

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 1, 2014.

Council Members in attendance: Mayor-Elect Colin Basran, Councillors-Elect Maxine DeHart, Ryan Donn, Gail Given, Tracy Gray, Charlie Hodge, Brad Sieben, Mohini Singh and Luke Stack.

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

Special Guests in attendance were:

The Honourable Judge Jane Cartwright, MLA Norm Letnick, MLA Steve Thompson, Premier Representative, Becky Harmata, Mayor-Elect Doug Findlater, Former Mayor Walter Gray, Former Councillors Robert Hobson, Andre Blanleil, Ben Lee, School District Trustees, Moyra Baxter and Rolli Cacchioni,

RCMP Superintendant Nick Romenchuk, Inspector Gord Stewart and Constable Kris Clark
KFD Honour Guard: Mike Brownlee and Adam Benson.

Musical entertainment provided by the Kelowna City Band, Deb Stone and Bagpiper Kris Watt.

1. Commencement of Inaugural Ceremony

The Inaugural Ceremony commenced at 7:00 p.m.

2. National Anthem

Deb Stone led the in the singing of the National Anthem.

3. Invocation

Pastor Laurence East offered the invocation on the newly elected Municipal Council.

4. Welcome to Guests

Emcee, Jasmin Doobay, welcomed those in attendance, acknowledged the Special Guests, and read a letter of congratulations from MP Ron Cannon.

5. Introduction of Newly Elected Council

Emcee Jasmin Doobay introduced the in-coming Council.

6. Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Colin G. Basran

The Honourable Judge Jane Cartwright administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Colin Basran 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 Luke Stack, Gail Given, Maxine DeHart, Mohini Singh, Tracy Gray, Brad Sieben, Ryan Donn and Charlie Hodge.

8. CALL TO ORDER

His Worship Mayor Colin Basran called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

9. Mayor Basran's Inaugural Address

Welcome

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us on this very special evening. This is an exciting night for the nine of us and it's nice to see that so many people want to share in this moment with us.

In particular, I'd like to thank our spouses and family members, who have been so supportive and allow us this opportunity to be able to give back to the community we all love so much.

New Council

On behalf of Kelowna City Council, it is truly an honour to represent you, the citizens of our great city, for the next four years.

I am blessed with a great team to lead Kelowna through the first ever, four-year term for municipal governments in British Columbia. Congratulations to incumbents Luke Stack, Gail Given, Maxine DeHart and Mohini Singh on your re-election. The five of us work well together and we've set the bar very high after a great three years.

I believe this spirit of cooperation and willingness to get things done will be heightened with the return of Charlie Hodge and the addition of first time Councillors Brad Sieben, Tracy Gray and Ryan Donn.

This is a very diverse leadership group. A true testament to the inclusive and accepting City we are becoming. As unique as we all are, the nine of us have much in common when it comes to the direction and vision for our City. We will certainly disagree at times, but we all believe Kelowna can be a place for everyone.

Previous Council - thank you's

Of course the future success of any council is due in part to the foundation built by those who have served before us. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank four individuals, three of whom are in the audience tonight, who have served our City with pride and whose decisions will positively impact Kelowna for decades to come.

Of course, I'm talking about Walter Gray, Robert Hobson, Andre Blanleil and Gerry Zimmermann, who is in Vancouver today and can't be with us. Thank you for being great leaders, mentors and friends. You may be saying goodbye to Council but we know that you will continue to do impactful work that benefits our province and our City.

Today's historical purchase of the C-N rail corridor and many great projects we hope to see completed in the next four years, like the new downtown waterfront hotel, RCMP detachment and John Hindle Drive connection, have your fingerprints on them as they do of many others who have sat up here on this stage where we are today. Again, we say thank you.

Relationship with staff

One of the most valuable lessons learned from the past three years is the importance of a great relationship between Council and City Staff. It is Council's role to set the direction and vision for our City while allowing staff the opportunity to use their expertise and knowledge to bring about innovative solutions to help make that vision become reality.

