the matter was voted on.*

## **13. Submissions to Neighbouring Councils' Annual Plan or Long-Term Plans**

The Policy Advisor took the report as read.

**Resolved:** (Cr Hutt/Cr Thomson)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the draft submission to the Waikato Regional Council 2025/26 draft Annual Plan (Attachment 1) subject to it being amended to support Option 2 for the Public Transport Rate;
- c) approves the draft letter from Mayor Paula Southgate, on behalf of Council, to be sent to Mayor Jacqui Church in response to the Waikato District Council 2025-2034 draft Long-Term Plan (Attachment 2);
- d) delegates authority to the Chief Executive to approve the final submission referred to in b) and the final letter referred to in c), ensuring that any changes requested at this meeting are captured;
- e) delegates authority to the Waters and Rates Working Group to approve a submission to the

Waipā District Council 2025-34 draft Long-Term Plan;

- f) nominates representatives to speak at the hearings in support of each of the submissions/letter of support.

#### **14. Recommendations to Council from Open Committee Meetings**

**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Cr Hutt)

That the Council approves the draft Event Sponsorship Policy.

**Resolved:** (Cr Thomson/Cr Taylor)

That the Council approves Plan Change 5 – Peacocke Structure Plan to be operative as of 9 May 2025, in accordance with clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Resolved:** (Cr Tauariki/Cr Hutt)

That the Council:

- a) approves the capital movement as identified in the 28 February Capital Portfolio Monitoring Report dated 29 April 2025;
- b) approves the forecast adjustments as set out in paragraph 55 of the staff report; and
- c) notes the revised Financial Strategy position for Debt to Revenue, Net Debt and Balancing the Books as set out in paragraphs 56 to 58 of this staff report.

#### **15. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

##### **Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Taylor)

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 s48(1) of the Act for the passing of this resolution
C1. Confirmation of the Council Public Excluded Minutes 20 March 2025	) Good reason to withhold ) information exists under ) Section 7 Local Government	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Confirmation of the Elected Member Closed Briefing Notes 19 March 2025	) Official Information and ) Meetings Act 1987	
C3. Confirmation of the Elected Member Closed Briefing Notes 9 April 2025		
C4. Hamilton District Licensing		

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Committee Matters

C5. Recommendations from  
Public Excluded Committee  
Meetings

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 protect the privacy of natural persons	Section 7 (2) (a)
	to maintain legal professional privilege	Section 7 (2) (g)
Item C5.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)

**The meeting moved into the public excluded session at 1.41pm.**

**The meeting was declared closed at 2.23pm.**

## APPENDIX 1

### Report to the Council

#### Chengdu International Friendship Cities Cooperation and Development Conference 15–18 April 2025

##### Hamilton City Delegation:

Cr Ewan Wilson | Cr Maria Huata | GM Blair Bowcott

##### Executive Summary

The Hamilton City Council delegation recently participated in the 2025 Chengdu International Friendship Cities Cooperation and Development Conference—a strategically significant event for Hamilton’s international relationships and economic development. Chengdu, China’s fourth-largest city with a population of 21.5 million, is a dynamic and growing global metropolis, and Hamilton is privileged to be its **sole New Zealand sister city**.

This visit reaffirmed the strength of our relationship with Chengdu and unlocked new opportunities for cultural, economic, and civic exchange. It is clear that our partnership is both respected and valued at the highest levels of Chengdu’s leadership, and we strongly recommend continued and proactive engagement.

##### Why This Relationship Matters

###### 1. Economic Scale and Strategic Opportunity

Chengdu is a Tier-1 city and a key economic driver in Western China. With a GDP exceeding NZD \$500 billion, the city is a hub for advanced manufacturing, innovation, and global trade—deeply integrated into China’s Belt and Road Initiative. For Hamilton and the Waikato, this represents a meaningful gateway to one of the world’s largest and most rapidly evolving markets.

