

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually on Zoom platform on Friday 14th of October 2022 at 11:00 am.	
Presiding	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present	Councillors: A. Cheevers, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis & T. O’Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard O. Hanley & N. Larkin
Apologies	Councillors. I. Byrne, N. Murphy & M. O’Connor
Present	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Mr. E. Purcell, Clerical Officer Mr. B. Walsh Mr. P. O’Grady
Present (virtually)	Mr. A. Mullholland Ms. A. Mullholland Ms. E. Finan, A/Administrative 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.

1. Demonstration of Sympathy for John Mulholland, RIP

On behalf of Galway City Council, and the people of Galway, Mayor C. Higgins extended her deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late John Mulholland, R.I.P., who passed away on the 12th October 2022.

John Mulholland served the people of Galway City with distinction, as a Councillor for Fine Gael for over two decades, and as Mayor of the City of Galway for two terms, in 1986, and 1996.

During his tenure in political life he made an immense public contribution which benefited the city, the people and the many organisations that he was an active supporter of. He was a beloved member of the community and left a lasting impression wherever he went. He will be greatly missed by the people of Galway and his colleagues in Fine Gael and beyond. My thoughts are with John’s family and friends at this sad time. My condolences and sympathies to all - Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Cllr. F. Fahy said; ‘John Mulholland was an absolute gentleman, always had the best interest of the city at hearts, served 2 terms as mayor 24 years councillor, never heard a bad word about him, in his time in politics everyone had a good word to say about him. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.’

Cllr. E. Hoare acknowledged the role within the Fine Gael party, a two time former mayor of the City, and elected member for 24 years. He acknowledged the contribution the Mulholland family made to Galway, sporting musically and politically. His son Alan won a minor All-Ireland for Galway 1986, and he managed the Galway Minor team to win the All-Ireland football title in 2007. He also represented Galway at a senior level. This is something John would have been very proud of. His daughter Aoife was so successful musically on the West End. Cllr. Hoare acknowledged John’s role as a businessman in Galway, he was always a good sport whether you won or lost, he had a smile on his face all the same, that was something I always admired about him. The advice he gave me going into politics was just to be yourself, otherwise you won’t enjoy it.

Cllr. D. Lyons said: “I want to express my sincere sympathy to Margaret, Alan, Lisa, Eddie, Aoife and the extended members of the Mulholland and Flynn families on the sad passing of John. John, was twice Mayor of Galway and represented the city with honour and distinction both at home and abroad. He was very proud of Galway but more especially of Salthill which he represented for over 20 years. He had a great interest in sport and was a keen golfer and GAA supporter both for Salthill Knocknacarra and Galway. He will be sadly missed by his wife Margaret and his family. May he rest in peace.”

Cllr. T. O’Flaherty said: “Sincere condolences to Margaret, Alan, Lisa, Eddie Aoife, the extended Mulholland and Flynn families on the sad passing of John. I feel very privileged to have been his friend, he was a bright, intelligent, witty (loved a bit of devilment) humorous, unassuming, friendly, person, and my family and I are very sad at his passing. As well as being a great entertainer, a pianist, a businessman, loved all sports, he was also a well-respected politician. He loved politics and during his twenty-four years as a City Councillor, he was twice Mayor of Galway a position he held with distinction he was a great ambassador both at home and abroad for the “ City of the Tribes”. His pride and joy was his family and most of all the love of his life his lovely wife Margaret, he will be a great loss to all of you , also his wide circle of friends, his neighbours and all who knew him. John, will never be forgotten, my family and I have treasured memories of his warmth and friendship over the many years. May his gentle soul now rest in peace.”

Cllr. D. McDonnell said: “John was a true friend for a long number of years. He was always in good humour, his contribution to the city and Salthill over 25 years was exceptional and he always thought about the good of the city. He was in the group that travelled to Aalborg to sign the twinning of the cities in 1997. He entertained all the officials of Aalborg by playing the piano after the dinner. In circumstances like these, he was seen as the true Galwegian who could entertain the world. An excellent piano player, but above all a great entertainer and sadly missed.

He represented Galway City Council in the golf outings, back in the years when they took place, and was always true to his handicap. A great family man, my condolences to Margaret, Alan, Lisa, Eddie and Aoife.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis”

Cllr. M.J. Crowe said: ‘I wish to offer my sincere sympathies to Margaret, Eddie, Aoife, Alan and Lisa on the loss of John. He was a man of integrity, decency and respect. He also had a huge depth of knowledge on many topics. Further, I have never met anyone who loved Salthill as much as John did! Despite on occasion coming from different perspectives, we always got on well and I always enjoyed his company and working with him. May his gentle soul Rest In Peace.’

Cllr. N. Larkin said; ‘I had served with John on the Leisureland board and got to know him there. He was a straightforward man with good ideas coming forward. He worked for the betterment of the city all through his council life. He was exceptional during his two terms as mayor. We give our commiserations for his family, from my family to his.’

Cllr. A. Cheevers expressed sincere condolence to the family. He added that John made a great contribution to public life in Galway City and set down a great foundation for new persons entering politics by his example. He contributed greatly to the business community and will be sadly missed.

Cllr. N. McNelis expressed condolences to the Mulholland family acknowledging his huge contribution to the arts.

Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. P. Keane & Cllr. O. Hanely made contributions and expressed condolences to the family.

Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive gave tribute and expressed their sympathies to the family and friends of John Mulholland.

Alan and Aoife Mulholland on behalf of their family thanked the Councillors for their kind words and demonstration of sympathy at this sad time.

The meeting concluded at 11:45pm.