

**Minutes of the
Statutory Budget Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Galmont Hotel and virtually on zoom platform
on Monday 14th of November, 2022 at 3.00 p.m.**

Presiding	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present	Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers; J. Connolly; M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty.
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Connolly, P. Keane, N. Larkin & N. Murphy
Present	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Ms. L. Hynes, Financial Management Accountant Ms. C. Kehoe, Financial Management Accountant Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. A. Ní Chúláin, Clerical Officer
Present (virtually)	Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Mr. R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner Ms. L. Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer Ms. N. Keane, Senior Staff Officer Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. E. Finan, A/Administrative Officer Ms. R. Howley, Senior Staff Officer Ms. S. Watson, Senior Staff Officer Ms. A. Ní Dhochartaigh, Staff Officer Ms. G. Reilly, A/Assistant Staff Officer Ms. M. Duddy, Staff Officer Ms. O. Organ, Assistant Staff Officer

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all to the meeting and suggested that the draft Annual Budget 2023 that was circulated on 4th November, 2022 be taken as read and that

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

C. Higgins
Mayor of Galway

Standing Orders be suspended to allow speaking time be extended to five minutes per Councillor. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Cllr. M. O'Connor proposed a minute's silence as a demonstration of sympathy in memory of Vicky Phelan, RIP. She gave tribute and praised Vicky Phelan for her amazing work regarding cervical cancer awareness and the need to enact changes. This was seconded by Mayor C. Higgins who extended her deepest sympathies to the family of Vicky Phelan and informed the meeting that a Book of Condolences will be opened in memory of Vicky Phelan in City Hall. A minutes silence was observed.

1. Consideration of Draft Annual Budget 2023 and adoption of Annual Budget 2023

Councillors discussed the Draft Budget and thanked the Chief Executive and staff for their contribution during the year.

Directors of Services, Ms. H. Kilroy; Ms. P. Philbin; Mr. P. Greene; Mr. B. Barrett, and the Chief Executive responded to queries raised.

Mayor C. Higgins proposed that a 15 minute break be taken at 5p.m. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. It was also proposed by Cllr. M. Cubbard that the meeting conclude at 6p.m. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor and agreed. Following this, a 15 minute break was taken and the meeting resumed at 5.15p.m.

Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Services and the Chief Executive responded to clarifications raised.

Cllr. E. Hoare proposed a Motion to adopt the Budget, with some amendments which were circulated to Councillors. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Cllr. J. Connolly proposed an amendment to the Budget, which was seconded by Cllr. I. Byrne as set out below:

Code:	Title:	Reduction:
B0305	Regional Road Maintenance	€45,000
B0406	Local Roads General Improvement Works	€45,000
B0501	Public Lighting	€25,000
B0702	Electrification of Fleet	€50,000
B0903	Parking Enforcement	€20,000
D0601	General Community & Enterprise	€50,000
D0905	Economic Development	€10,000
E1004	Derelict Sites	€20,000
Total Reduction:		€265,000



Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that a Roll Call Vote be taken. This was supported by Cllr. E. Hoare and Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly Seconded by: Cllr. I. Byrne
That Galway City Council approve the Draft Annual Budget 2023 subject to the amendments outlined in the table circulated at the meeting.
In Favour: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe & P. Keane
Against: C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty
In Favour: 5 Against: 13 Abstain: 0 Present: 18
The amendment Motion was defeated.

Cllr. E. Hoare proposed 'that we as Elected Members of Galway City Council accept the draft Budget 2023 as presented by Galway City Council with the following amendments. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard. Cllr. D. Lyons proposed a Roll Call Vote which was supported by Cllr. E. Hoare and Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Savings:		
Details:	Code	Total
General Development Promotion Work	D0404	€250,000
Other Engineering Improvements - Electric Fleet	B0702	€240,000
Planning Control	D0201	€120,000
Museum Operations	F0503	€ 25,000
Ball Walls	F0404	€ 14,000
Total Savings:		€649,000
Additional Expenditure		
Details:	Code	Total
Glenard Park Amenity - Park Plan	F0301	€50,000
Funding towards lights at Pearse Stadium	F0401	€50,000
Galway United FC - Womens Teams Grant	F0401	€27,000
Blue Teapot Theatre Company - Grant for renovation works	F0401	€26,000
O Sullivan Park - Floodlight fund	F0301	€25,000
Footpath improvements - Tone Avenue, Mervue (for completion in 2023)	B0406	€25,000
Surface walkway and historic grave restoration - Menlo Graveyard	E0901	€21,000
Westside Track – Lights	F0301	€20,000
Lighting of public walkway at Ballyloughane	F0301	€20,000
Additional funding for feasibility study on tidal pools in Salthill	F0303	€20,000

