COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Tuesday, November 1, 2022

The Council met at 7:00 p.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Elder Norman Mead.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. You may be seated. Thank you so much, Elder Mead.

City Clerk: Mayor Gillingham, will you please join me at the podium to subscribe to your declaration of office and receive the chain of office. Please repeat after me. I, Scott Gillingham.

Mayor Gillingham: I, Scott Gillingham.

City Clerk: Do solemnly promise and declare.

Mayor Gillingham: Do solemnly promise and declare.

City Clerk: That I will truly, faithfully and impartially.

Mayor Gillingham: That I will truly, faithfully and impartially.

City Clerk: To the best of my knowledge and ability.

Mayor Gillingham: To the best of my knowledge and ability.

City Clerk: Execute the office to which I have been elected.

Mayor Gillingham: Execute the office to which I have been elected.

City Clerk: And that I have not received.

Mayor Gillingham: And that I have not received.

City Clerk: And will not receive.

Mayor Gillingham: And will not receive.

City Clerk: Any payment or reward.

Mayor Gillingham: Any payment or reward.

City Clerk: Or the promise of payment or reward.

Mayor Gillingham: Or the promise of payment or reward.

City Clerk: For the exercise of partiality.

Mayor Gillingham: For the exercise of partiality.

City Clerk: Corruption or other improper execution of the office.

Mayor Gillingham: Corruption or other improper execution of the office.

City Clerk: And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously.

Mayor Gillingham: And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously.

City Clerk: Believing it to be true.

Mayor Gillingham: Believing it to be true.

City Clerk: And knowing that it is of the same force and effect.

Mayor Gillingham: And knowing that it is of the same for and effect.

City Clerk: As if made under oath.

Mayor Gillingham: As if made under oath.

City Clerk: By virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Mayor Gillingham: By virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

City Clerk: Congratulations, sir.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk: We will now place the chain of office.

Mayor Gillingham: Thanks, Marc.

City Clerk: Congratulations, again. For sure. Thank you.

Mayor Gillingham: Members of Council, will you please stand and subscribe to your declaration of office.

City Clerk: Please repeat after me. I, state your name.

Councillors in unison: I, (various councillors stating their names).

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City Clerk: Congratulations.

Mayor Gillingham: Members of Council, you may be seated. I would now like to call upon each member of Council to come forward as the Clerk calls your name to receive your certificate of election.

City Clerk: Councillor Matt Allard. Councillor Jeff Browaty.

Mayor Gillingham: Councillor Browaty, congratulations.

City Clerk: Councillor Markus Chambers.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations, Councillor Chambers.

City Clerk: Councillor Shawn Dobson.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations, Councillor Dobson.

City Clerk: Councillor Evan Duncan.

Mayor Gillingham: Welcome and congratulations. Thank you.

Councillor Duncan: Thank you very much.

City Clerk: Councillor Ross Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Oh, there we go. Yeah, yeah, here.

City Clerk: Councillor Cindy Gilroy.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations, Councillor Gilroy.

City Clerk: Councillor Janice Lukes.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations, Councillor Lukes.

City Clerk: Councillor Brian Mayes.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations.

City Clerk: Councillor John Orlikow. Councillor Sherri Rollins. Councillor Vivian Santos.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations, Councillor Santos.

City Clerk: Councillor Jason Schreyer.

Mayor Gillingham: Congratulations, Councillor Schreyer.

City Clerk: Councillor Devi Sharma. Councillor Russ Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I'll put my hand here. Thank you. Right on. And you too.

Mayor Gillingham: Once again, ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the newly elected 16th Council of the city of Winnipeg. Mr. Clerk, roll call, please.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, Sharma and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Gillingham: I would now like to introduce Sergeant Cindy Scott of the Royal Canadian Air Force band who will be singing 'What a Wonderful World'.

What a Wonderful World is performed

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. Thank you so much, Sergeant Scott. I don't know if that song has ever been sung more beautifully. Thank you. 15 mayors ago – 15 mayors ago – and 98 years in the past, Winnipeg had a civic election. In those days, in fact, they had local general elections every two years. Let's all pause for a moment to give thanks that things have changed. In 1912 and the decade afterwards, Winnipeg endured the collapse of a major property boom, the terrible costs and consequences of a world war, a deadly global pandemic and, of course, the struggle of the…and the division of the general strike. And so, it came to pass that in 1924 there was an election. And mayoral candidate RH Webb stood for office against the incumbent, Mayor Seymore Farmer. Webb was a World War I veteran who had lost his leg in battle. Farmer was a labour mayor who had been pushing for reform after the general strike. Now, I am not daring to compare the challenges of our times to those hard years, but what stands out to me today, a century later, was Webb's message when he won the election and became mayor elect. He won office as a pro-growth business leader. And after two years of (inaudible) council debate between left and right under those circumstances, Mayor Webb could have gloated. He could have talked about sweeping change to reverse the course of the outgoing mayor. Instead, as historian Jim Blanchard recalled it, mayor elect Webb told Winnipeggers on election night that he now stood with one door closed behind him and an open door ahead of him. In a broadcast on a brand-new radio station called CKY, Webb said, "Behind this closed door let us shut and imprison for life the antagonisms, enmities and quarrels of the past." Let us all, the citizens of Winnipeg, close up our ranks, bridge our cleavages and see if we cannot by cooperation and mutual efforts, make of this city what is best for all of us. My simple ask of everyone in this council chamber tonight, everyone all across this city is the same. Let us unite to build a stronger Winnipeg together. Winnipeg is a great city, and like all great cities, we have face great challenges. We need to house our homeless. We need to do more to keep people safe all across the city, whether they're housed or unhoused. We need to protect, modernize and expand our city's infrastructure, protect tree canopy and modernize our City services. We need to grow our city's economy so that we can afford the future that we want and dream of. And when we do, we need to be sure that far more people have a chance to enjoy and share in that success. We are