Hamilton businesses in agri-tech, education, tourism, and innovation are already seeing the benefits of this access. Chengdu’s proactive government support for commercial exchange enhances the potential for future economic growth.

###### 2. Cultural Diplomacy and Generosity

In the past 12 months, Chengdu has made notable and tangible contributions to our relationship:

- **Fully funded visit of a Hamilton school choir** to the Chengdu International Youth Choir Festival.
- **Sponsorship for two local athletes** to participate in the 2024 Chengdu Marathon.
- **Invitation to senior Hamilton City Council staff** for a fully funded week-long leadership and insight programme later this year.

These gestures of goodwill are not merely symbolic—they reflect a deep commitment to people-to-people diplomacy and long-term cultural partnership.

###### 3. International Profile and Influence



Hamilton's participation in this conference, alongside 33 global cities from Chengdu's 241 sister and friendship cities across 72 countries, is a testament to our city's growing international reputation. Despite our smaller size, Hamilton was given a level of recognition and access that reflects the maturity of our decade-long relationship.

Direct engagements with senior Chengdu officials—including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor—signalled a deep respect for our city and a shared vision for future collaboration.

### Conference Themes and Insights

Over four days, a range of high-level themes emerged that are directly relevant to Hamilton's strategic priorities:

- **Innovation and green technology**
- **Urban-rural integration and liveable cities**
- **Sustainable environmental planning**
- **Education and talent exchange**
- **Cultural diplomacy**
- **Drone manufacturing and low-altitude economy**
- **Climate adaptation and river restoration** – Hamilton's *Te Ture Whaimana* and *Our Climate Future* stories resonated strongly.

Hamilton's progressive work in sustainability, indigenous partnership, and community development aligned closely with Chengdu's goals and was well received by other delegates.

The delegation believes that, moving forward, it is not only appropriate but also of significant interest to our sister cities that we incorporate distinctive elements of our indigenous Maaori culture into all interactions. Doing so strengthens our cultural identity on the international stage and deepens the authenticity of our relationships. Where possible, future delegations should also be supported to develop a working understanding of Maaori culture to ensure this is represented with respect and confidence.

### Delegation Highlights (refer photos)

- **Extended meeting with Deputy Mayor Zhao Jian** and senior Foreign Affairs officials.
- **Keynote address by Party Secretary Cao Lijun** highlighting openness and international collaboration.
- **Mayor's Roundtable presentation** delivered by Cr Wilson under the theme "Win-Win Cooperation."
- **Field visits** to city planning centres, the Giant Panda Research Base, drone manufacturers, and industrial parks.
- **Engagement with global cities** including Los Angeles, Melbourne, Bonn, Buenos Aires, and others.

### Recommendations to the Council

**It is our considered view that Hamilton's Sister City relationship with Chengdu is one of the most strategically valuable international relationships the city holds.** It offers tangible economic, cultural, and civic benefits.

We recommend:

1. **Ongoing high-level engagement**, including participation in Chengdu-led forums and reciprocal visits.
2. **Formalisation of trade and innovation channels**, potentially through an MOU with Chengdu's economic development or technology entities.
3. **Prioritisation of youth, sports, tourism, and cultural exchange programmes.**
4. **Future delegations to include both Elected Members and Executive Leadership Team representation**, recognising the importance of hierarchical engagement in Chinese governance.

### **Immediate Decision Required: Attendance at May 2025 China–NZ Mayoral Forum**

During the delegation visit, we were advised that Chengdu will host a China–NZ Mayoral Sister City Forum from the 19-22 May 2025. Chengdu leaders made it **explicitly clear** that Hamilton's participation is not only expected, but symbolically essential.

Key points:

- **Invitation extended to up to six Hamilton representatives.**
- **Chengdu will cover all on-ground costs**, with only airfares (~\$2,000 pp) required to be covered by HCC.
- **If the Mayor cannot attend**, Chengdu would warmly welcome representation by other Elected Members or senior staff.
- **Chengdu wishes Hamilton to act as co-host city**, recognising our 10-year relationship.
- A planned visit during the forum will include the **Hamilton Primary School in Chengdu**, opened by Mayor King.
- Chengdu intends to **unveil the panda statue gifted to Hamilton** during the forum, before shipping it to New Zealand.

