

MINUTES

of the

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

June 28, 2016

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KALANA O MAUI BUILDING, WAILUKU, HAWAII, ON TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016, BEGINNING AT 9:01 A.M., WITH CHAIR MICHAEL B. WHITE PRESIDING.

CHAIR WHITE: The Special Council meeting of the County of Maui shall please come to order.

Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS GLADYS C. BAISA, ROBERT CARROLL, DONALD G. COUCH JR., G. RIKI HOKAMA, MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, AND CHAIR MICHAEL B. WHITE.

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBERS ELEANORA COCHRAN, STACY CRIVELLO, AND VICE-CHAIR DONALD S. GUZMAN.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there are six Members "present" and three "excused". A quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

And Members, before we proceed, I'd like to honor a leader who made a true impact and a huge impact on this County; former Mayor Elmer Cravalho who passed away yesterday afternoon. Cravalho rose to power and prominence in the Democratic Revolution in 1954, and served as the Speaker of the State and Territorial Houses from 1958 to 1967.

And the, one of the iconic photos in our history is that when Cravalho, who relayed the message from John Burns, who was in Washington, D.C., to a packed House of Representatives at Iolani Palace to announce that Hawaii had been given Statehood.

In 1966, Cravalho decided to return to Maui and won a special election victory over Manuel Molina by 139 votes, to become Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Under the new Charter, which was approved in 1968, the Mayor position was established and he was elected the County's first Mayor; a position he held until 1979.

According to former Councilmember Riki, Rick Medina, a little slip there, Mayor Cravalho was instrumental in creating Hale Mahaolu and had a hand in creating Maui Economic Opportunity. He was a leader that knew what he was doing and he was instrumental in getting the Kalana O Maui building, and was the first Mayor to occupy the ninth floor of this building.

He ran the Kula Federal Credit Union for over 20 years. And I supported Mr. Cravalho when he decided to run again for Mayor in 1990. And I know we all appreciate his incredible service to this County and the State.

So, if we, if you could please join me in a moment of silence for the former Mayor Elmer Cravalho.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE,
OBSERVED A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE
LATE MAYOR ELMER CRAVALHO.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Members.

And Ms. Baisa, would you like to add any comments?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yea, it's, it's a hard one. I think I've known Elmer most of my life. When I was a child, my mother was a cafeteria worker at Paia School. Elmer was a teacher there, and so I've known him that long.

And because I was attending Holy Rosary across the street, we would have Catholic holidays, and so my mother would take me with her to work, and I would go and spend the day with Elmer in his class. And throughout my life, he was a mentor.

I remember when I was trying to, well actually before that, he had suggested that I might want to apply for a job at MEO. I had no idea what MEO was. But, he said they were looking for an accountant. And at that time I was working at the hospital. So I applied and went to work at MEO, and I guess the rest is history. So, that's another thing he did in my life.

When I decided that I wanted to try to run for Council, he's the first person I talked to. Because it was important to me to have his advice and his support. And of course, he was very supportive. And at any time where there was a major decision that I had to make, I always consulted him.

The man had incredible vision. And he had an incredible sense of how to get things done. And if you look around Maui County you will see, as well as the State of Hawaii, but more so here in Maui County, the way he planned things, the way he made things go. And let me tell you, he could make things happen. He was dedicated.

And on top of that, he had a heart. He loved disadvantaged people, and as a Mayor and in the Legislature, however he could help. MEO owes lots of its success to, to Mr. Cravalho. And it's a sad day. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Baisa. I knew you would have a very special perspective.

Members, any other, Mr. Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Mr. Chair, I, I may not have had the experience as Ms. Baisa had with Mayor Cravalho. But, I can tell you, my mom had gone to school with him, and I always had a great deal of respect. And I knew about this Mayor Cravalho, or Board of Supervisor Cravalho long before I even came to this island in 1973.

And I remember in 1975, four MCC students, MCC students, Maui Community College students had qualified for the national competition in Hollywood, Florida. Four boys, none of them had enough money if you put it altogether, to even get to Honolulu. And the first thing we were told is go see Mayor Cravalho. And we did, four of us went up to the ninth floor, met with him. And he listened to what we had done, what we had planned to do, and what we, what we were trying to accomplish. And I remember him saying, "Okay, I will have you in contact with certain people, they'll be calling you, make sure you guys available".

