

(Translation)

Minutes of the 2nd Special Meeting of Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)
under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 12 August 2021 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHUM Tak-shing

Members

Mr LAU Wai-chung, Lawrence (Left at 10:20 a.m.)

Mr LEE Man-ho, Leos (Arrived at 9:47 a.m.)

Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay

Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet

Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon

In Attendance

Mr WONG Yan-yin, Paul, JP

District Officer (Sham Shui Po)

Mr LEE Wai-yin, Brett

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1

Miss CHIN Wai-sheung, Doris

Senior Liaison Officer 1, Sham Shui Po District Office

Miss LAU Sze-nga, Vivicia

Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office

Mr TAM Kin-fai, Simon

Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office

Secretary

Ms HO Kam-ping, Jennifer

Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sham Shui Po District Office

Absent

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Mr MAK Wai-ming

Ms NG Mei, Carman

Opening Remarks

The Vice-chairman welcomed Members to the second special meeting of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”) (6th term). She said that the office of Chairman of SSPDC was currently vacant because Mr YEUNG Yuk, the former Chairman of SSPDC, had resigned from his post as a Member of SSPDC on 8 July this year. According to Order 4(2) of the Sham Shui Po District Council Standing Orders, Members must elect a Chairman from amongst themselves at the first meeting of the District Council (“DC”) after the office became vacant, and therefore this special meeting was convened.

Item 1: Election of Chairman of the Sixth Term Sham Shui Po District Council

2. The Vice-chairman said that the Secretariat had sent an e-mail to Members on 5 August this year to invite them to make nominations for the office of Chairman of SSPDC and the e-mail specified that the nomination forms must be returned to the Secretariat one hour before the start of the election meeting, i.e. at or before 8:30 a.m. on 12 August this year. At the close of the nomination period, the Secretariat had received one valid nomination form for the office of Chairman of SSPDC in which Mr CHUM Tak-shing was nominated, and his nomination was made by Mr Ramon YUEN and seconded by Mr Jay LI and Mr Leos LEE.

3. Mr CHUM Tak-shing accepted the nomination.

4. The Vice-chairman said that in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Schedule 5 under the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), if only one candidate was nominated for the office of Chairman, the candidate was treated as having been elected Chairman. Since only Mr CHUM Tak-shing was nominated, she announced that Mr CHUM Tak-shing was elected as Chairman of the sixth term SSPDC.

[Mr CHUM Tak-shing presided at the meeting in the capacity of Chairman of DC.]

5. The Chairman thanked Members for their support. He said that although he had served on SSPDC for many years, he still needed to keep learning and sought Members for their guidance.

Item 2: Any other business

6. Mr Jay LI said that as the number of Members had reduced, he enquired whether DC would be reorganised to ensure smooth operation.

7. The Chairman said that it would be difficult to handle the work of the five committees with the current number of Members so it was necessary to consider merging.

8. Mr Ramon YUEN suggested merging the five committees into three so that the District Facilities Committee (“DFC”) would merge with the Community Affairs Committee (“CAC”), the Environment and Hygiene Committee (“EHC”) would merge with the Housing Affairs Committee (“HAC”), and the Planning Development and Transport Affairs Committee (“PTAC”) would remain unchanged as it had more matters to handle. He then suggested merging working groups and said that those under DC could merge with those under committees if necessary, for example, the Working Group on the Conservation Work of the Service Reservoir at Mission Hill, the Working Group on Urban Greening and Tree Management and the Working Group on Environmental Protection could be merged into one. He enquired whether another meeting would need to be convened to handle the matter.

9. The Chairman said that the next DC meeting would be held on 14 September this year and he hoped that the DC reorganisation proposal would be endorsed that day.

10. The District Officer said that although Mr YUEN had just put forward some merging suggestions at the meeting, he should still provide the justifications for his DC reorganisation proposal in the form of a paper, seek the views of different stakeholders including co-opted members and departments, and provide the views to all Members for consideration. He worried that if only a preliminary proposal was available at the moment, it was uncertain whether the relevant procedures could be completed before 14 September.

11. Ms Janet NG said that the discussion in this meeting could help the Secretariat prepare a DC reorganisation proposal and then the Secretariat could provide it to different stakeholders for reference and comment by means of paper circulation; she hoped that the proposal would be endorsed in the meeting on 14 September.

12. Mr Ramon YUEN suggested submitting the preliminary DC reorganisation proposal to the Chairman and the Secretariat after the meeting for follow up action.

13. The Chairman said that merging the working groups under DC with those under committees was not only more complicated but also involved more stakeholders, and it was necessary to consider whether there would be enough members. He was concerned whether there would be enough time to conduct consultations before the next DC meeting.

14. Ms Janet NG opined that there would be enough time to conduct consultations

and pointed out that Members should attend this special meeting if they had opinions on the structure of DC and the progress of DC should not be affected by the absence of some Members.

15. Mr Ramon YUEN put forward suggestions on the merging of working groups, including merging the three working groups under PTAC into one; merging the working groups relating to public housing under HAC into one; merging the Working Group on Markets, Street Traders and Food Safety and the Working Group on Pest Control in Community under EHC into one while cancelling the Non-standing Working Group on Concerns over the Operation of Cheung Wah Street Public Refuse Collection Point; expanding the functions of the Working Group on Urban Greening and Tree Management under DFC to cover the work on environmental protection and community conservation; merging the Working Group on Elderly and Rehabilitation Services and the Working Group on Children and Youth Affairs under CAC with the Working Group on Poverty Problems and Ethnic Minorities directly under DC, as well as merging the Working Group on Community Building and District Bazaars under CAC with the Working Group on Pang Tsai and Fashion Base directly under DC.

