



**Minutes of Guelph City Council Inaugural Meeting
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
Monday December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Attendance

Council: Mayor C. Guthrie
Councillor P. Allt
Councillor B. Bell
Councillor C. Billings
Councillor C. Downer
Councillor D. Gibson
Councillor J. Gordon
Councillor J. Hofland
Councillor M. MacKinnon
Councillor L. Piper
Councillor A. Van Hellemond
Councillor K. Wettstein

Absent: Councillor M. Salisbury

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk called the meeting to order.

Ms. CJ Cooper lead the singing of O Canada.

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk opened the meeting with a short silent prayer/reflection.

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk administered the Declaration of Office to the Mayor and Members of City Council.

Mayor Guthrie presented Council pins to the members of City Council.

Councillor James Gordon and the Guelph Youth Singers performed "Our City".

Mayor Guthrie presented his inaugural address.

1. Moved by Councillor Allt
Seconded by Councillor MacKinnon

THAT the Mayor's Inaugural Address be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (12)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

CARRIED

Mayor Guthrie's Inaugural Address

Fellow councillors, staff and residents of our great city, welcome to our inaugural council meeting.

Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge the work of Mayor Farbridge, Councillor Dennis, Councillor Laidlaw, Councillor Furfaro, Councillor Findlay, Councillor Burcher and Councillor Kovach. Their dedication and service to our city does not go unnoticed, let's show them our gratitude.

I'd like to congratulate my twelve colleagues around the horseshoe on being elected as members of Guelph City Council. Thank you for stepping forward to serve the people of our city in this way. I look forward to working with you and serving alongside you over the next four years.

I would like to personally acknowledge my family: my son Anakin, daughter Adelaide and my best friend and wife Rachel. I would not be here tonight without your sacrifices, encouragement and prayers not only over the campaign this last year but over many, many years. Thank you.

To my extended family and campaign volunteers, I thank you for your passion, dedication and commitment to the campaign for a better Guelph. You were an unwavering source of strength and support for me, and I am forever grateful.

Looking ahead, tonight marks the beginning of this term of council and I'm quite excited about what is possible for this great city.

Since the election, I have reached out to my colleagues on council and we've had the chance to get to know each other better. I've thoroughly enjoyed those conversations and the building of our relationships. I'm looking forward to more of them, as we work toward delivering our first budget at or below the rate of inflation.

During this transition period, I'm pleased to report that I began immediately to strengthen our relationships with the County of Wellington so that we can work together to tackle social services in our community.

I have also met with potential private sector investors who are considering building in Guelph, where they can create jobs, give more choice to residents and generate tax revenue for our city.

I have continued to speak with city staff, both senior staff and those on the front line, because I know that the people who deliver our services and interact with our residents are a great source of information about how and where we can do better.

My vision for A Better Guelph is what brought me here with a clear mandate from the voters, and I intend to deliver on it.

I will eliminate the "Guelph Factor", support the downtown while respecting all corners of the city, increase transparency, focus on core city services and deliver them in the most cost effective and efficient way, and limit property tax increases to the rate of inflation or less.

This platform is important to me, and on October 27th, the voters of this city confirmed that it is important to them too.

Although the election is over, our challenges continue: Transit challenges, social housing concerns, capital projects, storm water management issues, poverty issues, and a significant infrastructure deficit.

As a Council, we have been entrusted by the people of Guelph to work together to address these challenges.

Therefore, over the next months, I will be asking my colleagues on council to join me in examining a number of initiatives that are important to the people of Guelph:

- Aligning our budgets to the rate of inflation while striking a citizens' budget taskforce;
- A new transit review;
- Increased customer service to our citizens and business community; and,
- Prioritization of our capital projects.

As members of Council, we won't always agree on these initiatives. At times, we will have to have difficult conversations about the future of our city. We will have to make tough decisions.

As your Mayor, I pledge that we will have the courage to have the difficult conversations and make the tough decisions. We will do it a way that maintains respect and friendships in this Chamber. We will do it as a team.

That's what the people of Guelph elected us to do.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, but looking at this group of individuals, not in front of me, not behind me, but beside me, I know we can do it - the public has elected us to do it - and I'm looking forward to working with you to accomplish it.

On election night, I said that I believe there's enough room in this city for everyone's ideas - and I meant it.

I will always welcome respectful dialogue and conversations that move our city forward.

I will end my thoughts with a reminder to us all.

We are a city that has a council, not a council that has a city.

We have been entrusted to run this city not with our money, but the money of every residential and business taxpayer in Guelph.

We have been elected to serve.

I am honoured and humbled that the people of Guelph have trusted me to serve them in this way.

I pledge to work hard over the next four years, together with all members of Council, to live up to the trust they have placed in me.

Thank you very much.

Adjournment (7:25 p.m.)

2. Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Downer

THAT the Guelph City Council Inaugural meeting of December 1, 2014 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Minutes to be confirmed on December 15, 2014.

Mayor Guthrie

City Clerk