Pregnancy Loss Rememberance Garden	F0301	€20,000
Dishing of Footpaths & road improvements – Knocknacarra	B0405	€20,000
Sister Cities project	D0903	€20,000
New playground – Ballinfoyle	F0302	€20,000
Improvement works in Cappagh Park to include route signs for Parkrun	F0301	€18,000
Footpath improvements – Salthill	B0406	€15,000
Maintenance of playing pitches	F0301	€15,000
Galway City Council - Accessibility App	D0404	€15,000
Walkway - Corrib Park	F0301	€15,000
Newcastle Combined Community Association - Grant (civils and site prepatatory works)	F0401	€15,000
Vacant and derelict buildings window shop fronts project	D0905	€15,000
Salthill Village – Grant	F0401	€10,000
Galway Volunteer Centre – Grant	F0401	€10,000
Galway Parkinsons Association – Grant	F0401	€10,000
Additional funding for external maintenance for Walter Macken apts	A0101	€10,000
Fencing for East United Pitch	F0301	€10,000
Ball nets for Liam Mellows GAA	F0301	€10,000
Play equipment - Westside Park	F0302	€10,000
Water refill station	F0301	€10,000
Footpath improvements and road markings – Newcastle	B0406	€10,000
New Shower – Silverstrand	F0303	€10,000
Croí na Gaillimhe – Grant	F0401	€8,000
Traffic calming measures – Shantalla	B0603	€6,000
Footpath improvements – Claddagh	B0406	€6,000
Footpath improvements – Bohermore	B0406	€6,000
Art work on concrete blocks - Fana Glas, Ballybane	F0301	€5,000
Rotavating and planting wildflowers- Ballyloughane	F0301	€5,000
Recreation & Amenity project - Ballybane/Doughiska	F0301	€5,000
Road resurfacing works - Pier Road in Menlo	B0406	€5,000
Galway Cycling Campaign - bike lights	F0401	€4,000
Galway Community Circus – Grant	F0401	€3,000
Planting wildflowers - Nolan Park	F0301	€3,000
Restoration and storage facility for the last surviving Randans/River Corrib boats	E1005	€3,000
Nora Barnacle Museum – Grant	F0401	€3,000
Shantalla Allotments - new pathway	F0403	€2,000
Galway Lions Club – Grant	F0401	€2,000
Planting - City Central Ward	F0301	€2,000
Additional dog fouling bags	E0601	€2,000
Youth in Sport Participation Programme – Grant	F0401	€2,000
Planting wildflowers - Fana Glas, Ballybane	F0301	€1,000
Signage for Merlin Estates, Ballybane	B0406	€1,000
Westside Active Retirement Group – Grant	F0401	€1,000
Ability West – Grant	F0401	€1,000

Entrance stone - Ros na Shí estate	B0406	€1,000
Total Additional Expenditure		€649,000

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Hoare **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Cubbard

That Galway City Council approve the Draft Annual Budget 2023 subject to the amendments outlined in the table circulated at the meeting.

In Favour: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty

In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

The Galway City Council Annual Budget for 2023 was adopted unanimously.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe spoke on the Motion he submitted. The Motion was seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers. Cllr. Crowe proposed that a Roll Call Vote be taken and this was supported by Cllr. N. McNelis and Cllr. A. Cheevers. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. M. J. Crowe **Seconded by:** Cllr. A. Cheevers

That Galway City Council commits to allocating a minimum of €50,000 in the Budget 2024 towards funding the lights at Pearse Stadium and respectfully request that the incoming Council in May 2024 allocate similar for the Budget years 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In Favour: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis & T. O'Flaherty

Against: C. Connolly, N. Murphy & M. O'Connor

In Favour: 15 Against: 3 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

The motion was carried.

Cllr. J. Connolly proposed the following Motion and spoke on same. Councillors were requested to raise their hand: In Favour, Against or Abstain.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. J. Crowe

That Galway City Council seek the financial support of the National Transport Authority for the operation of the Galway City Christmas Park and Ride service.

In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

The Motion was carried.

2. Determination in accordance with the Annual Budget adopted of the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for the several purposes specified in the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2023

Mayor Higgins referred Councillors to the consideration of the Annual Rate on valuation to be levied.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Fahy

That the Annual Rate on valuation to be levied for the several purposes specified in the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2023 be €67.40.

In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

The Annual Rate on Valuation of €67.40 was adopted.

3. The decision to determine the proportion of refund to apply in respect of Rates on vacant properties in each local electoral area in Galway City

Mayor Higgins referred Councillors to the consideration of a refund to apply in respect of Commercial Rates on vacant properties.

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Fahy **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

That a refund of 36.5% apply in respect of Commercial Rates on vacant properties in each of the Local electoral area in Galway City.

In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

The rates of 36.5% refund on vacant properties was adopted.

The meeting concluded at 6 p.m.