

District council meeting of 24 May 2023

Convened and announced on 17 May 2023

Present: ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor; SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor; JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor; EIFES, Eric (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), SCHMITZ, Jean-Pierre (CSV), LOOSE Yves (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), WOLTER Laurence (Déi Gréng), THIERIE Geoffrey (LSAP), Councillors; TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary; SCHILTZ Nadine, Secretary.

Apologies: ZHU Dali (DP), Councillor

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) welcomed those attending the last district council meeting before the elections, and invited Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ to speak.

Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) announced this was his last district council meeting. After 25 years of district politics, he had decided not to be a candidate in the forthcoming elections. He thanked his colleagues for the excellent collaboration and the various experiences gained, and wished them every success and good health. After the meeting, he invited those present to share in a glass of Crémant.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) explained that, for urgent reasons, an additional item needed to be included as Item 17 on the agenda. It concerned the purchase of several plots of land, needed to build a new fire station.

1. HR matters

In closed session

2. Inventory of arrears

In closed session

3. Appointment of teaching staff

In closed session

4. Approval of provisional school arrangements 2023/2024

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) invited Lena WANGEN, chair of the School Committee, to speak to present the provisional school arrangements for primary school education for the academic year 2023/2024. Lena Wangen regretted that, even as of today's date, the 641 teaching hours for the coming school year allocated by the Ministry for Education, Children and Youth would not be sufficient. With rising numbers of residents, the number of school children was similarly rising. They already needed 695 teaching hours.

The district council unanimously approved the provisional school arrangements for primary school education 2023/2024.

5. Approval of a new version of the Building Regulations for Contern district

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) advised that the regulations governing buildings, public roads and facilities had been revised and adapted in collaboration with the consultants ECAU, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Interior Ministry.

The district council voted by a majority, with seven votes for and three abstentions, to approve the changes to the regulations governing buildings, public roads and facilities.

6. Additional loans – Budget 2023

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) explained that the district council wished to exercise its right of pre-emption for two parcels of land in Contern. As a consequence, the district council needed to make the necessary funds available for the purchase. In view of this fact, Deputy Mayor for Finance Tom JUBGBLUT (CSV) clarified that the loan in the 2023 budget needed to be adjusted. This was in order to support the costs of this purchase. In this regard, it was similarly important to provide for the costs arising for amortisation and credit interest.

The district council unanimously approved the two additional allocations of funds in the regular budget and the two items in the extraordinary budget 2023.

7. Decision – Right of pre-emption – Land in Contern

The district council unanimously approved the decision to exercise its right of pre-emption concerning two parcels of land in Contern district. They are recorded in the cadaster under numbers 343/4387 and 343/4389 in Contern district, Contern Section C, in Rue de Syren, with a total area of 15.80 are. The sales price is € 1,525,000. The purchase is of public benefit; here, at last, a second roadway into and out of the Op der Haangels district can be created. The remaining area is to be given over to affordable housing.

8. Approval of a resolution – Planting of district authority areas

The district council unanimously approved the resolution that in future native trees, hedges and shrubs, together with certified regional plant material, is to be used for all new plantings in the district. Depending on availability, suitable tree species can be planted as an alternative, in accordance with the vascular plant red list for Luxembourg.

9. Approval of an agreement – Connection to the water supply

With regard to the building of a development for resettled persons in the location known as “Unter Nidderberg”, the district council unanimously approved the agreement concerning sharing in the infrastructure costs for extending the district’s water supply to that location.

10. Approval of an agreement – Right of use to land in Contern

The district council unanimously approved the agreement concerning the right of use to approximately 12 centiare in the place known as “Im Ackerfeld”, registered under cadaster number 299/4064, located in Contern district, Contern Section C. The owners are making this part of their land available to the district council in order to enable an easier passage for district council vehicles.

11. Approval of a preliminary agreement – Purchase of land in Contern

The district council unanimously approved the preliminary agreement for purchase of a parcel of land with cadaster number 1597/5010 located in Contern, Contern Section C, in the place known as “Im alten Weiher”, with a total area of 1 are 28 centiare. The purchase price is € 1,280.00. The purchase is being made with a not-for-profit purpose, namely, to clarify the ownership situation to the service road there.

12. Approval of a document – Sale of land in Contern

The district council voted by a majority, with 8 votes for and 2 votes against, to approve the notarised document number 551/2023 of 5 May 2023. It relates to the sale of a plot of land located in Contern, “Op der Haangels”, registered in the cadaster for Contern district, Contern Section C, under number 343/7572 with a total area of 3 are 02 centiare. The sales price is € 110,710.

13. Approval of eight lease agreements

As part of updating the existing lease agreements, the district council unanimously approved eight newly-signed agreements.

14. Grants to clubs and associations 2023

For 2023, the district council unanimously guarantees to pay grants to numerous local and international associations, totalling € 184,626.97.

