

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

<b>PRESENT</b>	An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran.
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan.
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M. R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, O. O’Leary.
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. N. Carroll, Meetings Administrator.

An tArdmhéara, the Chief Executive and Elected Members entered the Council Chamber in procession led by the Mace Bearers.

1. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to allow recording and streaming of the meeting.

2. **AN tARDMHÉARA’S ADDRESS**

An tArdmhéara addressed the meeting as follows;

‘Dear colleagues, dear senior management team, dear former Lord Mayors, dear church leaders, dear Oireachtas members, dear members of the National Expert Advisory Group, dear members of our own steering group here and dear friends.

Across three Council terms, the past three Council Terms, Cork City Council, the political and the executive side of the house have collaborated to explore and commemorate key historical events during the seminal years 1912-1923. And to enable this, there has been a rich reflection programme put in place, which we’ve all journeyed through and events such as the quest for Home Rule, the First World War, the Easter Rising, the Irish War of Independence, the Irish Civil War and many other historical reckonings are pitched as a baseline in terms of where modern Irish society came from and they are forever etched into not only Cork’s historical consciousness but also Ireland’s historical consciousness as well.

For a whole array of political, social, cultural purposes, the events of these years have been constructed and reconstructed, imagined and reimagined, time and time again since the foundation of the state. In fact, some of the key events have morphed into powerful national metaphors for Irish identity. The events are written and spoken about in almost mythic terms, defined and redefined, stilled and redistilled, everything from the reading of the Proclamation during the Easter Rising, the surrender, the executed leaders, the questions of clemency, the internment camps, the beginning of the War of Independence, the deaths of Cork's Lord Mayors, the burning of Cork, the quest for sovereignty and democracy, the Irish Civil War and the emerging Irish Free State.

And there are these and much more, all aspects stitched into a National History Framework, a cultural consciousness, a continuous conversation about Irish heritage by successful Irish Governments, by civil society and by citizens and what the building blocks of a national nostalgic and national collective memory should be and their meaning, relevancy, value and connection in today's world.

And dear colleagues, between 1912-1923, there were multiple conversations to be held, a kaleidoscope of ideas which provided the context and framework for revolution and everyday life being one, and some of these contexts led Cork citizens to connect with the Republican mantra at the time and others just to maintain existence, survive and struggle with the bleakness of a national and local economy. And one such lens to explore the multiple conversations and questions are newspapers and entering the newspapers which form part of this Special Meeting, The Cork Constitution, Cork Examiner, Evening Echo, Irish Times, Freeman Journal, Irish Independent on any day and month between 1912-1923 and if you progress page by page, one discovers key nuggets about the nature of Irish society, Cork society and in Cork's case, the ongoing social, cultural and political conversations about remaining a contemporary status of being one of Ireland's distinguished port cities and all the advantages and problems with that.

And our meeting this evening allows you, dear colleagues, to explore, read and reflect upon a cross-section of the more important themes which emerged during the decade and a cross-section of this Council will verbatim read what was said in the newspapers. There has been no editing of the trains of thought within the paragraphs that you will read, however, for the purpose of time, you will not read the full articles and for another evening's work, the politics behind the various newspapers will have to be covered but it's important to note that censorship was in operation and was defined by Westminster as defense against the Realm Act so all that is said and what you're going to read in these extracts, for all the sentences you will read, there were many more sentences that were not allowed to be published. So, on each extract it's really really important to read between the lines.

Indeed, throughout the years and reading the newspapers from 1912-1923, imperial structures such as Westminster, they provide a role of a mother figure of sorts, the press from Westminster holding it all together, however and even physically time was behind. Cork was twenty-five minutes behind Greenwich and it was a debate that was held in 1916. Indeed, there was a gun on Cork South Docks which fired at 12:35 everyday up to 1916. However, dear colleagues, as we journey through the newspaper extracts selected this evening, they do provide a sounding board of sorts of life and society between 1912-1923 and in truth there's much to learn from this time not just on the political side but that life itself in any city such as Cork, it keeps moving and that society needs to grow and evolve in

it and that even from an intense time in Ireland's past, there is much to learn about the diverse framework of historical events and how they shape ourselves and our future.