too diverse a city to pretend that there is only one priority or only one solution or only approach to solve these problems. To get…today we have a great advantage; everyone on this new council is a veteran of this place. With a single exception of Councillor Duncan who gets to use that as a free pass for two, maybe three weeks, that is it. As city hall veterans, you all know me well enough to know that when I call for unity, it's not a call to less debate or less dissent, rather, it's a call to put our city first when we happen to disagree. Given a choice between offering hope and offering bleakness, let the committee recommend hope. Given a choice between fixing a problem or fixing blame, let's start with what the people of this city would want us to do first. And we know that that's putting their needs first to find solutions. If we have a chance to answer a challenge with open hand or closed fist, let's go with an outstretched hand. Now, before we close the door on the past, tonight is last chance that we will have to give one formal and final thanks to outgoing Mayor Brian Bowman and to Councillors Kevin Klein and Shawn Nason who both served a term in this place and who won't be here tomorrow because of hard fought elections. On behalf of Winnipeggers, we thank all of them and their families for their support, their patience, their endurance and their commitment to the city. Can we thank them. In particular, we thank Mayor Brian Bowman for helping us turn the page on some of the City's most cynical years. Thank you for what you've done to build our city's infrastructure. Thank you for acting as a city steward and defender when faced one of the greatest health disaster that we have faced in generations. And we're grateful for initiatives like the Indigenous Accord, Freedom Road, the expansion of urban reserves that will put reconciliation where it belongs, high on our city's agenda forever. Brian, wherever you are, if you're watching, listening; whatever it is you do next, you've left us with a strong record and I rightfully praise it. And yet, I also promise to do better in the next four years as we strive to keep our city moving, growing and building our community. As former mayor himself, Glenn Murray came very close to defeating me in a tight race and I want to pay respect to him and his supporters by quoting him on a point that we completely agree on. As Glen put it last Wednesday night, "There is only one team Winnipeg." And he is right. The reality is, this place we call home, that there can be only one team Winnipeg. We are a big city at the junction of rivers and rails. When you compare Winnipeg to other major Canadian cities, we are almost alone in many ways in this vast prairie far from peers and urban neighbours. If Winnipeg is to reach its potential, and we can, we have to be a little more hopeful, a little stronger, and we have to make our voice ring a little louder than others do, but we have to reach potential by doing it together. We must be one with the strength of many if we want to succeed and we can. So, thank you to everyone who ran in this election, who had the courage to put their name on the ballot. Thank you to everyone who took the oath of office tonight to serve the people of Winnipeg. Thank you to friends and, of course, thank you to all of our families. And I'd also…I would like to especially thank my wife Marla and our children, Hannah and Andrew, my parents, Grant and Diane, my sister and her family. All of my family. And on behalf of you, I thank all of our families because as we know, without their support and love and commitment, we could not serve. So, we thank you. Councillors, our work begins tonight. Let's get back to work for all of you and for all of the people of Winnipeg. Let's work together to build a stronger Winnipeg. Thank you. Thank you very much. Now, the next order of Council business is to elect a presiding officer and a deputy presiding officer. And so, I will now call for nominations for the election of presiding officer. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll…I'm honoured to place in nomination, I believe for the third time, and I hope I will not be ruled out of order and no one will impugn my motives. Little speaker humour there, for any of them. I would very much would like to place in nomination of my colleague Devi Sharma who's been a wonderful speaker for nine years now. I think it's my third time placing Devi's name in nomination. I would just say, talk about one with the strength of many, that is…that is Devi personified. Has been wonderful colleague, wonderful speaker. Somehow convinced me in the last term of office to invest $90,000 into a project in her ward for which I got this very fine pen. A very fine pen. But I carried it with me throughout the campaign because it made me happy. It was a wonderful project. So, it's a Garden City Collegiate pen. It's been a wonderful run with Councillor Sharma. I would like to nominate my friend and colleague Councillor Devi Sharma as Speaker.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Are there other nominations at all? Councillor Mayes, you'd like to move that nominations be closed? Okay. Alright. All in favour? Opposed? Carried. Thank you. I declare…I declare. Yes. I declare Councillor Sharma elected presiding officer. I'll now call for nominations for the election of the deputy presiding office…deputy presiding officer. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Your Worship. It would be my pleasure to nominate our colleague, Councillor Ross Eadie, as deputy presiding officer.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. Are there other nominations? Okay, Councillor Browaty, would you like to move that the nominations be closed?

Councillor Browaty: So moved.

Mayor Gillingham: Oka. All in favour of Councillor Ross Eadie being the deputy presiding officer say aye? Opposed? It is carried. Thank you. Congratulations Councillor Eadie. It is now my pleasure to call upon Koshetz, the choir, to come and to perform our closing selection, please.

Closing Song is performed

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you very much, Koshetz. You caught us there, we were about to start clapping, but. Outstanding. Thank you so much and thank you, again, Sergeant Scott, for your participation, as well. And for Elder Mead. Councillor Duncan, will you move that this meeting be adjourned?

Councillor Duncan: I do so.

Mayor Gillingham: All in favour? There we go. Mr. Clerk, roll call, please.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, Sharma and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 7:44 p.m.