Right after that we got calls from Hannibal Tavares, from A&B. We got called from Manuel Moniz, Hawaiian Airlines, and a couple other important people, put it all together. And the four of us left Maui to compete in Hollywood, Florida. All expenses, what we needed was taken care of.

And for especially myself and another person, had never left Maui. This was the first time we went to the mainland. And let me tell you, what an eye-opening experience. But, we owe it all to him. And that was one of many great stories.

Through the years I've met with him for breakfast at his favorite place, and that was IHop. Many mornings I had had discussions with him, along with Calvin Nemoto and my chair, just to talk about politics, but just to talk about life. And he and my mom had a very good relationship, and he always would talk about my mom.

And so, this day, like you Ms. Baisa, is a hard day because we lost a great leader. A person that's helped me form what I am today, but more important has formed Maui to what it is today, Mr. Chair. And I think all of us have many, many great memories of this man.

Elmer, when he wanted something done, it got done. It's not the way it is today, but back then, you could do it, and no one gave Elmer any lip when it came to that. He had a heart of gold, and he took care of the people of Maui County. And we are in a better place today because of him.

We'll miss him dearly, but his legacy will long, long live on. He'll be in our hearts and in our minds of all the good things he led us, whether it was MEO, whether it was Maui Economic Development, whatever it might have been. Elmer Cravalho always said, the people, especially our needy, are the most and his number one priority. And if you take care of them, the rest of Maui County will take care of itself. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Victorino.

Mr. Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you, Chair. In the early seventies, when Hana was for sale, the Hana Ranch and Hotel was for sale as a block, had a millionaire, I believe . . . was his name, was going to purchase the entire, everything over there. And he came and saw Elmer, and he had a plan; it was two hotels, four different big condominium units, a golf course, just, it would have looked more like Lahaina.

And he met with Elmer, and Elmer said, I can't stop people buying the land, but I'm not going to let you build anything over there. And he left, and built a, a big paper mill down in South America someplace. If it wasn't for him, Hana wouldn't exist today like it is now.

He was always responsive to us. When our credit union got problems, Kula Credit Union came inside and saved us.

I met with him many times on community things, and he was always responsive, when he was Mayor and after he was Mayor. And we're really going to miss him.

I don't miss going to Kula Credit Union at five in the morning to meet with him though, cause that's when he used to say, yea okay Bob, be there at five o'clock. And living in Hana, you know what time I had to leave to get over there at five o'clock? That's the only part I won't miss. Other than that, I appreciate all he's done for us, especially for Hana and East Maui, and we will all miss him. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

Anyone else care to provide comments?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair.

CHAIR WHITE: Yes, Mr. Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chairman, I'd like to share a few comments from my perspective, please. I join my colleagues, and you Chairman, in expressing our condolences and sympathy to his sister, and of course niece, that some of us had the pleasure of knowing. And although maybe his immediately family may be small, I think the extended family, of all the people he touched in his life, have a sense of loss today.

You know, Elmer Cravalho was truly a great man. I knew him from the day I was born, 1953, and how he participated, his role in the 1954 social revolution or the Democratic Revolution that made a big change in Hawaii through our politics, through our economy, to a social reform, to labor's growth in, in supporting workers' rights.

This man played a key part in catching the wave of what the 54 called catch the wave with Governor Burns. People like Jack Hall from Maui, had Patsy Mink, Elmer Cravalho, Tom Tagawa, Lanny Morisaki, Joe Bulgo, you name those old County fathers and mothers, Caroline Rodrigues from Molokai. Those people served with a great heart, Chairman. And Mr. Cravalho, in my estimation, was one of those that

had a keen sense, as Ms. Baisa says, of a vision of a better Maui County, a better State of Hawaii.

He had the unique ability of understanding a process, and how to use the process to the presiding officer's advantage to conduct the business. Because even then, with a majority of Democrats, you had those that had different points of view. And we all went through those different eras, whether you call it the Burns group or the Tom Gill group, there was always great discussion among ourselves on what was the best for our people. And Elmer Cravalho never put down the gauntlet or the banner to speak up for Maui's people.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, one of the things that, of course, Mayor Cravalho did was he never tooted his own horn. Although he was a very strong leader, very visible leader, I always felt there was a sense of humility in him. He was a hard-driving administrative officer; everyone acknowledges that. But, if you look at his accomplishments as some of our colleagues have shared, it was about what was better for the greater community.