As this is part of the closing event for this period of commemoration, we will also be joined by representatives of our main churches and we will pray in remembrance of those who died in all sides of the conflict but first of all I would like to invite the Chief Executive to address the Council to speak and then we will move to you, dear Members.'

### 3. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ADDRESS**

The Chief Executive addressed the meeting as follows;

'Thank you. Lord Mayor, Members of Council, it's a great pleasure for me to be here this evening and whilst the Commemorative programme was a national programme led by the Minister at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Community-led commemoration was a cornerstone of the State's approach and Local Authorities were entrusted to lead and deliver on the programme at a local level.

I want to applaud the contribution and leadership of the Elected Members of this Council through our Commemorations Committee, who in response to that national programme, established a local Community Commemorations Fund, and adopted a commemorations framework that was sensitive, inclusive, recognizing that history is not black and white and that stories must be told from all sides to allow for reconciliation and healing.

I want to acknowledge the Commemorations Steering Group which included staff from across a range of Council Services together with our key external partners. Libraries, Parks, Arts, Museums, Community, Heritage, Archives not only came up with creative projects in response to the programme, but they also took the opportunity to pivot their own day-to-day work plans to enable a focus on Commemorations. Examples include the ARDU street art initiative, fusing together Creative Ireland, commemorations and Cork City Councils own Arts programme to create street art inspired by Cork 1920.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our external partners on the Commemorations Steering Group including Gerry White, Dr John Borgonovo, Dr Gabriel Doherty and colleagues from the Defence Forces.

I would also like to especially thank our own team in Corporate Affairs for coordinating the programme and the administration of projects and of the funding. It is fitting that Nicky is here tonight as the secretary to our meeting because of Nicky's role in coordinating most of the programme and I want to acknowledge that.

I particularly also want to mention the 1920 Commemorative programme. 1920 marked a pivotal year in the history of Cork and Ireland, it saw the Election of the first Republican Council, the first time universal franchise was extended to women and the first time the Proportional Representation system was used in Ireland. We had a significant programme of events and activities to commemorate 1920 but that had to be reshaped and replanned in response to Covid, so again I would like to thank all the efforts of everybody in ensuring the significance of those events was commemorated appropriately in what was quite difficult times.

I would also like to acknowledge the broad spectrum of public, private and academic institutions, community and voluntary sector partners, historical societies, schools, sports clubs and individual families who all participated in and delivered hundreds of individual projects. There's a few I'm just going to mention and it is not an inclusive list, but we did have some really interesting things. If you think of films, we had the IFTA nominated film documentary 'My Unsung Hero' about Joe Murphy who died on hunger strike, 'The Man in Uniform' set in Cork City on the precipice of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921 and telling the story of James O'Donoghue, a Sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary, the documentary called 'Endurance and Engagement: Cork City Women in 1920s.'

We also had a range of community projects, reconstruction of the city in 1920 in Minecraft, Remembrance Garden at Clashduv Park and talks held by local history groups and schools, tree planting, commemorative GAA jerseys. Many books were also produced including 'Witness to Murder' by our own Lord Mayor Kieran McCarthy and John O'Mahony in a transcript of Tomás MacCurtain's inquest from March to April 1920. 'The Forgotten Lord Mayor: Donal Óg O'Callaghan' written by Aodh Quinlivan. And then a range of exhibitions across our great facilities in the city, St. Peter's Church, our own museum, archives, libraries, the Glucksman, the Nano Nagle and the Crawford Art Gallery, all developing unique exhibitions in response to the programme.

So, I think I hope I've maybe illustrated the range, the breadth and the depth of what happened in this city led by you, the Elected Members of Cork City Council, to sensitively and adequately commemorate our Decade of Centenaries. Thank you very much.'

#### 4. **EXTRACTS FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Members of An Chomhairle to read extracts from local newspapers;

##### 4.1 **COMHAIRLEOIR KEN O'FLYNN - INDEPENDENT**

***An extract from The Cork Constitution - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1918***

#### **SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR IRELAND'S FUTURE SETTLEMENT**

We, the Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of the City of Cork, feel it incumbent upon us to express our views regarding the future settlement of the Irish question.

