

## Laws scrutinised under conduct rules

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Media personality and radio talkshow host Michael Laws has become the first mayor to be scrutinised under code of conduct rules.

A group of Wanganui citizens claims the behaviour of their newly-elected civic leader is beyond the pale and violates several sections of the code.

Wanganui citizens arrived to present their case against Laws to the council's audit and administration committee.

Adding legal weight to their case was crusading lawyer and former Feilding mayor Rob Moodie.

"You can't have a consultative environment if when you poke your head up... you have to suffer the whiplash from his tongue," says Moodie.

The group claims since the high profile broadcaster and former MP won last year's mayoral election he's attacked community groups and the conservation department.

"DOC's all over the place...", Laws said a few weeks back.

Supporters of the city's Sarjeant Gallery have also suffered the mayoral wrath with claims they are elitist.

The group says Laws attacked the local exclusive brethren community saying they should be bred out of the gene pool.

Laws' outbursts have concerned many in the local community.

"When we have someone here who creates schisms, who's now got a lot of people angry at one another and uses this for his political benefit, or his personal benefit as a celebrity, what we have is a serious problem of governance," says Jay Kuten.

Laws did not attend the meeting, but asked that the council's investigation not be held in public. The councillors however rejected that request, voting overwhelmingly in favour of holding it in public.

From his office this afternoon Laws claimed the meeting was a misuse of council time.

"In my view there's no substance to the allegations. In my view I don't have a case to answer because it's just nutty," says Laws.

The committee will now decide whether the mayor has a case to answer, with the decision expected in time for next month's council meeting.

Source: [One News](#)