I have great confidence in our staff, beginning with City Manager Ron Mattiussi, to keep our organization focused on our objectives. Because a Council that makes timely, informed decisions that are consistent with the vision will make Kelowna an attractive place for investment and possibility.

Economy

And it all starts with being Open for Opportunity - both economically and socially to create a well balanced community. That means focusing not just on the financial health of our residents, but equally on the social, physical and mental health of all, young and old.

In order to build upon our strengthening economy, we must continue to make sure that Kelowna is a place where entrepreneurs can thrive, in particular, small businesses which make up the large majority of the workforce in our city.

That's why we will continue to make sure our Business Tax rate remains among the lowest in the Province.

We must also continue to be connected with industry, Okanagan College, UBC-Okanagan and Interior Health to keep apprised of best practices and work collaboratively to help create the jobs of tomorrow. With our Director of Business Development's retirement only a few weeks away, I can assure you that position will not stay vacant for long and that the City of Kelowna will be pursuing economic and employment opportunities more vigorously than ever.

And our municipally owned, international airport will continue to play a key role. By the end of the month, we should surpass our annual target of 1.6-million passengers, one year earlier than expected. We will pursue routes that strengthen our economic ties to major markets, which also helps the world discover what an amazing place we have here.

In 2015, YLW embarks on a three-year project to expand the baggage hall and further enhance the terminal. The airport is also home to our largest private employer. Property acquisitions in the area will make way for more aviation related business to call Kelowna home and offer employment opportunities for our local workforce.

This Council will continue to be champions for the expansion of the technology and innovation sector in Kelowna, providing well-paying and clean jobs that will attract the best and brightest to our community.

Cutting the ribbon on the new Innovation Centre will be a proud moment for the past and present Council.

And when it comes to positive economic growth, a term you are going to hear used a lot more over the next four years is 'Social Enterprise'. Social enterprises believe that improving the lives of people and bettering the planet are just as important as making a profit. There is a major social enterprise and innovation movement taking place in our City and we look forward to supporting this wherever possible.

Partnerships

Being Open to Opportunity also means Partnerships. We look forward to strengthening our connection with our local M-P, Ron Cannan and our three MLAs, Premier Christy Clark, Steve Thomson and Norm Letnick on local priorities, like we did most recently on fast-tracking John Hindle Drive, connecting Glenmore with UBC-Okanagan and beyond.

But this isn't just about government. The success of the newly built soccer dome behind the H2O Centre has shown us that there are great community organizations in Kelowna with innovative ideas and we are ready to listen. Kelowna is open for economic and social opportunities through partnership.

Development & Planning

When it comes to planning and development, it is all about quality of life, building livable and complete communities. We are blessed with a beautiful natural environment and we have a responsibility to ensure our built environment is the best it can be as well. Making better use of our land by densifying our town centres and encouraging diverse housing options for people of all ages and incomes is a priority.

We must work with developers and builders on new ways to encourage in-fill development where services and amenities are easily accessed.

Downtown has been the focus over the past few years and rightly so as it should be the heart of our City. The heartbeat has returned, so now it's time to focus on attracting investment and initiating capital projects in other parts of our community. Every town centre is unique and we will invest to capitalize on those unique characteristics to create a strong sense of place in each.

And one new area set to emerge and undergo a major transformation is our North End industrial area. A proposed new hotel, the new RCMP detachment, a year-round market, brewery and commercial office space are just some of the projects that will create an amazing mix of uses and help draw people to an area where few currently venture.

Our love of the single-occupant vehicle is well known and not something we should be proud of. Continuing to focus on growth in our urban core will not only benefit the environment, but also encourage better health. We have to make sure our town centres are connected with frequent and reliable transit through continued investment and improvements. Partnering with major employers and institutions on incentive programs to encourage increased transit ridership must also come to fruition after years of discussion.

