**Date:** Thursday 26 September 2019  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Meeting Room:** Reception Lounge  
**Venue:** Auckland Town Hall  
301-305 Queen Street  
Auckland

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**Tira Kāwana / Governing Body**

**OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

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**Note:** The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
Councillor Penny Hulse valedictory speech – transcription

Kia ora koutou katoa

First of all I just briefly want to thank everyone for the chance to make this speech.

I also just want to acknowledge the protest that we’ve just had in this room, and the fact that democracy is alive and well. Despite the hurt, the trauma and the politics behind the group that were here, it felt really fitting to me to have a protest at my last meeting. It also shows that this is a place that actually welcomes its community, and it welcomes protest and thank you Mr Mayor for doing that so graciously.

It also speaks to our relationship with our treaty partners in the way that the protest has been accepted and, again thank you to our wonderful Te Waka Anga Mua group who are part of council and help us to manage those sometimes really challenging relationships. To get it right with iwi, to get it right with hapū, to get it right with our Māori partnerships, kia ora and thank you.

Also, just quickly a note to the media bench, thank you media. I think it was the lovely Simon Wilson who said that a reporter’s blood runs cold when they’re asked to get a soundbite from Penny Hulse and I make apologies, kind of tongue in cheek, for the last 27 years for no good soundbites. I don’t think you’re going to get one today - just saying.

Who knew, and Sir John you might be feeling the same, who knew how hard it was to write a valedictory speech. It feels like it needs to be meaningful and resonate with wisdom and sparkling with wit, and you go on the internet and there’s all this fabulousness there. So spoiler alert in politics 101 – manage expectations – and it’s not going to be that!

But once I started to think of all the amazing people that I have worked with, my speech veered very dangerously to the cliff of over-emotional Oscar acceptance speech, so I sort of pulled back from that and then realized I was veering into the wonderful Rowan Atkinson Father of the Bride speech, which anyone who has seen that will know that he roasts everybody in the room and then raises a toast to the caterers – so it’s not going to quite be that.

Even though yay for the caterers, and yay for the nine years of caramel slice – I have the figure to prove it!

So with that hopefully managed, and with expectations out of the way I do want to try and capture in the time I that I’ve got – and I am going to take that time so please sit comfortably – to capture my deep belief in the importance of local government and my huge debt of gratitude to all the politicians, staff and community who have made by 27 years such a privilege. It’s been an amazing role you know, it is hard, but I pretty much loved every minute of it, and it has been an incredible ride.
I first got involved in politics out West as a protester and organising my community to protest the extension of the landfill in Swanson and I rebel-roused and filled the school halls several times and we painted signs and we printed leaflets and I fed the protests at council meetings, and we stormed in very much like today and held up signs and, you know, I loved it, I absolutely loved it. I really found my passion there, it’s a real buzz speaking truth to authority and being celebrated by my community for it and there’s nothing like standing and speaking with 200 angry people behind you and the media loving you for it. So that was an amazing buzz for a couple of months, and then two incredible Waitakere Councillors, one of whom is here, Dorothy Wilson and Helen Haslam who would have been here, invited me into council and said let’s talk about a way forward. The protest is great but what are we actually going to do, and then followed a long mediation process under the new RMA and I led the community from their perspective in the mediation, Helen led the council, we were supported by the wonderful Tony Miguel who’s here and John Dragicevich from the staff perspective and chaired on by the visionary Ann Magee who is here as well and we ended up getting a 98 percent physical sign off from the entire Swanson community to extend the landfill for three years, and we managed that in a way that hadn’t been done before and it was the first mediation under the RMA.

So for that I realized that if you rolled your sleeves up, and worked together, you could achieve amazing things, and I stood for council and I’m still here, either by complete lack of imagination or just good luck. But I tell the story because that’s remained my true north, my map for politics over 27 years. It is thrilling, and fun, and being a populist is easy and having an angry crowd behind you is really great. But the real bravery is rolling your sleeves up and tackling the way forward. To have the vision and do the hard work, to bring those people into the process and try and find a solution. Because that means actually giving up some of that power, giving up some of that populism and actually managing expectations down to try and find a way through. You may notice a bit of a recurring theme through this speech around that.

