

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Of the 1,730th Meeting of the Brisbane City Council held at the Town Hall, Brisbane, on
Tuesday, 12th February, 1952, at 2 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT: The Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR (Alderman Sir John Chandler, Kt.).

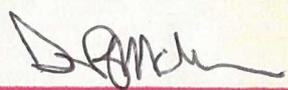
CHAIRMAN: Alderman H. WILLIAMS

Aldermen:

C. J. BENNETT
C. P. BOTTOMLEY
H. S. CHARLTON
W. M. COOK
W. C. COUTTS
W. P. DOWER
G. G. GLOVER
R. A. GRAY
T. HOLMES
W. R. HOWARD
J. S. KERR
J. E. LANE
W. R. MOON
R. F. ROBERTS
J. H. ROBERTSON,
L. S. RUDD.

Tabled and presented to Council
at its 4692 **Meeting held on:**
13 / 9 / 22

Tabled by: THE LORD MAYOR.


Chairperson of Council

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

At the outset the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR (Alderman Sir John Chandler) moved the Suspension of the Standing Orders to permit of his making a statement and moving two resolutions concerning an important public matter. The motion was seconded by Alderman C. J. BENNETT, and on being put to the Meeting was carried.

Death of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Sixth

The Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR then delivered the following statement:—

It is with profound regret that I officially inform the Council of the death of His Late Most Gracious Majesty King George the Sixth which occurred at Sandringham (Norfolk) on the Sixth day of February, 1952.

Upon receipt of the sad news I had appropriate action taken to enable our Citizens to pay their public tribute to our late King.

From the day following his death until the day of the funeral the big bell of the City Hall Chimes will be muffled and toll 56 times at Noon daily, each toll representing one year of His Late Majesty's age.

To give our people an opportunity of participating in a Combined Memorial Service I have arranged for such a Service to be held on Friday evening next at 8 p.m., at the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds.

Much has been said, and justifiably so, about His Late Majesty King George the Sixth, and it is difficult for me to add to the tributes which have already been paid to his memory.

For a long time I have thought of His Majesty in the term which was applied to him by a group of ordinary men and women on an occasion during the war when, in company with a number of people who had suffered, he was inspecting some particularly heavy bomb damage.

The people then said, 'You are a great King,' and I have always thought of him since as a truly great King. We are sometimes apt to associate greatness only with spectacular achievements, but greatness takes many forms. Greatness of heart, greatness of mind, greatness of ideals, greatness of character. In all these qualities the King ranked high, but perhaps he was greater still in his straightforwardness and simplicity.

As steel is tempered by fire, so often is character moulded by the chill winds of adversity. In these the King had his share—perhaps more than his share. Trials, tribulations, sorrow and suffering—he knew them all. One has only to examine his published photographs of recent years to see the ravages which pain had made on a noble countenance. Yet through it all he carried on willingly, cheerfully, and uncomplainingly. His Majesty's home and family life, so cherished by British people everywhere, was beyond reproach. He was a dutiful son, a loving husband, a kind and considerate father, a great man and a great King. He was an honour to his Empire and an example and inspiration to his subjects. May the rest and peace which was denied to him here be his now in abundant measure.

During his reign the King was fortunate in receiving much help from a loyal helpmate and devoted wife and mother—the Queen Mother. We join in her sorrow and extend our sympathies in this, her hour of great trial.

To our new Queen, so young, so fair, so gracious—so suddenly and dramatically called on to assume the awful responsibilities of a Throne—we offer our heartfelt sympathy and pray that God will help and guide her, and give her strength to face the mammoth tasks that lie ahead.

Our sympathy also goes out to Princess Margaret and all members of the Royal Family. May their sorrow be somewhat assuaged by the memory and example of him whom they and we all mourn."

The Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR (Alderman Sir John Chandler) then moved: "That on behalf of the Citizens of Brisbane, this Council make respectful record of our profound sorrow at the death of our late beloved Monarch, King George the Sixth, and express its deepest sympathy and condolence with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Members of the Royal Family."

The Leader of the Opposition, Alderman C. J. BENNETT, in rising to second the motion moved by the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, expressed his profound regret and respect and said that in the course of his remarks the LORD MAYOR had suitably and eloquently given voice to the feelings of the citizens of Brisbane. His Late Majesty King George the Sixth had been loved by all his peoples and undoubtedly had been endowed with all the attributes and qualities which fitted him to perform his Royal duties. It was recognised by all his subjects, as well as by the peoples of other nations, that His Late Majesty, in addition to his kingly qualities, had been a real man—a man of character—who had overcome all physical handicaps and taken part in every aspect of the activities of the people of his realm. He had been acclaimed by all as a great leader and ruler during the period of the last World War and had set an example of great courage and devotion to duty in a time of severe national trial and crisis. The inspiration which His Late Majesty had given to the people and to the fighting forces during the war period was undoubtedly largely responsible for the successful prosecution of the war.

Continuing, Alderman BENNETT said that His Late Majesty had been essentially a family man, with an intimate knowledge of human nature, and the high example which he had set, allied to the extensive training in the duties of Members of the Royal Family, would, assuredly be manifest during the reign of his daughter the present Queen Elizabeth the Second, which all hoped would be long and successful. The late King's devotion to duty was such that he had always placed the interests of his people before those of himself and his family. He had always moved freely among his subjects and had done his utmost to further the cause of the common man and the under-privileged.

Alderman BENNETT then formally seconded the motion moved by the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR.

The motion was carried, Members standing in silence for one minute.

After the Chairman had declared the motion carried, the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR (Alderman Sir John Chandler) rose and made reference to the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. It was fitting, the LORD MAYOR said, that Members of the Council who were not required to take the Oath of Allegiance in their Service should nevertheless place on record their profound loyalty to the Throne and to the Queen. There was a tendency to think of the occupant of the Throne as the King or Queen of England, but it was important to realise that Her Majesty was Queen of all the Dominions.

The LORD MAYOR then moved: "That on behalf of the Citizens of Brisbane, this Council respectfully tenders to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, its assurance of devotion and loyalty to the Throne and Person of Her Majesty."

The LORD MAYOR'S motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Alderman C. J. BENNETT, who said that he was quite sure that the new Queen would receive the undivided loyalty and devotion of her subjects as had been bestowed on her late Father.

It was many years, said Alderman BENNETT, since a Queen had occupied the Throne of England and there was every reason to believe and hope that the success which had marked previous reigns would be outstanding during the reign of the present Queen. Her Majesty undoubtedly possessed all the attributes and virtues of Royalty. She had already clearly displayed that she possessed in a high degree the attributes of courage and intelligence which fitted her to carry out the duties of her exalted office. With the full support and assistance of her peoples, both in Britain and the Dominions, she would undoubtedly do so successfully. Already the new Queen had endeared herself to peoples in all walks of life and there was ample evidence that she had inherited her father's love and understanding for the common man and the under-privileged. Australians owed a great deal to the new Queen, who could be fully assured of their loyalty in the trying and difficult times which lay ahead and which by united effort and devotion would assuredly be successfully negotiated.

The motion as moved by the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, and seconded by Alderman BENNETT, on being put to the Meeting, was carried unanimously.

The Right Honourable the Lord MAYOR then moved, seconded by Alderman BENNETT, "That the Council do now adjourn until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 19th February, 1952." The motion on being put to the Meeting was carried.

RISING OF THE COUNCIL: 2.20 p.m.

PRESENTED: Tuesday, 19th February, 1952; and CONFIRMED: Tuesday, 19th February, 1952.

HORACE WILLIAMS,
CHAIRMAN.