

Statutory Inaugural MeetingDecember 5, 2011

The Statutory Inaugural Meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Kelowna was held in the Mary Irwin Theatre of the Rotary Centre for the Arts, 421 Cawston Avenue, Kelowna, B.C., on Monday, December 5, 2005.

Council members in attendance: Mayor-Elect Walter Gray, Councillors-Elect Colin Basran, Andre Blanleil, Maxine DeHart, Gail Given, Robert Hobson, Mohini Singh, Luke Stack and Gerry Zimmermann.

Staff member in attendance was: City Clerk, Stephen Fleming.

Special Guests in attendance were:

The Honourable Judge Jane Cartwright, MLA Steven Thompson, MLA Norm Letnick, MLA Ben Stewart, Former Mayor Sharon Shepherd, Former Mayor Jim Stewart, Former Councillor Kevin Craig, Former Councillor Angela Reid-Nagy, West Kelowna Mayor-Elect Doug Findlater, and Former Mayor Jim Stuart.

RCMP Honour Guard: Inspector Rick Flewelling and A/Inspector Terry McLachlan.

KFD Honour Guard: Captain (Retired) Terry Britton, Platoon Captain Shawn O'Reilly, and Firefighter Trent Green

Musical entertainment provided by the Kelowna City Band, Candesca classical singing ensemble and Bagpiper Kris Watt.

1. Commencement of Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony commenced at 7:00 p.m. following a procession, and musical interludes, led by the Kelowna City Band.

2. Welcome of Guests

Emcee, Stephen Fleming, City Clerk, City of Kelowna, welcomed those in attendance, acknowledged the Special Guests.

3. National Anthem

Candesca led in the singing of the National Anthem and was accompanied by the Kelowna City Band.

4. Invocation

Pastor Tim Schroeder offered the invocation on the newly elected Municipal Council.

5. Introduction of Newly Elected Council

Emcee Stephen Fleming introduced the in-coming Council.

6. Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Walter E. Gray

The Honourable Judge Jane Cartwright administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Walter Gray and presented him with the Chain of Office.

7. Administration of Oath of Office to Councillors-Elect

The Honourable Judge Jane Cartwright administered the Oath of Office to Councillors-Elect Colin Basran, Andre Blanleil, Maxine DeHart, Gail Given, Robert Hobson, Mohini Singh, Luke Stack and Gerry Zimmermann.

**8. CALL TO ORDER**

His Worship Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

**9. Mayor Gray's Inaugural Address**

Citizens of This Great City of Kelowna, it is an honour for me and for your new City Councillors to have been elected to lead our beautiful City for the next three years.

We all love Kelowna, the best City in the best Province, in the best Country in the World.

A city with natural beauty, a city that is safe for its citizens. A city that is vibrant. A city where everyone's voice is heard. A city where each of us can make our mark and pass the torch to the generation that follows.

On behalf of your new City Council and all citizens in Kelowna, a special and sincere thanks to our outgoing Mayor Sharon Shepherd and to each of her Councillors for their service to this City. You have made your mark. Thank you, Sharon, for your 15 continuous years of service the last 6 as Kelowna Mayor. Your commitment and passion for Kelowna can be seen throughout the community.

While there is personal disappointment among those of you not re-elected, I trust you will channel your energies in a positive way for the benefit of Kelowna. Remember: It was the willingness to serve in Kelowna that brought you to Council in the first place. I wish you well.

It is time to Move Forward in our new roles. It is time for a fresh look at the future. It is time to adjust; introduce new people and new ideas. That's what the voters said on election night.

We are at a pivotal moment in the history of the world and our country. The Information Age is well entrenched and the post-industrial age is waning. The Demographic Tsunami is hitting Canada full on, as our huge baby boom generation retires. People and Knowledge are the new resources and we have to compete with other Cities like never before, because people unlike forest or coal are mobile. This new council has a big challenge ahead. All eyes will be on us. This three year mandate will be the most challenging this City has seen in many decades. We must have the strength to be courageous and do the right thing.

Kelowna is blessed with one of the most beautiful natural environments in the world. Citizens have told us they want to protect and enhance our natural areas as well as create opportunities for active living.