So Waitakere – the Waitakere whanau who are here, thank you and God bless you – Waitakere was an amazing council. I tried to write this bit taking the rose tinted glasses off but I’m afraid when it comes to Waitakere they are kind of firmly welded on, and I know they are for ex-Waitakere staff because we still hug in the lift, and I think the rest of you all think that we’re completely bonkers, but that Westie bond is there and will be there for some time. Rose coloured glasses are the only way of talking about that 18 years, with amazing strategic and visionary thinkers like our amazing Ann Magee who’s here, Dr Graham Campbell and Dr Sue Bidrose and creatives like Wally Thomas who never allowed us to take ourselves too seriously, cheered on with our darling Fiona Cunningham and the ever pragmatic and experienced John "Drag". In our Community Partnerships team, Bob Harvey had an absolute dream team to achieve, he had good councillors supported by great staff, and we did brave things. We protected the Waitakere Ranges via the Ranges Protection Act. I think that took years off your life, Dr Campbell. That was a work of love and passion. We embraced great urban design, we laid down the blueprint for Hobsonville, we pushed double tracking, we undergrounded the rail in New Lynn, we pushed the boundaries with our self-styled Ai Gore of the South Pacific (which is Bob, in case you hadn’t noticed). He used to call himself 'the great godwit' and we said, was that with an 'f'? No, we love him. If you ever get to see this Bob, we do love you but you know, you just pushed our boundaries sometimes.
I was, however, so proud to be his deputy mayor, taking over from Dorothy Wilson, and the scarly capable Carolyn Stone. Project Twin Streams laid down kilometres of cycleways, again thanks to Tony Miguel – and that was before anyone was thinking about cycleways. They thought we were bonkers out west – you know, what are you doing cleaning up streams and putting cycleways through the back blocks of Henderson for god’s sake – who’s ever going to ride a bike in Henderson? Well, it was fantastic and it was ahead of its time.

We also had a heck of a lot more fun than we see in this council chamber. We had Miss Ribena launch our district plan, we actually laughed in council meetings, we had wine at the end of our evening council meetings, where we would all actually resolve some of the stress that had been built up during the evening council meeting. We aired issues and we resolved them.

And we also loved our protestors, and we’ve got some legendary stories of protestors, including the one group who stormed the council chambers, and we said “That’s great! You hold your signs up, outside on the deck. Outside.” And we quickly locked the door. Anyway. They were cool, they were fine. We sent them beer and pizza and after the appropriate amount of time and enough beer (I think it was your idea, Wally Thomas) they quietly all came in because they needed to use the loo. But they, you know, it was a great experience. But that was very Waitakere.

And our Bob was not backward in coming forward about his feelings about protestors. And he did legendarily, allegedly bear his bum at one of our most annoying ones. Caroline and I actually baked him a chocolate cake with a chocolate burn on it and he wasn’t amused. But Bob always did enjoy a good joke, as long as he was the one making the joke.

You know, when you do think back to those days, one of the times when even Bob was flawed was when a dog arrived with a very polie note pinned to its collar blaming Bob for her being pregnant. She arrived in a taxi, which you have to say really, that just took the cake. But again, that’s just the kind of Westie protest.

So amalgamation did cut across the 18 years of community development and partnerships. This had a profound effect of the West. And all of us. So, this nine years of trying to make Rodney Hide’s version of what was a very good proposal in the Royal Commission into something better, has been a huge challenge. His approach to amalgamation, was in my view ill-conceived and a half-copped version of the Royal Commission’s thoughtful approach.

However, and kia ora Mayor Len, it is so lovely to see you here. Len Brown was exactly the Mayor that Auckland needed, at the time bringing seven tribal areas together. His relentless good humour, and his singing, yep. Sometimes it was appropriate, and sometimes Len, we’d just had to say, mate, no, no singing now, not quite the right time. But he does sing beautifully, but he energized that first term of council in a way that I don’t think anyone else could’ve. And we started pulling together the Auckland Plan, which is the right thing to do. And he had a Mayoral office that was an amazing team, that ever unfathomable Phil Wilson at the helm and the wise head of Theresa Stratton, Glyn Jones, holding things together, when things got a bit rough - and we know they did get a bit rough – but I also just want to pause for a moment and acknowledge Penny Webster who was such a rock during some of those challenging times and I think is still very missed around the council table.
So we worked hard to pull Auckland together and pull the plans together that were needed. And one of the key people in all of that was, or is and still is the amazing Penny Pirrit and her team who worked on the unitary plan. If asked about anything I feel most proud of, I am incredibly proud of the Unitary Plan. It was brave and it has done some very very tough stuff. Those were some of the toughest community meetings I’ve ever been to. I mean I have stood in packing houses in Orotia with you know, not quite guns around the walls but scythes and axes and very sharp agricultural implements and had to tell orchardists that no, you’re not going to be able to sub-divide easily because of the RMA and Council processes – and they’ve yelled at me loudly but then they’ve hugged me and given me a cup of tea and told me to drive safe on the way home. St Heliers, however, not so much. The meetings in St Heliers and Milford and some of the meetings on the Shore were probably some of the most abusive, angry and menacing meetings I’ve ever been to. I’ve never been scared at a meeting but I’ve been scared at St Heliers and that just speaks to me of something that is actually going on in our city. Why are people driven to this level of anger when you’re simply saying we want to build affordable houses for our kids and the next generation. I know that Desley’s done an amazing job of settling that community down, but if it hadn’t been for Generation Zero and the incredible bravery standing up at those meetings – every meeting they turned up and asked about what about the next generation – we could have lost some really critical decisions in the plan. So this brings me back to the original point which is when do you fight alongside your community or when do you actually look at the wider issues of all of Auckland’s future generations and the voices who are not at those angry meetings. Have a wee looky look on social media and you’ll see hair that is all my colour. Faces all my colour. Demographics all the same. We as elected members have to think of all Auckland, not just the people like us.

So one of my huge disappointments is watching the personal politics that have overtaken the focus of city building. And I will go there guys. The “A team” “B team” nonsense, local boards vs governing body, we all stand for office to be the very best representative of our community that we can be. But those opportunities are squandered with petty politics, the “win-lose”, the “gotcha” politics that seems to be built up by social media. And we do have a lot of issues that are dividing our city at the moment. But within each of those issues is a solution – it’s not that hard if we, rather than focusing in, maybe this circle doesn’t help Mr Mayor as it focusses us in on ourselves, we need to find a different way, and I always feel the urge to leap up at the meetings and go “Look out of the windows, it’s actually out there, it’s them we’re working for, not to score points off each other”.

So social media has made it much harder. The last few years have been very tough - people bring their own facts to the meeting, not just their own opinion, and I’m hoping that for the sake of our wonderful city the reset button is pressed on those issues for the next council – because I think the community have actually had a guts full of negativity. There’s so much positive work to be done and my honest hope is that that becomes the focus of this council, that’s when we’re at our best, when were actually all pulling together. Because there is a big shopping list; there’s climate change – we have to build those resilient communities for all of Auckland. That is the really big issue that we need to all work together on. Regional equity around open space, sport and rec, community facilities – we need to look across the whole region and make sure everyone is sharing that equitably and that might mean less for some areas and a heck of a lot more for others because they don’t have it and people will need to learn to share. The challenge to be a leader in New Zealand on waste and you know our plastic mountain is growing, our Indonesian beaches can take no more.
Our community need wise and brave leadership in the waste area. Parul Sood is probably the best waste manager in New Zealand, get behind her and let’s keep that going. We have a Government who want to do the right thing, let’s grab that opportunity. And I think we need to build pride and hope in our city, where everyone feels the joy of success regardless of what area it happens in. If Auckland’s doing well, that’s awesome, even if it’s not your patch. And on the shopping list for me is kindness, inclusion and safety. How about Auckland become a visibly inclusive city, wouldn’t that be great if that’s who we said we were going to be. So some of that might involve putting down the social media screens and actually just getting back with the community.

