

Syers: Failing to stand offensive

A "protest" by some members of the public attending this month's full council meeting was simply offensive behaviour, according to the council's Warwick Syers.

Since the installation of current Mayor Stan Semenoff councillors and staff have stood when he takes his seat for a full council meeting, which is then opened with a prayer.

The refusal by several members of the public to stand at full

council meetings, including last week's, "appalled and disgusted" finance committee chairman Cr Syers.

He pointed out at the start of the meeting that standing was a gesture of respect for the office of mayor and remaining seated was a snub to all those that have held the position over the years, adding council chambers had traditions to follow just as the courts and Parliament.

Cr Syers suggested if guests

wanting to enjoy the hospitality of the chambers weren't prepared to respect them then they should wait and join the meeting after the introductory prayer.

One of the protesters later remarked outside the chambers that remaining seated was only a "protest" and would have been better off ignored.

Mayor Stan Semenoff commented that Cr Syers' criticism had come as a surprise.

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