As Mayor and Council, we need to be mindful to balance the needs of the city's demographic spectrum. We must work to be a City that provides a range of services for all generations, the youth, young families, those that are middle-aged, and retirees.

We're told that there are "age" gaps in community life in Kelowna. Young adults want to remain in Kelowna but they must be able to find meaningful employment and see their interests reflected in the recreational and cultural life of our community. They also want Kelowna to be more fun for them.

Those young adults lament that there is a lack of Activities and Festivals that they participated in. They point out that it's not just a selfish wish on their part but, that

there is a positive economic impact in catering to their needs. We must take their concerns seriously so that we can attract and retain more of those young adults.

Whereas, 20% of Canada's population will be over the age of 65 by year 2030, Kelowna's Census Metropolitan Area is already near that 20% statistic. Kelowna's average age is already 8 to 10 years older than the average Canadian City.

We cannot forget the younger demographic as we move Kelowna forward and balance off the average age of our citizens.

Kelowna must continue to be a tolerant community. We must celebrate diversity. We must be a caring community and help those that need help and help those who struggle. We must retain and build on a strong sense of community.

Kelowna has always had a strong tradition of volunteerism. Let us not compromise what makes Kelowna and its people special. Let's celebrate those that volunteer to make Kelowna a wonderful place to live.

Six years ago, at the end of my third term as Mayor, the building permit value in Kelowna (that year) was \$663,000,000. This current year just ending is only \$260,000,000. And this coming year it is estimated that it will remain unchanged at the same low expectation.

That lower building permit value can be largely attributed to the Recession we are still enduring. However, as some parts of Canada are recovering, now is the time to become more proactive locally in stimulating business and development opportunities. First, by stating that Kelowna welcomes investors in business and is open to new ideas that will generate prosperity and "in turn" jobs. A lot of people and businesses in Kelowna are struggling right now. So there is a huge challenge for your new Mayor and Council and for the Community. We need confidence that things will be better. That's the first big step. There is power in positive thinking.

But, it takes more than positive thinking. It takes positive actions at City Hall that state: "Yes, Kelowna is open for business.". That does not mean throwing out the rule books and abandoning good planning principles. It means having regulations that make sense and adds value, not just process.

I believe the voters of Kelowna have spoken loudly and clearly that they want change. The voters had the wisdom to choose a very good balance in choosing its new council, a Council that will be future focused.

This Council's biggest challenge isn't about today, it is about the future. It's about putting together our priorities that will help us achieve that vision. It's about focus. Council's focus and, the City Manager's translation of that into action at the administrative level. It's about making tough decisions on which project or initiatives receive the limited tax dollars. Of course, we can't just be thinking three years ahead we have to be thinking far into the future, the Kelowna for our children and grandchildren.

This City has a history of good fiscal responsibility that is, balancing important services delivered effectively with the need for your tax dollars to get the job done. I know that City staff has been challenged to look critically at their budgets for 2012 given the state of our economy. This Council will determine where that balance lies; as we develop a financial plan reflecting what our community has said is important to them.

One of the initiatives we will need to consider is already underway. The City Manager has engaged an experienced professional to objectively determine the policing resources needed to meet our community's expectations for a safe and protected City. The review will also be important in ensuring that Kelowna's share of the regional

costs of policing is fair and equitable. With a current year taxation commitment to policing of \$19.5 million and rising costs for 2012, this is a critical question. That report is expected to come forward to Council at the end of January. I know there are other initiatives underway that will help to focus our energies and resources and I support this direction.

I will be asking Council at an early meeting to consider the establishment of a Business Liaison Function. It will not require added staffing. Simply the designation of a "Go To" person who will be assigned the duty to deal with business related inquiries and solutions. This person will work closely with the Regional District Economic Development Commission.

In another efficiency move: Council is going to review the costs for operating each committee it has had in the past. Are they all necessary? Is there value to the public? And, what is the real "staff time" cost and consequence of forming these committees? Change is inevitable and constant as our community changes. To move forward that likely means shedding some committees, or taking the time to consider what form of public input is needed by this Council today and in the future.