We will also continue to partner with our City's first carshare program and look forward to seeing it continue to grow. We look forward to working with our Regional partners in the Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan because transportation is something that should be looked at collaboratively with our neighbouring municipalities.

Further investment in active transportation corridors that are separated from vehicle traffic must also be done wherever possible. That's why Phase 1 of the new north-south cycling corridor along Ethel Street will begin early in the New Year.

And we all know the CN Rail corridor will be a legacy for our community not only for active transportation and tourism but also for mass transit some day in the future. Access to every area of our community via safe, separated active transportation corridors is a goal we must continue to strive for.

In the long term, this Council will have the opportunity to begin working on the newest edition of the Official Community Plan which is expected to begin sometime in 2017 and will include many opportunities for public consultation and input.

Housing

If we want to attract and retain people of all ages in Kelowna, like we plan to, housing must continue to be a priority. When it comes to home ownership, we must work with developers and builders on ways to make it attainable through new forms of housing and changing City policy where needed to encourage it. For example, one of our first public hearings as a new Council will include an application for the first ever freehold or non-stratified townhome project for our city.

Our rental vacancy rate is one of the lowest in the Province. Under moderate growth estimates, our city needs 300 new rental units annually to keep up with demand and right now we aren't even coming close to hitting that target.

But we are seeing more purpose-built rental projects coming forward and continuing with our rental housing grants to offset the cost of development fees will encourage even more. That's why we look forward to working with the local developer who recently purchased the Central Green site, where a large portion of the property is dedicated to purpose-built rental accommodation units.

And we must continue to make sure our community's most vulnerable residents have access to housing. Safe and secure social housing is the first and most important step on any person's journey to recovery. This Council is ready and willing to partner with higher levels of government wherever possible, because mental health and addiction are issues we need to stand together on.

We look forward to seeing ground broken soon on the new Ki Lo Na Friendship Society project for low-income residents and we also look forward to joining our Council colleague, Luke Stack, when his Society of Hope opens the doors to the new Pleasantvale development that will be providing new homes for seniors and families on low incomes. And with a bit more work, we finally hope to see Interior Health and our Regional partners agree to terms on the creation of a much needed Sobering Centre in our community.

We know three things from our experience with providing housing and support for people with needs in our community. First, fear and stigma make these projects very challenging. Second, once they are built even the strongest opponents admit there is very little, if any negative impact on the community. And third and most importantly, people get access to the help they so desperately need.

Leadership is standing up and doing what is right to help all members of our community.

Healthy Community

Partnering with other levels of government and local agencies to address mental health will be a big focus for this Council, as will physical wellness. The Healthy City Partnership collaboration with UBC-Okanagan and the Interior Health Authority will

help all three organizations better understand the relationship between built environments and healthy citizens.

We all know our much loved Parkinson Rec Centre has reached the end of its serviceable life and we look forward to implementing plans and a timeline for a new facility over the course of this term.

As we continue to encourage urban in-fill development, new parks and well designed public spaces will also be needed to complement Robert Hobson's legacy of newly purchased Regional district parks.

Arts & Culture - Creative Economy

The continued growth of Arts and Culture will play a major part in our City's success. The creative economy in Kelowna is much larger than many give it credit for, paying out over \$50-million dollars in wages annually. That's money that finds its way back into our community and helps support our local businesses.

A vibrant arts and cultural community will help draw creative people here, who just might have new and innovative solutions to issues being faced all over the globe.

We as a city will continue to lay the foundation through investment and policy to help the creative economy grow, but we can't do it alone. We are blessed with world-class talent and facilities that are the envy of many municipalities. But these talented artists need your support. Over the past three years, I've had the opportunity to take in shows and exhibitions that in many cases are free or cost very little. I am absolutely blown away by the quality of artists and performers we have in Kelowna and I know you will be too. I envision a future where our arts and our emerging tech communities collide and collaborate and create in ways we cannot imagine today.