**Non-attendance may be viewed quite negatively** given relationships are so important in Chinese culture, and Chengdu officials have openly noted the irony that New Zealand's only Sister City may be absent while other NZ cities attend. This could risk weakening Hamilton's unique standing and open the door to other NZ cities seeking similar ties.

### **Conclusion**

Hamilton's Sister City relationship with Chengdu is a valuable diplomatic, economic, and cultural asset. The city's commitment to Hamilton is clear and ongoing. Continued participation in Chengdu's programmes, particularly the upcoming Mayoral Forum, is essential to maintaining and growing this strategic partnership.

**We strongly recommend Council approve a delegation to attend the May 2025 China–NZ Mayoral Forum.**

### **Update**

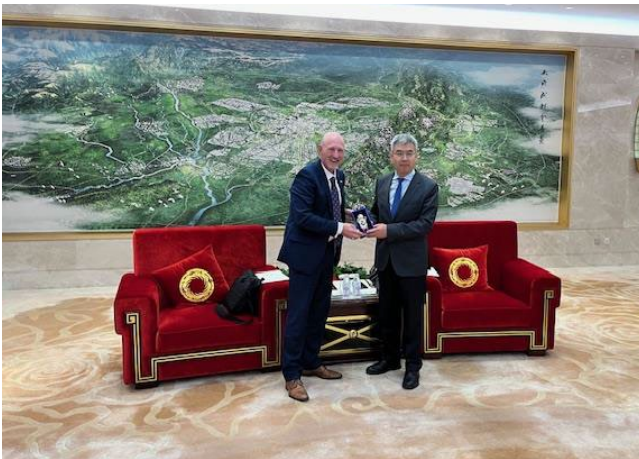
Mayor Paula has indicated she is open to continuing on to Chengdu following her trip to Seoul, with the Chief Executive also confirming his availability to accompany her.

To enable this, Council would need to pass a resolution approving the necessary funding to cover the Mayor's airfare from Seoul to Chengdu return, as well as the Chief Executive's airfare from Hamilton to Chengdu.

Councillor Ewan Wilson



With Chengdu Foreign Affairs Ms Zhu Lin



With Chengdu Deputy Mayor Mr Zhao Jian



Chengdu City



Start of the conference



Start of the conference



Round table discussion

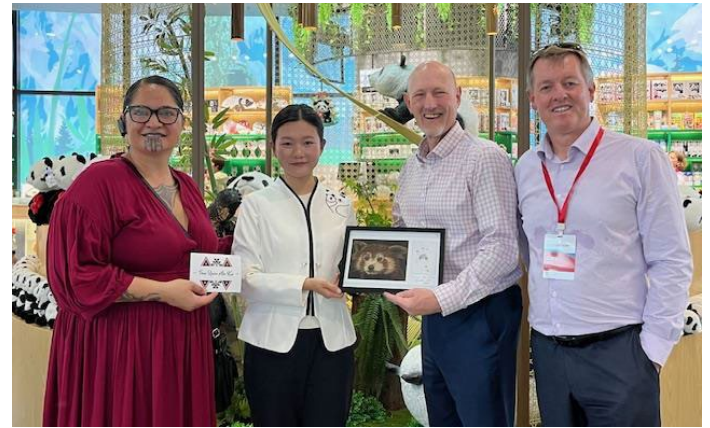


Round table discussion





Round table discussion



Presenting gift to the Chengdu Panda Research Centre on behalf of Hamilton Zoo



Sharing cultures



Chengdu Field Trip



Banquet dinner



Meeting Mayor Macarena Ripamonti of Vina Del Mar (Chile)



Meeting Chengdu Mayor Mr Wang Fengchao



Chengdu Foreign Affairs host Ms Wenying Li