I have asked staff to prepare a report for Council consideration, before Budget deliberations, outlining the role of the Advisory Planning Commission. What implications are there by eliminating it and what alternative methods are there for gaining public input into the Development review process. While the APC has served the Development Review Process and City Council well in the past, I believe it's time to do things differently.

I believe there are considerable cost savings and valuable staff time efficiencies to be realized through elimination of the Advisory Planning Commission. If implemented, this will make for a faster approval process in getting applications to Council and to Public Hearing. Time is money. The public has often been confused by its role. In place of the APC, I have asked staff to consider a Design Panel, made up of volunteer professionals, for certain applications where appropriate.

This Council and previous Councils are most appreciative for the hundreds of hours that each volunteer appointee of the APC spent annually serving on that Commission.

Moving forward, it is Council's intention to continue engaging the public at an early stage with major City and private development projects and to make better use of the Internet. New media channels including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn combined with traditional media will ensure citizens have more opportunities than ever to be informed and weigh in on issues that matter most to them. Good planning begins with good communication, and understanding what citizens want. This happens by engaging the public at an early stage.

As to all other committees, they will all be reviewed and implemented if needed. And, will have a predetermined sunset date, not necessarily at the end of each council three year term. These committees will be established through resolution of council when and if needed. Many of them will be established and redefined in early January.

I will also be recommending to Council a streamlining process for Secondary Suite rezoning to help address one of Kelowna's most pressing issues, affordable housing and to increase efficiency at City Hall. It will save Council time, considerable Planning staff time, and save the inconvenience to the public. It will save tax payer dollars. The proposal is to grant secondary suite zoning where a revised set of requirements is satisfied. As a key component, S-Zone applicants will supply written support from immediate and affected neighbours, as a requirement of application.

Along with a streamlined system to supply secondary suites, Kelowna must assure a steady and ample supply of all housing forms and price ranges in all sectors of the

City. There must be special focus on non-market rental housing for those individuals and families earning less than \$40,000 a year. It is my belief that safe, affordable housing is the key ingredient to a happy, healthy, safe community.

Kelowna will be future focused!

The Central Okanagan Smart Transit Plan (completed between 2004 and 2005) set the stage for all the many improvements to transit service and infrastructure that has taken place recently and is going to continue during my current term in office. The latest U-Pass referendum had a 90% approval rating by UBCO students on November 18<sup>th</sup>, so we have momentum and support for continued improvements to the transit system. Congratulations to the UBCO Students Association.

Now we need to work in partnership with Okanagan College to promote a second U-Pass here in Kelowna. As well, it may take some 'thinking-out-of-the-box' to open the door to new partnerships with other institutions (i.e. IHA) or other major employers to help make transit a preferred option for their employees. There will be many benefits if we share the costs to deliver the service.

There is a budget item for Council's consideration in January that will introduce transit service directly to the H2O/Capital News Centre in the Mission. This will provide transit users with direct service to these two major recreation facilities and the regional library.

It may be too late for this Budget year but I would also like Council to consider the possibility of providing transit to the residents of Commonwealth Road and the industries in our Beaver Lake Road area. This would take cooperation and joint funding with Lake Country but I believe it is imperative.

The Local Government Managers Association, and the Union of BC Municipalities, have been requesting the Provincial Government for some time now that the long established November Civic Election date be moved from the third Saturday in November to the third Saturday in October. We will monitor progress with the Provincial Government to see that the recommendation is realized before the next civic election. Snow birds will love that. Then thinking further down the road, electronic voting is obviously the end goal.

This evening we will announce the few statutorily required committees for the coming term.

Accordingly: The Board of Variance will be established, as it is required under the Local Government Act. The Chair will be Jim Stuart, with Larry Chalmers, Jane Fleming, Shirley Staley, one other member yet to be confirmed.

And, The Parcel Tax Review Panel: Its Chair will be Councillor Luke Stack along with Councillors Gail Given and Colin Basran.

The appointees to the Audit Committee are: Mayor Gray as Chair. Plus Councillor Robert Hobson and Councillor Gail Given.

The City of Kelowna plays the lead role in the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The majority of the Region's funding comes from the City of Kelowna taxpayers. As such, it is imperative that your City Council is represented at the RDCO Board Table.