16. The District Officer said that the Secretariat would only provide administrative support while suggestions on merging of committees and working groups should be put forward by Members. He suggested that Members submit papers on the reorganisation of DC, which should not only contain the proposed organisational chart of DC but also specify the justifications concerned clearly, for other Members' consideration and comment.

17. The Chairman said that the reorganisation of DC would not be put to vote immediately in this meeting. He then said that after suggestions and justifications had been put forward by Members, he would ask the Secretariat to process the information. He hoped that the names, functions and structures of committees and working groups after the reorganisation could be put to vote in the meeting on 14 September.

18. Ms Janet NG said that the original intent of merging committees and working groups was to maintain smooth operation of DC with the reduced number of Members. She said that Members had preliminarily discussed the reorganisation of DC beforehand, and the Members present at the meeting had reached a consensus on that and could put forward their views to the Chairman if they had any.

19. The Chairman said that he hoped all Members could discuss the structure of DC together but it was not feasible to convene another special meeting before the next meeting.

20. Mr Ramon YUEN said that given the time limits, he hoped to consult stakeholders about the preliminary proposal as quickly as possible after the meeting so that they could put forward their views as early as possible.

21. The District Officer enquired whether Members would submit papers regarding the DC reorganisation suggestions.

22. Mr Ramon YUEN said that the views put forward in the meeting were very clear and the information should be passed to the absent Members and other stakeholders as quickly as possible.

23. The Chairman said that the organisational chart of DC in the first DC meeting had been prepared by the Secretariat.

24. Ms Janet NG said that for all the past discussions about the structure of DC, the discussion results had been provided by Members to the Secretariat, which had then helped prepare the papers concerned.

25. Mr Ramon YUEN said that Members might need to provide the functions of committees and working groups in writing to facilitate the endorsement by DC and the relevant committees. He had an open attitude towards how to submit the information and prepare the organisational chart.

26. The District Officer said that as the structure of the five committees had been functioning effectively in DC of previous terms, it had not been specifically discussed in the first DC meeting; however, the changes suggested in this meeting were relatively substantial so procedurally papers should be submitted and justifications should be specified clearly. He then said that the functions of committees and working groups might change after the reorganisation, the Secretariat could not draft those for Members and they needed to do it themselves.

27. Mr Jay LI said that if drafting the papers concerned was a necessary procedure, he would prepare them as quickly as possible; if any amendments were proposed by Members, they could be presented in the meeting on 14 September for endorsement.

28. The Chairman said that he agreed with the above direction and asked the Members concerned to prepare the papers.

29. Mr Ramon YUEN pointed out that some funding applications had been endorsed by the Working Group on Healthy and Safe Community (“WGHSC”) in its July meeting and he enquired about the progress of the handling concerned. Also, he had provided

the concepts for “the survey on patients’ rights in Sham Shui Po District” (“the survey on patients’ rights”) and the “Sham Shui Po District Community Diagnosis Report” (“Community Diagnosis Report”) study in the WGHSC meetings in October last year and May this year respectively, but the Secretariat still had not issued tender invitations to invite organisations or groups in the district to submit applications, and he enquired about the reasons behind.

30. The Secretary said that as WGHSC had proposed amendments to some funding applications in its meetings earlier, the Secretariat needed to obtain consent from the organisations or groups concerned and make the amendments and adjustments. The Secretariat had processed the applications as quickly as possible and hoped to arrange circulation within this month, while approval letters would be issued in accordance with the established procedures after the circulation.

31. The District Officer responded that paragraph 2.2 of the Guidelines on the Use of Sham Shui Po District Council Funds for Community Involvement Projects stated that “DC funds are used for meeting district needs”, while “the survey on patients’ rights” did not seem to be within the specific areas covered by the funds. Also, he said that Mr Ramon YUEN had participated in activities of the same type in his own capacity before, which had resulted in litigation; given that the results of the survey above might cause controversy, the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”) also needed to consider whether DC could bear the legal risks concerned. As for the “Community Diagnosis Report” study, the Chairman of WGHSC still had not explained in detail the application and technical proposal of “artificial intelligence”, and therefore the Secretariat was unable to follow up. He then said that artificial intelligence algorithms generally had to be developed through conducting studies and it did not seem feasible to use the budget currently proposed to conduct the study concerned.

32. Mr Ramon YUEN said that regarding “the survey on patients’ rights”, as far as he understood, no department had indicated that the scope of the survey overlapped with its functions. He then said that healthcare and a healthy city were closely related and therefore he did not agree that the survey above was unrelated to district needs. As for the “Community Diagnosis Report” study, with the advancement of technology, “artificial intelligence” could identify features of high-risk buildings more precisely, while the draft tender invitation had specified that the study would develop algorithms both quantitatively and qualitatively and that organisations would need to provide artificial intelligence algorithms themselves, which allowed them to evaluate whether to submit an application or not.

33. The Chairman said that it was not appropriate to have professional analyses and detailed discussions about the study now. He hoped that the Secretariat or SSPDO could

handle it as quickly as possible and enquired why further handling was not possible yet.

34. The District Officer responded that the Secretariat had been handling the study concerned in accordance with the established procedures and had also made enquiries to the Chairman of WGHSC and helped with making amendments multiple times regarding the scope and details of the study. He then said that if SSPDO had other viewpoints and doubts, it would raise them as early as possible so that the Chairman of WGHSC could provide responses.

35. The Chairman suggested that SSPDO should make specific enquiries in writing to the Chairman of WGHSC.

36. The Chairman said that the next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 14 September 2021 (Tuesday).

37. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:27 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
October 2021