One of the things that this County did not need to do, but he was passionate to do it, was how to help the immigrant component of new people to this County, okay. The County didn't have to do it, but he made sure that for that era of time of our workforce, the need to have the Filipino community be able to have communications, governmental services, assistance in allowing them to fulfill their vision of their American dream via Hawaii, the Mayor did those things.

And that is why we have Immigration Services today. Something Mayor Cravalho felt was important to help assimilate those that are coming to our County to become a true part of our County and become one of us, instead of asking us to become one of them. That showed great vision, and a great ability to communicate with a Council that supported those efforts. So, obviously, the man had a great skill in communication, had a great skill in negotiating. He had a great skill in human relations.

And I would say, if anything, he showed me why our form of governance works. Because he made the structure work, and that man had strong personalities. And I, I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, if you know him, he had his battles because of personalities too, okay. But that's part of leadership; taking a stand and asking people why they should consider his position, and why he felt it was the right thing to do for the, this County at that point in time.

And so, I feel a great loss today. But I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, I am grateful, I am thankful, that this man gave service to this County, because today this County is

financially strong. We have policies in place. And he has lived up for us to be able to say and pass on to the next generation, Maui No Ka Oi. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Hokama.

Ms. Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair, I'm sorry, I'll make this very quick. But, there's one thing that I'd like to wrap this, talk about this great man. I'd like to share it with everyone.

He was very paternal and liked to give advice. And, I was a firecracker when I was younger, and you know, I'm not as calm and nice as I am today. And I was talking with him, I was talking with him one day, and he told me, he looked straight across the desk and he looked me in the eyes and he says, "Young lady I'm going to give you some advice". And I said, "Okay, Mr. Mayor". He said, "You know that little piece of meat in your mouth? You watch it. It's going to get you into trouble". He says, "You swallow three times before you open your mouth". And I think of that every single day. I hear him saying, "Be careful when you open your mouth". Thank you, Elmer.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

Okay, Mr. Clerk, may we please proceed? And thank you all for your wonderful comments about Mayor Cravalho.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there are no individuals in the District Offices nor the chamber who wish to offer testimony. We also have not received any written testimony.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. With that, Members, we'll close public testimony.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay.

Mr. Clerk, please proceed.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, proceeding with ordinances, second and final reading.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. _____
BILL NO. 72 (2016)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI
AS IT PERTAINS TO APPENDIX A, PART I, GRANT REVENUE –
SCHEDULE OF GRANTS BY DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS,
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
(SECTION 8 HOUSING PROGRAM)

CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chairman, thank you.

I MOVE THAT BILL 72 PASS SECOND AND FINAL READING.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO:

MR. CHAIR, I SECOND THE MOTION.

CHAIR WHITE: We have a motion from Mr. Hokama and a second from Mr. Victorino.

Mr. Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chairman, I am asking the Members to please support the motion on the floor. This will allow the Department of Housing and Human Concerns to move forward with their budgetary requirements to conclude Fiscal Year 2016 on a, on a note that they are able to meet their obligations, Chairman.

This is something that we had to work with the Department. And I would like to thank the Committee staff in allowing the body to be able to consider this today for final action. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Hokama.

Members, any discussion on this item? Seeing none, all those in favor please signify by saying "aye".

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS BAISA, CARROLL, COUCH,
HOKAMA, VICTORINO, AND CHAIR WHITE.

CHAIR WHITE: Those opposed say "no".

NOES: NONE.

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBERS COCHRAN, CRIVELLO, AND
VICE-CHAIR GUZMAN.

CHAIR WHITE: Measure passes with six "ayes", and three "excused", Members Cochran,
Crivello, and Guzman.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there is no further business before the Council.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Members.

And we'll be convening our Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 10:00 this
morning, so please be back in the chambers for Mr. Hokama's meeting.

Thank you very much, and we are adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting of June 28, 2016 was adjourned by the Chair at 9:20 a.m.



DENNIS A. MATEO, COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII