



BRRAG

Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group Inc.

"To provide an effective voice for the people of Belmont"

16 July 2020

Mayor and Councillors
City of Belmont

Dear Mayor and Councillors

We would like to make a complaint regarding the June Ordinary Council Meeting.

Having attended council meetings for several years, to witness what occurred was nothing short of embarrassing. The expectation of residents is that our council runs as a professional organisation who is there to act in the best interest of us all. None of this occurred at this meeting, which notably had a number of people in the gallery who had not attended meetings previously.

It appears that Cr Cayoun is the only person who has an understanding of the Standing Orders. If she along with Cr Davis had been listened to, the motion of Cr Powell would not have been done as an amendment to the Cr Davis motion in the first place. The motion due to the Lee Steere House component negated each other. One motion was for it to remain as it is now, Public Assembly and the other Mixed Use.

The lack of understanding on this Standing Order by you and the Officers, not only resulted in a lot of wasted time, but it turned the whole meeting into a circus act. I am sure this was of embarrassment to some of the councillors as well.

In terms of the way you communicate publicly with Cr Cayoun it is beginning to look like you have some sort of problem with her. Cr Cayoun tried on several occasions to find out why you were letting Cr Powell's motion be an amendment as opposed to a foreshadowed motion. She then referred you to the Standing Orders regarding the motion negating the substantive motion of Cr Davis.

You took no notice of her and quite frankly you were disrespectful in the way you spoke to her. As a resident in the gallery, I am starting to find your manner with Cr Cayoun offensive. This is not the first time this has been noted. Our previous letter of 26 March also referred to your manner with Cr Cayoun.. It is becoming apparent that it is not unusual if you are female to expect the communication you deliver to be different.

With respect to the recording of the meeting, the quality was woeful to say the least. The ratepayer pays a significant amount of money annually for the IT department. It was apparent that the equipment had not been satisfactorily tested, or that the operator had been inadequately trained. It is clearly not satisfactory for residents to have a standard of quality so low available for later listening. Livestreaming may well eliminate this sort of problem occurring in future.

It is also worth noting that unless the recording is turned off when you take intermissions like you did at the last meeting, the gallery should be advised when the recording is being turned off and when it is being turned on again. There was no indication on this recording that I could hear that advised of this.

In view of the unreliability of the equipment at the City of Belmont, we would once again ask for the approval of the Mayor to record the meetings ourselves. As previously advised, we are more than happy to be supervised in the recording process. We would also be happy to give our copy to the City, in the event that once again your equipment fails. Our purpose is to ensure there is a suitable recording available to residents of future meetings.

Please be advised this letter and your response will go on the BRRAG website for the purpose of transparency for the residents of Belmont as will the response.

Lisa Hollands
President BRRAG