Budget

One of the first orders of business for this new Council will be to approve the 2015 budget. This Council is committed to running City Hall and our civic operations as effectively as possible. Tough decisions will need to be made as our community continues to grow, along with the demand for increased services. But controlling expenditures and operational efficiency is only one dimension. It is imperative that we also build up and maintain healthy reserves and reinvest in our physical and social infrastructure.

Public Safety remains of the utmost importance and as our population increases, so too does our responsibility to keep you all safe. That means planning for and approving new capital projects like the much needed RCMP detachment.

So for the very first time during the upcoming budget presentation, public safety capital projects will fall under a new 'Protective Services' levy, which includes future Fire Protection capital projects. It will also be important to clearly acknowledge our infrastructure investment from our operational requirements. We must reinvest in our community.

And further changes could be coming to the way our award winning finance department does business, as a financial systems review will be done to ensure best practices are being maintained and our City continues to be the envy of other municipalities.

Enterprise Kelowna

And what's really exciting is that over the next four years, our City will continue to look for innovative ways to generate revenue outside of taxation and user fees - through an entity called Enterprise Kelowna.

This unit will begin work this coming spring. We as a city should be thinking and acting like entrepreneurs in our own right and revenue generated through Enterprise Kelowna and our City's investments will help offset costs for increased services and amenities as our community grows.

Committees - Communication - Engagement

Although we as Kelowna City Council are entrusted to make decisions on behalf of our City's residents, we do not intend to do this alone. We will listen. We value your input and will continue to engage you through traditional means and look for new ways to get your feedback as we move our city forward together in a transparent manner. Research, previous experience and best practices inform which communication channel - or combination of channels - is most convenient and effective to engage with residents and businesses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those in our community who have participated on our various City Committees over the past three years. Those same committees will continue into this term, and over the coming weeks I will be appointing Council liaisons and we will be looking for another enthusiastic group of volunteers to carry on the great work.

In one small change and to encourage more participation from the younger residents of our community, I will ask Council to support my desire to have each City Committee be required to have one member between the ages of 18-25, so that we can start mentoring the next leaders of Kelowna.

And on that note, I will take a moment to announce the members of Council who will be representing you at the Regional District of the Central Okanagan. They are as follows:

Regional District Directors:

Colin Basran
Luke Stack
Gail Given
Maxine DeHart
Brad Sieben
Tracy Gray

Alternates:

Mohini Singh
Ryan Donn
Charlie Hodge

I want to thank you all again for joining us here tonight. We are really excited to get to work. We are a diverse group but we have a lot in common, most importantly that we all love our City and we put our names forward because we want to make a positive difference in our community.

We have a lot of work to do and many big projects to finish; We believe in our mandate to continue to move forward. It's not about political promises, it is about leadership, vision and good governance.

If we make informed and timely decisions that are consistent with this vision, it will instill confidence in our community that will resonate across the province and the country, that Kelowna truly is a place for everyone.

That Kelowna is a City we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

10. Regional District Appointments 2015/16/17/18

His Worship Mayor Colin Basran presented the Regional District Appointments for 2015 through 2018.

Moved by Councillor Stack/Seconded by Councillor Given

ST841/14/12/01 THAT the Regional District appointments for the City of Kelowna be as follows:

	<u>Appointees</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
<u>REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	Mayor Colin Basran Councillor Luke Stack Councillor Gail Given Councillor Maxine DeHart Councillor Brad Sieben Councillor Tracy Gray	Councillor Mohini Singh (1 st) Councillor Ryan Donn (2 nd) Councillor Charlie Hodge (3 rd)

Carried

11. Gift Presentation to Outgoing Council

His Worship Colin Basran presented a gift of appreciation to former Mayor Walter Gray, and to former Councillors Robert Hobson and Andre Blanleil.

12. Invitation to Reception

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

13. Termination

The meeting was declared terminated at 7:48 p.m.

Certified Correct

Mayor

City Clerk

/acm