And it’s no secret that Phil and I probably didn’t get off to the best of starts. I thought his Environment and Community committee was a collection of all the stuff left over from the really big boys’ committees and that he just threw everything in a bit of a jumble heap and asked me to chair it. But it’s turned out to be the best committees I’ve ever chaired Phil and thank you. We have joked though that it is the committee that ends up with every tricky, challenging, complex issue. I’ll think, thank God that’s going to go to planning. Nah, it circles for a little bit and boom it ends up back on Environment and Community and Alf and I just roll our eyes at the agenda run-throughs – we deal with Kauri dieback, the Rahui, 1080, glyphosate, cats, 5G, golf courses, climate change, cats, library reviews, trees, crumbling historic places, more cats and ihumātao, bucket racing, water quality, you know the list goes on, these have been some very very thorny issues, some of them we’ve addressed and some of them we haven’t fully addressed and as I say I can see resolution and hope in all of these. But all the way through our amazing staff, they are our stunt doubles. We trumpet the things that we think we’ve done, but if we’re really honest, staff have done the mahi, they’ve written the report, they’ve come up with the recommendations, they’ve helped us frame up what we’re doing. So that for me when I think of the stunt double analogy, it works really well.

Rachel Kelleher and Phil Brown helping us go through the incredible challenging time of kauri dieback and the rahui…

Your wonderful Babs in your office, Phil, extraordinary, and Viv who was there before her.

Our Mace Ward, who never runs out of patience, I don’t know how he does it, with all the complexities of parks, sports, reserves.

We’ve got our team who’ve landed the sediment issues.

We’ve got Brett Butland and the whole I&ES area.

Oops, I think this is definitely Oscar time, so I will move on cause that list is very, very big.
You've got a thousand staff, Mr. Chief Executive, or ten thousand staff, and I want to acknowledge them all actually. I said a little bit today about my concern that the politics is creeping in to our treatment of staff and that is unfair and unfounded and it just needs to stop. Without our staff we are nothing and our partnership with staff is everything. We can critique and we can change and we can feed back, but we shouldn't behave the way we behave sometimes around this table. The very best council advice I had was from my council mum, Dame Janet Clews...I keep saying that cause I think it's about time that happened, so I think if I say it enough it'll happen...but Dame Janet said to me "always respect the staff" and I think that has been the most precious advice I could have ever got, thank you Janet.

So I do want to do some thank yous, and we're nearly there guys, thank you for listening. To my closest staff colleagues...and these are people that I've worked with at a really close level...to Shazzy for helping me be the Deputy Mayor of Waitakere. We used to threaten to lock Shazzy in the stationary cupboard at times and she survived that, and, no......that was a standing joke, oh gosh...don't make jokes about things like that around the council table because it will come back to bite you. But Shaz, you've been extraordinary and for anyone who knows Shaz, Shaz, just gently, did run Waitakere City. To Kerry Harrington who helped me be the Deputy Mayor of Auckland. Kerry's an utter legend and an extraordinary woman and Mr. Chief Executive, I'm glad that you have her helping you to run the city now. Also Claire and Catherine Syme, who are here, added the intellectual grunt to the work I've done. I'm very lucky to have Shaun who's supporting me at the moment and particularly supporting me during this transition time, Shaun you're extraordinary. And to Rachel, Maryke, Karesana and Julie who are part of team Linda and Penny, we've been really blessed with incredible people.

So, speaking of incredible people, my deputy chair for Environment and Community, Alf Filipaina. Cr Filipaina, malo, is the most kindest and most generous human being I think any of you will ever meet. Alf does things behind the scenes to manaakitanga to spread his aroha through the staff, through the organization and through community and it's a privilege to work with you Alf. I thank you again Mr Mayor not only for the committee but a chance to work so closely with Alf. He has a very special role to play around this council table. So, thank you, thank you Alf from the bottom of my heart.

To my wonderful ward mate, Linda Copper, who has been a friend for 27 years. Linda your bravery and your silliness with me. You need someone who you can laugh with, whether the staff cope or not, we do laugh a lot together. You are a fantastic councillor and Auckland needs your integrity, your honesty and your frankness around the table; even if they don't always appreciate it, they need it. So, thank you for your support and you amazing hard work. You absolutely rock.

Mr Mayor, you've worked us out, finally. You've worked out the strengths and weaknesses of Local Government. You have a real clear idea of what needs to be done and you have the steady hands to achieve it. What you need now is a council who will put aside petty politics. Who will focus with you on Auckland, her people and her future. And I really do wish you all the very best for the election. You're a good bloke and at the moment it is very hard to find a good bloke in political leadership, so kia ora and aroha to you.
I’ve got some lovely friends who are here in the audience. My darling friends Meredith, and Lynette. I’ve got my family who are here and I’ll acknowledge them in a moment. But I want to acknowledge Sir John and we are going to hear from you soon.