The spirit of unrest has lasted too long, to the detriment of our Country's future, and with no resultant good.

It therefore behoves us to clearly state our opinion that it would be better for us to sink our differences and unite for the general benefit of our whole Country, irrespective of politics or creed.

The time is more than opportune, if we work with unanimity, and the conditions which are now open to us of furthering trade and commerce within our Island are such as may never again arise.

A Convention was summoned, which consisted of all classes of Irishmen, and it arrived at a clear decision regarding the Proportionate Representation in the Legislatures proposed to be set up. We are prepared to accept such decision and consider it should be given a fair trial.

Without being in any way desirous of entering into political controversy, we believe it will be generally admitted that Ireland has had much to struggle against in the past, and has, therefore, much to make up.

Let us join unitedly in ‘‘making good.’’

#### 4.2 **COMHAIRLEOIR JOHN MAHER - LABOUR**

**Extract from *The Cork Examiner* – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1922**

##### **CIVIC GUARD.**

##### **Party Arrive in Cork For Duty in City and County.**

A party of the Civic Guard, numbering about sixty men, arrived in Cork yesterday from Dublin to take up their police duties in the city and county. They are at present stationed in the School of Music, and their numbers will be strengthened in a day or two by the arrival of a further contingent.

It is intended to send some of the members of this party to Midleton, Youghal, Clonakilty, Bandon, and later on, others will be drafted into the remaining towns of the county.

The numbers of the force who arrived yesterday morning, are remaining at the School of Music until their departure for the country districts which will probably take place today. About 20 or 30 are to take up duty in the city, and these in a few days will take over a building as a police barracks in the city.

The arrival of the Civic Guard, it may here be mentioned, is welcomed greatly by the citizens.

#### 4.3 **COMHAIRLEOIR FIONA KERINS – SINN FÉIN**

**Extract from *The Cork Examiner* – 29<sup>th</sup> November 1913**

##### **VOTES FOR WOMEN.**

##### **Social and Political Union Campaign Meeting in Cork.**

Under the auspices of the Cork Branch of the Women’s Social and Political Union, a public meeting in support of the extension of the franchise to women was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Cork. There was a good attendance of ladies in the chamber, while in the public gallery were a large number of men, chiefly composed of students of the University College. Admission to the meeting was free, a collection being made at the conclusion of the addresses to help to defray the expenses.

Miss Laura Lennox presided, and the speaker was Miss Dorothy Evans. While both ladies were addressing the meeting, they were subjected to some good humoured interruption by

the students, but during the proceedings there was nothing like the disorder which had been experienced at some former meetings held in support of the 'Votes for Women' campaign.

#### 4.4 **COMHAIRLEOIR MARY ROSE DESMOND – FIANNA FÁIL**

***The Evening Echo – 20<sup>th</sup> March 1920***

##### **CORK CONSTABLE SHOT DEAD ON POPE'S QUAY.**

##### **Eight Bullet Wounds.**

The series of sensation arising out of the prevailing unrest in the country was tragically supplemented last night, when Constable Joseph Murtagh was shot dead on Pope's Quay. The deceased policeman was a widower, aged about 40, and a native of county Meath.

The scene of the shooting was Pope's Quay, on the north bank of the Lee, and the shooting took place as nearly as can be ascertained about twenty minutes to eleven, and details are meagre. The main facts, however, appear to be that at the time the constable was walking along the quay, and had passed the Dominican Church, when he was attacked. A number of shots were fired and the unfortunate man fell. Death must have been instantaneous, as it was learned later that no less than eight bullets penetrated his body, a ninth glanced off, and a tenth passed through the leather of his left boot and lodged in the sole.

The deceased, who was stationed at Sunday's Well, had 24 years' service. He was a widower and leaves three children. He had the reputation of being a most inoffensive man... The crime is surrounded with mystery, as deceased seems to have been one of the most popular members of the city force.

#### 4.5 **COMHAIRLEOIR MICK NUGENT – SINN FÉIN**

***Extract from The Freeman's Journal – 13<sup>th</sup> December 1920***

##### **ENLIGHTENING AMERICA.**

##### **Mrs. MacSwiney Gives Evidence in Washington.**

An Exchange message says: - Mrs. MacSwiney on Saturday took the witness-stand at the Commission of Inquiry at Washington and declared: "We, of the Irish nation", are going to get our freedom. You cannot keep in continual slavery people, every one of whom is ready to die for his country."

This ringing declaration brought forth thunders of applause from the large audience which packed the Oddfellows' Hall.

"You Americans have not made the world safe for democracy. You have only made it safe for the British for a short time," said Mrs. MacSwiney before the Commission on Friday during an eight-hours' statement of the Irish wrongs.

Many senators and representatives are daily present at the hearings, and the country's Press devotes much space to chronicling the most important statements.

#### 4.6 COMHAIRLEOIR COLETTE FINN – GREEN PARTY

Extract from *The Irish Times* – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1922

##### THE RELIEF OF CORK. HOW THE CITY WAS ENTERED.

**Cork, Sunday**

A great change has come over Cork City. From a state of suspense and anxiety, the people have passed to one of relief and satisfaction. The surprise landing of national troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Division at Passage, and the subsequent evacuation of the city by irregulars meant that an ordeal which everyone dreaded had not to be faced. There was no street fighting to speak of, although from the display of force and the preparations made by the irregulars, it was believed that a determined effort would be made to hold the city. The national Army's strategy, however, proved to be more than equal to the occasion, and the cordial reception which the troops received on their entry into Cork on Thursday showed how the people longed for their coming.

##### TROOPSHIP UNDER FIRE

Some details as to how the landing at Passage was carried out may be of interest. At eleven o'clock on Monday night the steamer, Avronia, arrived off Roche's Point without lights. Having cruised about for a couple of hours, a pilot was picked up at Queenstown, and the steamer went towards the river. At several points she was challenged and warned that she would be fired on if she went up the channel. For a while the Avronia cruised about without lights, and eventually steered slowly towards Passage., where the irregulars were known to have an outpost. Here several shots were fired at the vessel, but the troops on board did not reply. On approaching what may be described as the makeshift landing stage, a man came forward with a lantern...

#### 4.7 COMHAIRLEOIR ORLA O'LEARY – SINN FÉIN

Extract from *The Cork Examiner* – 17<sup>th</sup> January 1920

##### THE ELECTIONS. First Results. How "P.R." Worked.

Counting the votes under "P.R." conditions took place in the Irish towns yesterday. Generally the systems may be regarded as having had a successful start. The percentage of spoiled votes was small.

The Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Ireland stated yesterday that there was proof that the electorate on the whole had grasped the principles of P.R. , and the Society was convinced that there would not be more than 4 or 5 percent of spoiled votes.

In Cork the count took place in circumstances of perfect quiet and harmony. But there was plenty of evidence of a high degree of public interest.

#### 4.8 **COMHAIRLEOIR PAUDIE DINEEN - INDEPENDENT**

**Extract from *The Cork Examiner* – 24<sup>th</sup> August 1922**

**IRELAND'S WOE.**  
**NATIONAL HERO DIES.**  
**KILLED IN AMBUSH.**

An appalling catastrophe has befallen the Irish people. The Nation was plunged into grief yesterday morning when the almost incredible fact became known that General Michael Collins was dead. Though generally disbelieved at first, the news was but too true.

Cork was at once plunged into mourning. All the business establishments ceased work for the day, and all the trams stopped running.

The grief-stricken populace learned the facts of the calamity in a special early edition of the "Echo".

The body was removed – under fire – to the armoured car, and brought to the Shanakiel Hospital, Cork. At noon yesterday, the dead hero was accorded a military funeral from the Hospital to Penrose Quay. The body was taken to Dublin on the steamer Classic. Crowds who thronged the streets openly displayed their grief at the loss of a gallant Corkman and an Irish National Hero.

General Mulcahy, Chief of Staff, in the course of a message to the men of the Army says: "Stand calmly by your posts, bravely and undaunted to your work. Let no cruel act of reprisal blemish your bright Honour. To each of you falls his unfinished work. Ireland, the Army serves, strengthened by its sorrow."

A message from the Irish Government says that Michael Collins "has been slain, to our unutterable loss – but he cannot die. He will live in the rule of the people, which he gave his great best to assert, and which his colleagues undertake as a solemn charge to maintain."

At Cork Corporation and Cork Harbour Board touching speeches were delivered, and arrangements were made to be represented at the funeral in Dublin.

#### 4.9 **COMHAIRLEOIR OLIVER MORAN – GREEN PARTY**

**Extract from *The Evening Echo* – 31<sup>st</sup> January 1920**

**CORK LORD MAYORALTY.**  
**Public Demonstration.**

The election of Ald. Thomas MacCurtain as Lord Mayor of Cork, and the nominee of the Sinn Féin Party, was celebrated in the city last night by a public demonstration. It took the form of a procession with bands and tar barrels through the principal streets. The point of assembly was at the Sinn Féin headquarters at the Grand Parade. About half-past eight the Eamon Lordan, which is a recently formed pipers band from the North West area, arrived at the Grand Parade, followed by a number of men marching in military formation, and apparently Volunteers. Later on they were joined by other companies of Volunteers,



accompanied by the Brian Boru Pipers Band and the Irish Volunteers' Pipers Band. Each contingent carried a large number of tar barrels, which, when all the contingents had gathered, were set on fire, and the procession, headed by Lord Mayor MacCurtain, who was accompanied by Councillor McSwiney, M.P., Ald T. Barry, and others, started on its way.

Along the extensive route there were also many tributes paid to Ald. MacCurtain's election to the Lord Mayoralty of the City.

The procession coming to a halt at the Grand Parade, a public meeting was held and speeches were delivered from a lorry parked up outside the Sinn Féin rooms. The Lord Mayor, who was received with enthusiastic cheering, thanked the people for their many manifestations in his honour. He did not take these manifestations as personal, but as showing the earnestness of the spirit of the young men and women, and old men and women, too, in the cause which he represented (cheers). He thanked the bands and the public for their splendid procession, which, despite the inclement weather assumed huge proportions – all going to show their enthusiasm for the one glorious cause (cheers).

#### 4.10 **COMHAIRLEOIR FERGAL DENNEHY – FIANNA FÁIL**

**Extract from *The Freeman's Journal* – 13<sup>th</sup> December 1920**

##### **IRISH CITY IN RUINS.**

**Cork Principal Buildings and Businesses Wiped Out by Fire.**

**NIGHT AND DAY OF HAVOC.**

**Military Party Ambushed: One Killed and Many Wounded.**

The weekend has been a dreadful one for an Irish city.

Cork has seen its principal businesses wiped out by devastating fires. Damage to the extent of two and half million pounds has been caused; industries built up by generations of old are gone; hundreds are without their prosperity; thousands without their means of livelihood.

A party of auxiliary cadets, driving from the military barracks in the city, were ambushed and one of their members was killed, many being wounded, some seriously. The fires, which broke out in an extensive drapery house, spread with terrific rapidity, and throughout Saturday night and all yesterday destruction wrought its havoc.

The premier municipality of the South has suffered an irreparable loss. With the fine business concerns of its leading citizens it has lost its Municipal Buildings. Its own Fire Brigade was unable to cope with the task, and its Lord Mayor appealed to the Lord Mayor of Dublin for help. This appeal was not in vain, for Captain Myers and a number of his gallant firefighters, with appropriate appliances, left Dublin by special train for the Lee city.

Up to a late hour last night the flames had not been completely extinguished. Most Rev. Dr. Cohalan, Bishop of Cork, has promulgated a Decree of Excommunication in connection with ambushes, kidnapping, and murder. His Lordship also referred to the terrible events of Saturday night in an address to the people at Mass, and asked them to pray that God in his Mercy may vouch us an honourable peace, which would of itself be an effective means of putting an end to crime and of reestablishing social order.

#### 4.11 COMHAIRLEOIR DERRY CANTY – FINE GAEL

*The Irish Independent – 8<sup>th</sup> August 1922*

##### CONDITIONS IN CORK.

##### Under The Irregular Regime.

A gentleman who has just reached Dublin from Cork describes the people as sullenly silent under the new regime. In public and private people are different in expressing their views. Most of them, probably 90 percent, particularly the working classes, are opposed to militarism in any form being imposed on them.

They adhere to the decision of the elections, and the vast bulk, as in Dublin, demand a restoration of normal working conditions, without embarrassment.

Both the capitalists and workers had agreed that the city had found an opening for new enterprise and industry, and while a large amount has been made available by the Irish government for the purposes of rebuilding, and merchants are disposed to develop their business, they are deterred from doing so by the unsettled conditions.

##### **A SORRY INSTANCE**

The people deeply deplore that while they were looking forward to a period of peace and prosperity after the elections, they are faced with conditions of strife and terror.

“I can only compare it,” said the gentleman interviewed, “to conditions we are told of, or have read about, in the Wild West.”

A sorry instance is that of the Blackpool mills – a spinning and weaving concern which is about to close down, with the result that 1,500 people will be disemployed. Other industries are adversely affected in the same way. Distributive workers in various businesses are largely out of employment at present. Several important firms have this week temporarily disemployed their hands, whilst others have given notice to discharge their employees.

#### 4.12 COMHAIRLEOIR COLM KELLEHER – FIANNA FÁIL

*Extract from The Cork Examiner – 30<sup>th</sup> October 1914*

##### Royal Munster Fusiliers

The heroism of the Royal Munster Fusiliers on the continental battlefields in the closing days of August has evoked tributes of warm admiration from people of all classes in the land of their birth. A letter from the senior surviving officer which appeared in yesterday’s ‘Examiner’ tells graphically, and with interesting detail, of the stand that they made against overwhelming odds. To fill the gaps that were made in this famous regiment, recruits have poured in from all parts of Munster, but there appears to be room for more.

The men who have joined will be sure to give a good account of themselves, and to act in accordance with the proud traditions of the Munster Fusiliers. To ensure that these men who are training for the battle line will be maintained in comfort during the winter, and will have

warm clothing etc., an energetic committee, with becoming philanthropy and public spirit have inaugurated a fund. Subscriptions have been received for it already, but more are wanting.

In further aid of the Munster Fusiliers Fund, a Rugby match between the officers of the Munsters and the University College will be held in the Mardyke at 3.30 tomorrow. Some of the best exponents of the code in the South, including Capt. Humphreys, R.M.F., will take part. There should be a large and appreciative attendance.

#### 4.13 **COMHAIRLEOIR GARRET KELLEHER – FINE GAEL**

**Extract from *The Cork Examiner* – 30<sup>th</sup> March 1920**

##### **APPALLING CRIME.**

##### **Cork Lord Mayor Shot Dead By Disguised Men In Presence of His Wife.**

Sensation follows sensation with delirious rapidity in Cork, and consternation was caused this morning when it became known that the Lord Mayor, Alderman Thomas McCurtain, was shot dead at his residence of 40, Thomas Davis Street, Blackpool. The circumstances of the terrible tragedy are again invested with mystery, and enlightenment as to the motive of the terrible crime can only be a matter for surmise. Briefly, the facts seem to be that Lord Mayor McCurtain, had retired to bed, when loud knocking was heard at the door.

The party who knocked at the door demanded admission, and refused a request of Mrs. McCurtain for time to dress herself, stating that they would bust in the door if it were not opened, and created a great deal of noise kicking at the lower panels of the door. Mrs. McCurtain opened the door and she was rudely brushed aside by two men who carried revolvers, wore caps and had blackened faces. These men were followed by two more, who carried rifles, and had their faces similarly disguised, whilst four more men entered the shop, two taking charge of the door, and prevented Mrs. McCurtain from going upstairs or leaving the shop at all.

Lord Mayor McCurtain, leaving his bedroom wearing his pants and nightshirt, was confronted by his assailants, who, without question or warning, fired two revolver shots at him. A moan was heard and the Lord Mayor was seen to fall backwards on the landing.

#### 4.14 **COMHAIRLEOIR DES CAHILL – FINE GAEL**

**Extract From *The Cork Examiner* – 31<sup>st</sup> March 1920**

##### **NEW LORD MAYOR.**

##### **Mr. Terence McSwiney, M.P. Elected.**

A special meeting of the Council of the Cork Corporation was held last evening at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a Lord Mayor in 'com' of the late Ald. Tomas MacCurtain, whose tragic death still fills the people with emotion and sorrow.

There was much public interest taken in the proceedings, the gallery being crowded.

Ald. De Róiste, speaking in Irish, proposed that T. McSwiney be elected (applause).

Ald. Barry seconded, and the motion was supported by Sir John Scott.

There was no other candidate proposed, and the Chairman, amid loud applause, declared Mr. Terence McSwiney unanimously elected.

As Mr. McSwiney left his seat in the Chamber to walk to the chair, the audience and members of Council stood up and cheered enthusiastically.

Having been invested with the chain of office, the Lord Mayor first spoke in Irish. He then continued: "I shall be as brief as possible. This is not an occasion for many words, least of all a conventional exchange of compliments and thanks. The circumstances of the vacancy in the office of Lord Mayor governed inevitably the filling of it. And I come here more as a soldier, stepping into the breach, than an administrator to fill the first post of the municipality. At a normal time it would be your duty to find for this post the Councillor most practised and experienced in public affairs. But the time is not normal.

"We see in the manner in which our late Lord Mayor was murdered an attempt to terrify us all. Our first duty is to answer that threat in the only fitting manner by showing ourselves unterrified, cool and inflexible, for the fulfilment of our chief purpose – the establishment of the independence and integrity of our country – the peace and happiness of our country. To that end I am here. I was more closely associated than any other hero with our late murdered friend and colleague, both before and since the events of Easter week, in prison and out of it, in a common work of love for Ireland, down to the hour of his death. For that reason I take his place. It is, I think, though I say it, the fitting answer to those who struck him down (applause).

#### 4.15 **COMHAIRLEOIR SHANE O'CALLAGHAN – FINE GAEL**

*Extract From The Cork Examiner – 11<sup>th</sup> September 1923*

**AMONG THE NATIONS.**  
**IRELAND TAKES HER PLACE.**  
**LEAGUE'S UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Ireland has literally taken her place amongst the Nations of the Earth. She was admitted to the League of Nations amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the assembly at Geneva.

President Cosgrave, speaking in Irish and English, thanked the delegates. He declared: "Today, with all the nations of this assembly, Ireland joins in a solemn covenant to exercise the powers of her sovereign status, in promoting the peace, security, happiness and wellbeing of the human race."

**(From Our Special Representative at Geneva)**

Geneva, Monday – What thrilled an Irishman most at today's assembly of the League of Nations was the reading of the rollcall by Chairman when the vote was taken on the admission of the Irish State to membership.

As the name of one free land after another was uttered the reply came rapidly, now from one side of the hall, now from another. It came in various tongues: “Oui”, “Yes”, “Si”, but the purport was always the same. It was uttered in varying degrees of intensity, but one could catch the ring of emotional fervour in the case of some nations, whose delegates felt their own history had something in it that brought a special relationship. Sympathy with Ireland! Could Poland, could Czechoslovakia, for instance, have failed in that recognition? But always the affirmative was given without hesitation and quickly.

One felt it was not delegates – it was sister nations themselves speaking, and when the long list had ended, and the tumult of applause greeted the Chairman’s formal announcement that Ireland had been unanimously into the League, one recognised this was a genuine welcome to a country whose claim to her heritage the world is now endorsing.

5. **SHORT ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

The meeting concluded with a short ecumenical service led by Bishop Paul Colton, Rev Andrew Robinson and Father Christy Fitzgerald. An Chomhairle noted the objections of Comhairleoirí L. Bogue and T. Tynan.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**ARDMHÉARA  
CATHAOIRLEACH**