Accordingly, I name the following six members of Kelowna City Council to that Board: Mayor Walter Gray, Councillors Gerry Zimmerman, Gail Given, Colin Basran, Robert Hobson, and André Blanleil. Councillors Luke Stack, Maxine DeHart and Mohini Singh will be alternates to the appointees.

A requirement at tonight's Inaugural Meeting is the appointment of Deputy Mayor. As per past practice we will name each Councillor on a monthly basis in rotation through until July 2012 only and review the "go forward" at that time after discussions with Council about other options.

I hereby announce the Deputy Mayors list for the first 8-months of this new mandate. Acting Mayor for the month of December is Councillor Robert Hobson. January will be Councillor André Blanleil, February will be Councillor Luke Stack, March will be Councillor Gerry Zimmermann, April will be Councillor Gail Given, May will be Councillor Colin Basran, June will be Councillor Maxine DeHart, and July will be Councillor Mohini Singh.

In the coming three years there will be a busy Council Agenda here in Kelowna. The revitalization of Bernard Avenue, the Seniors Centre relocation to Parkinson Recreation Centre, a new RCMP building, Central Green development, the new Downtown Plan, Glenmore Recreation Park, Knox Mountain long term plans, a second shot at the Rails with Trails project, a vital long term recreational and transportation vision for Kelowna if we are to successfully exploit every option to get more people out of their automobiles and bike, hike and recreate. Our goal is to push Rails with Trails all the way from downtown Kelowna out to UBCO, the Airport and beyond. A nice complement to the Greenway on Mission Creek established more than 12 years ago.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of my Council Colleagues, we all thank you for the trust you have placed in us. We will all work hard and effectively for the next three years on your behalf and for this extraordinary City. We are so honoured to be of service. We also want to thank our families for allowing us to do what we love.

10. Deputy-Mayors for 2012/13/14 and Committee Appointments for 2012/13/14

His Worship Mayor Walter Gray presented the list of Deputy-Mayors for 2011 and 2012 and appointees to certain boards and committees for 2012 through 2014.

**Moved by Councillor Hobson/Seconded by Councillor Stack**

**ST1200/11/12/05** THAT the December 2011 through July 2012 Deputy-Mayors for City of Kelowna Municipal Council be as follows:

**DEPUTY MAYOR**

<i>December, 2011</i>	<i>Hobson</i>
<i>January 2012</i>	<i>Blanleil</i>
<i>February 2012</i>	<i>Stack</i>
<i>March 2012</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
<i>April 2012</i>	<i>Given</i>
<i>May 2012</i>	<i>Basran</i>
<i>June 2012</i>	<i>DeHart</i>
<i>July 2012</i>	<i>Singh</i>

**NOTE:** The Alternate Deputy Mayor shall be the next Deputy Mayor as available in monthly sequences.

AND THAT the Committee appointments for the City of Kelowna be as follows:

**COMMITTEES**

V - Voting Member

L – Liaison

**COMMITTEES OR BOARDS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

	<b><u>Appointee(s)</u></b>	
<b><u>BOARD OF VARIANCE</u></b>	James Stuart, Chair Shirley Staley Larry Chalmers Jane Fleming One to be appointed at a later date	
V <b><u>PARCEL TAX ROLL REVIEW PANEL</u></b>	Councillor Luke Stack Councillor Gail Given Councillor Colin Basran	
V <b><u>AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b>	Mayor Walter Gray Councillor Robert Hobson Councillor Gail Given	
V <b><u>REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></b>	Mayor Walter Gray Councillor Gerry Zimmermann Councillor Gail Given Councillor Colin Basran Councillor Robert Hobson Councillor Andre Blanleil	Councillor Luke Stack (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Councillor Maxine DeHart (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Councillor Mohini Singh (3 <sup>rd</sup> )

11. **Gift Presentation to Outgoing Council**

His Worship Walter Gray presented a gift of appreciation to former Mayor Sharon Shepherd, and to former Councillors Kevin Craig and Angela Reid-Nagy.

12. **Invitation to Reception**

His Worship Walter Gray invited the guests in attendance to join members of Council for light refreshments.

13. **Termination**

The meeting was declared terminated at 7:45 p.m.

**Certified Correct:**

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Mayor

/acm

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City Clerk