

The inaugural meeting of the 2010-2014 Council of The Corporation of the City of Waterloo was held on December 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 100 Regina Street South, Waterloo, Ontario.



INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 6, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Mayor-Elect Brenda Halloran, Councillor-Elect Scott Witmer, Councillor-Elect Karen Scian, Councillor-Elect Angela Vieth, Councillor-Elect Diane Freeman, Councillor-Elect Mark Whaley, Councillor-Elect Jeff Henry, Councillor-Elect Melissa Durrell

The meeting opened with the singing of O Canada led by Anne Donnelly.

I. **DECLARATION OF OFFICE**

a) **Councillors-Elect**

The Councillors-Elect individually affirmed their Declarations of Office before the City Clerk, Susan Greatrix.

b) **Mayor-Elect**

Mayor-Elect Halloran affirmed the Declaration of Office before the City Clerk, who presented Mayor Halloran with the Mayor's Chain of Office.

The City Clerk then introduced the Mayor and Members of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Waterloo for 2010-2014.

Mayor Halloran assumed the Chair.

2. **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Father Bernie Hayes addressed Council and guests with a prayer of invocation.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Mayor Halloran acknowledged the presence of dignitaries and special guests, Chairs of Boards and Committees and members of the Corporate Management Team.

4. **INAUGURAL ADDRESSES – COUNCILLORS**

- a) Members of Council presented their inaugural comments, copies of which are attached to and form part of these minutes.

5. **INAUGURAL ADDRESS – MAYOR HALLORAN**

- b) Mayor Halloran presented her inaugural address, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

Mayor Halloran invited all present to join the Mayor and Members of Council for a reception in the Atrium.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Witmer, seconded by Councillor Scian:

“That the meeting adjourn.” (Time: 8:01 p.m.)

Carried Unanimously

READ AND APPROVED

this 13th day of December, 2010

Mayor

City Clerk

**Mayor Brenda Halloran
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the inauguration of your new Waterloo City Council for 2010-2014. It is wonderful to see so many people here this evening to support this new council. It is truly my honour and privilege to be addressing you this evening as your Mayor.

This is such an exciting evening for all of us and as I look around this Council Chamber, I see many faces beaming with great pride. I wish to take this opportunity to thank my family and my friends, for their support, encouragement and for believing in me.

Thank you to my husband, Fred Brandenburg, my daughter, Elizabeth, my mother, Doreen, and my brother, Michael, as well as my other family members and wonderful friends who are here this evening. Special thank you and gratitude to my campaign team, such an incredible group of people who spent countless hours and dedicated their own personal time to work on the campaign. Please know that I sincerely appreciate everything you have done for me. Thank you so much.

But most of all, I would like to thank the citizens of Waterloo for re-electing me as your Mayor. Thank you for placing your trust in me for another four years.

I am very proud to be Mayor of Waterloo and representing a city that has accomplished so much in the past four years. Our future is exciting and I feel honoured and privileged to be sitting in this chair again, working on behalf of the citizens of Waterloo. I am also proud to be working with the seven councillors sitting here around the Council horseshoe. We have five returning councillors and two new councillors, all dedicated, community minded individuals who have made a commitment to the citizens of Waterloo, to work together with respect and for the best interests of our citizens. We will continue to bring stability to our city and a new phase of success.

I would like to congratulate our councillors who were re-elected to a new term in office:

- Ward 1 Councillor Scott Witmer
 - Ward 2 Councillor Karen Scian
 - Ward 3 Councillor Angela Vieth
 - Ward 4 Councillor Diane Freeman
 - Ward 5 Councillor Mark Whaley
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Welcome back! It is so good to see you all back in your council chairs.

And I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our two new Councillors:

- Ward 6 Councillor Jeff Henry
- Ward 7 Councillor Melissa Durrell

Welcome to the Waterloo team!

This is your new Council and I look forward to working together as a strong team, listening to our citizens, sharing our ideas and goals, making decisions for our community based on mutual respect and trust, engaging our community in discussions affecting our future, working hard to create a Waterloo the citizens want. We all share the same passion – our love of this community, our love of Waterloo.

And speaking of teams, we have an extraordinary team of dedicated staff members who work for our city. We couldn't do what we do, and accomplish what we have accomplished, without the hardworking people who make up the team of staff here at the City of Waterloo.

They are a talented, creative and passionate group who really care about this city. And I sincerely thank them all, for their ongoing commitment and dedication to the citizens of Waterloo.

This year's election saw a dramatic rise in voter turnout in this community, which I believe speaks to the passion we all have for this city. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the election process, including all the candidates who ran for positions and our two outgoing councillors.

As I look around this horseshoe, I am proud to see our new city Council. Together, we're dedicated to working for you ... the residents of Waterloo. Each Councillor brings something different to the table. Collectively, we will use our experience, fresh ideas and collaborative spirit to successfully propel this great city forward for the next four years, and beyond.

I again would like to thank the residents and taxpayers of Waterloo, who have put their faith and confidence in us as a Council, to lead Waterloo to a new level of success.

I'm here tonight to tell you that we won't let you down. I am truly excited about the future of this great city and about all the possibilities and great opportunities that are in our future. It has been said that success always comes when preparation meets opportunity. Well, Waterloo is prepared, and the opportunity is now. When you think of our beginnings and look at where Waterloo is now, you begin to realize that we have accomplished many great things together.