15. Noting of articles of association – Conter hëlleft asbl

After a short summary of the reasons that led to the foundation of the charitable association “Conter hëlleft Asbl”, the district council noted its articles of association.

Laurence WOLTER (Déi Gréng) left the room.

16. Extraordinary grants

a. Tennis de table Oetrangle-Waldbredimus asbl

The district council unanimously approved an extraordinary grant to the sports club “Tennis de table Oetrangle-Waldbredimus Asbl” totalling € 500 to organise a promotional game as part of the *Nuit des sports* event.

b. Lëtzebuenger Guiden a Scouten

The district council grants the association “Lëtzebuenger Guiden a Scouten” an extraordinary grant of € 2,500.00 to renovate the roof on the “Keltenhaus”.

c. Contern hëlleft asbl

The district council grants the charitable association “Conter hëlleft asbl” an extraordinary grant of € 15,000. The grant is to be used to give financial support to residents who have invested in flood defences as a consequence of the floods of 2021.

Laurence WOLTER (Déi Gréng) entered the room.

17. Additional item: approval of four preliminary agreements – Purchase of land in Moutfort

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) informed the district council that last week the Cabinet had concluded six preliminary agreements for the purchase of six parcels of land in Moutfort, needed for the building of a new fire station. For urgent reasons in order to take this project forward, this item was placed on the agenda for today’s meeting, as a matter of necessity.

Four of the six preliminary purchase agreements have already been signed and presented to the district council. However, the agreements are null and void if the district council does not obtain the necessary permissions for the build. The district council approved the four preliminary agreements presented as follows:

a. Purchase of land in Moutfort

The district council approved the preliminary agreement for purchase of the parcel of land with cadaster number 1597/1277, located in Contern district, Moutfort and Medingen Section B, in the location "Am Todenweg", with a total area of 13 are 20 centiare, for a sales price of € 429,000.00.

b. Purchase of land in Moutfort

The district council unanimously approved the preliminary agreement for purchase of the parcel of land with cadaster number 1602/5236, located in Contern district, Moutfort and Medingen Section B, in the location "Am Todenweg", with a total area of 12 are 88 centiare, for a sales price of € 418,600.00.

c. Purchase of land in Moutfort

The district council unanimously approved the preliminary agreement for purchase of the parcel of land with cadaster number 1385/3345, located in Contern district, Moutfort and Medingen Section B, in the location "Am Todenweg", with a total area of 18 are 00 centiare. The sales price is € 585,000, but for a part of the sales price farming land with a total area of 231.20 are and a value of € 231.20 is being exchanged. Accordingly, in a quid pro quo the owner is receiving, in Moutfort and Medingen Section B, the parcels of land with cadaster numbers 876/2, 877/2776, 878/2776, 888/1045, 889/1165, 905/5061 and 905/5062 in the location "Im Geissert", 436 and 437 in the location "Medingerhaide", 459/3525 in the location "Grentgesberg", and, in Contern Section A, parcels with cadaster numbers 777/1960 and 777/1961 in the location "Beim Kackert".

d. Purchase of land in Moutfort

The district council unanimously approved the preliminary agreement for purchase of the parcel of land with cadaster number 1597/912, located in Contern district, Moutfort and Medingen Section B, in the location "Am Todenweg", with a total area of 13 are 20 centiare, for a sales price of € 429,000.00.

18. Approval of income

The district council unanimously approved income of € 229,130.49 for 2022 and € 2,090,560.62 for 2023.

19. Announcements and councillor questions

Laurence WOLTER (Déi Gréng) commented that hedge and grass waste was regularly found in non-compostable waste bags in the green bin containers in Moutfort. Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) gave an assurance that these were carefully sorted out by district council workers and disposed of.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) gave a reminder that the groundbreaking ceremony for the sports hall extension was being held on 5 June at 11.00 on the Um Ewent school campus.

Eric EIFES (DP) asked why no *Compte rendu* brochure had been published since last summer. Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) advised that this was due to the current staff shortage, a consequence of maternal leave and restructurings in several departments. However, the reports of district council meetings can be viewed at any time on the district council's website.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) thanked councillors for their excellent collaboration over the past years. In particular, she thanked Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) for his outstanding collaboration in the last legislative period. She praised his political commitment over 25 years, and his major involvement in local politics. The Mayor also thanked Déi Gréng Councillor Laurence WOLTER for her outstanding collaboration over the past years. It was similarly her last district council meeting before the elections, as she was not standing as a candidate again.

An observant member of the public noted that the entrance area to the new *Office social* building was not suitable for disabled persons. The Mayor explained that a stair-lift was already ordered and was to be installed soon. For technical reasons, this could only be done after the stairs were completed. The member of the public further noted that a sign by the car park in Route de Remich in Moutfort made exiting difficult. The Mayor confirmed this information would be passed on to Technical Services, in order to resolve the problem.