Sir John, you are one of the good blokes in politics. You’ve been a supportive friend and a quiet strength over the last nine years. I just want to mihiti to you and say thank you for that.

I was going to say it’s taken me a long time to get over my kind of awe of being in the same room as Sir John. I haven’t quite managed that. I am still in awe of being in the same room as one of New Zealand’s greatest heroes and you will be missed. I just acknowledge that deeply, from the bottom of my heart and occasionally when I’ve needed a hug you’ve been there. Kia ora, thank you Sir John.

So, now to my wonderful family and that’s always where it does get hard. To my Paul and Rob, to my James who’s in the UK and he’ll be seeing this. To the Sarah’s, both my boys have partners called Sarah which is very confusing. To Jack, Elsa-May, and Lucy my three grandchildren and to my lovely cousin Fiona Tarlton who has taken the time to be here today. It’s lovely to see you so thank you very much.

I’m hoping that I may learn to be a better granny. I may have more time for our family, you may not cope with that, but you’ll be getting more of me. For my friends, you may be seeing more of me as well, and particularly to people like Meredith and Shazzy you’ve hung in there over this time and been patient and waited for friendship – I hope I can deliver.

And finally to my wonderful, wonderful Paul. You’ve been extraordinary. I think the Mayor put it well when he said that it is the partners who give up a huge amount when your spouse is in politics. It’s incredibly hard and I know sometimes I’ve had to wrestle that tyre iron from your fingers as you’ve wanted to deal to some of the trolls that I’ve had to deal with but my love, gratitude, and my absolute gratefulness for everything, Paul, it’s just a wonderful thing to be able to say that publicly, you are my rock and you always will be.

So finally, elected members, staff, people I may have missed out on, you are good people. There’s a huge amount of good around this table. There’s absolute capacity in every single one of you to step away from some of the places that you’ve been drawn into and I think to make Auckland the place that it deserves to be and to give our staff the partners that they deserve we need to step up to the plate and get on with partnering up with our Mayor, with the Auckland community, and getting the mahi done.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.
Valedictory Speech – Councillor Sir John Walker

HOW TIME FLIES!

28 years ago, after retiring from athletics, a friend suggested I put my name forward for the position of one of the four Councillors for the Manurewa Ward.

It was a fitting move for me. I was raised in Manurewa and it seemed a perfect way for me to repay my hometown for the love and support I had received as a child and then during my long running career.

I have been very privileged to serve under three excellent Mayors.

Sir Barry Curtis was a visionary and under his guidance Manukau flourished. He had the foresight and the backing of enough of his Councillors to purchase pockets of land in Flat Bush for development. One of these blocks is now the well established and much appreciated Barry Curtis Park which is used extensively and diversely by the local community.

He initiated and determinedly pushed for the Events Centre which was a controversial vote and now an incredible asset to Manukau. He was a great supporter of the community and worked tirelessly for his people.

Len Brown was an equally impressive leader. He was known as the singing Mayor and his good humour and enthusiasm for his city was engaging. He was an excellent speaker, very community orientated and much loved by his constituents.

He was voted in as the first Mayor of the new Auckland Supercity and had the most difficult task ahead to amalgamate a very divided city.

I will always be grateful to him for encouraging the creation of the charity in my name ‘Find Your Field of Dreams’. It is growing from strength to strength since its inception more than 10 years ago and it makes me very proud.
Mayor Phil Goff is a diligent and motivated leader and I wish him every success in the upcoming elections. I know Auckland City is in good and capable hands under his leadership.

I have enjoyed my years as a Councillor and I feel proud of the work that has been achieved and decisions made in my time.

Aucklanders can be very proud of their hosting of the World Cup Rugby, the World Masters Games and many other world class events.

We have a very beautiful and sophisticated City and there are exciting times ahead.

I would be lying if I did not admit that the last years have been difficult for me and I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and Staff for their compassion and understanding.

To the Councillors who have helped me out of my chair and brought me tea and coffee, thank you.

A special mention here to Paul Young for being so kind and thoughtful.

To my wife Helen and to my family and especially my son Tim, who has been my chauffeur, bodyguard and confidante, thank you for your love and support.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to Melissa. Thank you for everything you have done to help me. You have been a godsend.

Goodbye everyone and good health.