

District council meeting of 21 April 2021

Convened and announced on 11 March 2021

Present: ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor, EIFES Eric (DP), ZHU Dali (DP), SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), WOLTER Laurence (Déi Gréng), WEYMERSKIRCH Patrick (LSAP), Councillors, TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, REIFFERS Cindy, Secretary.

1. Determination of venue for the district council meeting

The district council unanimously approved the Cultural Centre in Moutfort as the venue for this district council meeting.

2. HR matters

In closed session.

Dali Zhu joined the meeting.

3. Medium-term budget plan presentation

The medium-term budget plan (plan pluriannuel financier) was presented by the company MC Luxembourg. This plan covers the period 2021-2024.

4. Announcements and further clarifications – Planning and execution of a housing complex in Contern

This item was previously discussed in the Council meeting of 21 February. In this advisory session, further clarifications on the planning and execution of the housing development were given by MC Luxembourg.

5. Creation of several employee posts

By 7 votes in favour and 4 abstentions (Eric Eifes, Dali Zhu, Jean-Jacques Arremsdorff and Laurence Wolter), the Council voted to approve the creation of several employee posts. The Mayor explained that the 4,000th resident had recently registered in the district, and staffing levels needed to take account of the constantly-growing population. In addition, the Mayor emphasised the constantly-expanding public spaces in the industrial estates, along with several larger housing developments that are under construction. Generational change in the technical services department also required additional staff, in order to guarantee competent and permanent performance of our obligations to our citizens even at this time. The opposition did not agree with this and demanded an upstream audit to review the need to appoint staff.

6. Approval of a document – Exchange of land in Contern

By 9 votes in favour and 2 abstentions (Jean-Jacques Arremsdorff and Laurence Wolter), the District Council approved the document concerning the exchange of land in Contern. Contern District Council is exchanging a parcel of land located in the Rue de Luxembourg, with an area of 90 m², for a parcel owned by Mr Remond Goedert located in the Rue de Prés, with an area of 21 m². This exchange is to be considered an urgent necessity, in order that the narrow, existing pavement on this heavily-trafficked and unsighted road can be widened, allowing pedestrians to again enjoy an adequate feeling of safety and enabling children to have a safe route to school.

7. Approval of a document – Purchase of “Conterstuff” in Contern

By 9 votes in favour and 2 abstentions (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter), the District Council approved the document concerning the purchase of “Conterstuff”.

8. Approval of a division of a plot of land in Oetrange

The District Council unanimously approved the division of a plot of land in Oetrange.

9. Approval of an agreement with Weiler-la-Tour council – Maiskappen (corn trimmer)

The District Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Weiler-la-Tour council regarding the corn trimmer. This agreement covers all areas in Weiler-la-Tour, regardless of where the farmer to whom the land belongs is resident. This agreement was reached in line with the water conservation law.

10. Appointment of a new member to a committee

The District Council unanimously approved the appointment of Ms Christiane Krier to the Culture and Tourism Committee. Ms Krier, together with an employee from Technical Services, organises the stock of books for the newly-installed “Bicherkabinnen” (book cabins).

11. Approval of several resignations by a member from various committees

The District Council unanimously accepted the resignation of Mr Steve Maller from the Culture and Tourism Committee and the Comic Festival Committee.

12. Determination of the business tax multiplier rate (“taux multiplicateur de l’impôt commercial”)

The District Council unanimously approved the determination of the business tax multiplier rate. This had remained unchanged since 2007.

13. Determination of the land tax multiplier rate (“taux multiplicateur de l’impôt commercial”)

By 8 votes in favour, 2 votes against (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter) and one abstention (Patrick Weymerskirch), the District Council approved the determination of the land tax multiplier rate. This had remained unchanged since 2009.

14. Tax rules – Dog tax

By 9 votes in favour and 2 abstentions (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter), the District Council approved the tax rules concerning the dog tax. This is being raised from € 30 per year to € 50 per year. At present, the District Council list runs to around 300 dogs. Despite the wide availability of Belloo stations (costing €600 per unit), our employees are spending a lot of time removing dog faeces from public spaces, and particularly around and in our play areas.

Deputy Mayor Fernand Schiltz explained that raising the tax served, amongst other things, to emphasise the value of a dog.

15. Tax rules for sports and leisure courses – Adjustment

By 9 votes in favour and 2 votes against (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter), the District Council approved the adjustment to the tax rules concerning sports and leisure courses. The

contribution is now € 100 per year, with the first course being a taster course which is therefore offered free of charge.

16. Tax rules for Luxembourgish language courses – Adjustment

By 9 votes in favour and 2 abstentions (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter), the District Council approved the adjustment to the tax rules concerning Luxembourgish language courses. The annual contribution is now € 120.

17. Tax rules for “Hiring & Deposits” (“mise en location & caution”) – Adjustment

The District Council unanimously approved the adjustment to the tax rules concerning the hiring of club rooms. The rooms will continue to be made available to clubs free of charge.

18. Tax rules for the “Chancellery” (“Chancellerie”) – Adjustment

The District Council unanimously approved the adjustment to the “Chancellery” tax rules. These are a series of administrative fees which are charged to citizens.

19. Tax rules for urban development and buildings – Adjustment

This item was deferred to the next Council meeting, for further discussion.

20. Tax rules for planning permission deposits – Adjustment

The District Council unanimously approved the adjustment to the tax rules concerning planning permission deposits. Once the building is completed, this deposit is refunded to the citizen.

21. Approval of several statements of accounts

The District Council unanimously approved several statements of accounts.

22. Exceptional grant – Lëtzebuerger Guiden a Scouten

The District Council unanimously approved the exceptional grant of € 1,500 to the “Lëtzebuerger Guiden a Scouten”.

23. Change to the traffic orders for Contern district

The District Council unanimously approved a change to the traffic orders for Contern district. This relates to a bus stop in the Route de Remich in Moutfort, which is being removed.

24. Change to traffic order – CR226 – Temporary changes

The District Council unanimously approved the temporary change to a traffic order concerning the CR226.

25. Confirmation of changes to the traffic orders for Contern district – Temporary changes

The District Council unanimously approved temporary changes to the traffic orders for the Contern district.

26. For noting – Articles of association for two clubs

The District Council unanimously voted to approve the articles of association for “Schweini Multi-Sport a.s.b.l.” and “Walburga Contern”.

27. Approval of income

Income totalling € 1,896,800.54 was approved for the financial year 2020 and € 1,530,492.88 for the financial year 2021.

28. Announcements and councillor questions

The Mayor announced that on 7 May at 11:00 the cherry tree to mark the birth of Prince Charles is being planted behind the Music School. Due to coronavirus, this event has been postponed several times.

On 27 April, the new Contern district charter is being presented to the District Council.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff asked whether the small bridge in the Impasse de la Syre that goes over the Syre river is being renovated. A resident asked why the walls to the left and right of the Syre could not be built higher, in the interests of flood protection. Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut replied that this was desired by the Water Management Administration ("Administration de la gestion de l'eau"), but that the situation ought to improve significantly with the building of the water retention basin.