Waterloo has evolved significantly throughout its 153-year history; from a small village inhabited by Pennsylvanian settlers, to a city with over 124,000 residents; from an economy based on manufacturing and insurance, to high tech, academics and innovation. From here, the future is certainly bright. That doesn't

mean we're without challenges though. And we will face all our issues head on, with openness and transparency.

I'd like to begin by addressing the election ballot questions in regards to continuing water fluoridation and exploring the advantages and disadvantages of a merger with Kitchener. In both cases, you – the residents – voted no. Council supports your decisions. The Region stopped putting fluoride in your water as of Nov. 29th. And as for the amalgamation question, we will not pursue any discussions about a possible merger. What we will do is continue to work with our neighbouring municipalities to provide a high level of efficient service for all of our residents. We have already embarked on more than forty joint-service projects with Kitchener, and will continue to leverage this valuable relationship.

During the election, fiscal responsibility was a topic that often surfaced at the debates and door to door. The fact that you re-elected the majority of council tells us you have confidence in the decisions we've made.

Approving the 2011 budget is one of the first items on this Council's agenda and we are aiming to set the tax rate at no higher than 1.89 per cent. Not only that, we are also going to open the financial books to a citizen-led finance review committee for the upcoming three-year budget. This new committee will have the opportunity to do a line-by-line review of our budget to show exactly where your tax dollars are being spent and how we can find efficiencies and cost savings in our future budgets. We are already working on the establishment of this committee.

In the past few years, we have had the honour of being recognized as the 2007 Intelligent Community, opened our national award winning Waterloo Public Square, built our new fire station on the east side of the city, as well as the ongoing construction of our new Library/Y and so much more. At the same time, we've contributed to our reserve funds and continued to pay down the RIM Park debt. Although that debt was created many years ago when the city was under different leadership, it has left a lasting mark in the form of a lesson, one that has taught us the importance of making prudent and responsible financial decisions. On the horizon are a number of exciting projects, including an accessible playground as well as an Action Sports Park in Waterloo Park. And we will be opening our new Millennium Sports Fields at RIM Park in the spring. Stay tuned!

The environment is another priority for Waterloo. We are an environment-first community, a motto we promote and live by. This year we updated our Environmental Strategy, which guides our corporate decision-making process and steers us towards greater levels of environmental sustainability. We're proud of this strategy because it allows us to build upon the work that's already been done, while encouraging us to be proactive. Over the next council term, we will also be establishing an Office of Environmental Sustainability to facilitate the strategy's implementation as well as to oversee and co-ordinate our environmental projects and initiatives as we work towards a Green Waterloo. You will be hearing much more about this and all our other projects as we move forward.

We constantly strive to improve our communication with you. One of the items on our agenda is to upgrade our website so that it's more user-friendly. But we also encourage you to contact us ... dialogue is key to community building, and is about much more than us informing you! It's also about listening, learning, consulting, collaborating and empowering ... important components of our new Public Involvement Guidelines.

Collaboration is a chief consideration in our communication, as well as our everyday operations. In fact, when reflecting upon the city's recent successes, the power of collaboration is a recurring theme. Such projects as the John M. Harper District Branch Library and Stork Family YMCA wouldn't have been possible without collaboration. In that case, the city joined forces with the library, the YMCA and the University of Waterloo to create a facility that will enrich the lives of everyone in this community. That facility is scheduled to open to the public in the fall of 2011, making recreation and library services more accessible for our west-side residents.

Construction is booming throughout Waterloo, especially in our core. Cranes, bulldozers and other heavy equipment are common sights in the uptown. They're particularly hard to miss near the intersection of Erb and Caroline streets, where the Barrel Yards complex on the site of the former Canbar factory, and the Balsillie Centre of Excellence are being built. Then, there's the Perimeter Institute, which is expanding to improve the learning environments for many leading physicists and researchers in training. And across the street, Knox Presbyterian Church is in its final stages of construction of their new church. This is just a handful of examples of the development and construction that's underway; these projects speak to Waterloo's success. It's a place where people want to put down roots and build businesses. It's a place that attracts talent from around the world to live, to work and to study.

Economic development is another priority that is important for our future, as our city grows and prospers in the coming years. We want to build on our strong and economically diverse community. We will continue to attract more business and investments to Waterloo by facilitating economic outreach programs; and continuing to collaborate with our business and academic partners. The strength of our community is our ability to foster collaborative partnerships, to innovate and create, to facilitate and to work together. We are known for our spirit of collaboration and we will continue to engage our business and academic communities in working together on opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.

Our success can't simply be measured by our economy or construction though. It's about more than that. Where would we be without our vibrant arts and cultural scene? In addition to our high-tech economy and our universities and college, Waterloo is also home to an award-winning clay and glass gallery, a vibrant community arts centre at the Button Factory and a new local-history museum at Conestoga Mall. We must also continue to maintain and protect our heritage areas for our future generations.

Success can also be measured by the relationships that we build. I've touched upon some of our key partnerships already, and there are many more. Waterloo isn't the enviable city it is because of one person or one company. Its high level of success is a testament to the collaborative nature that exists here. This includes working with our dynamic student population to spread the message that Waterloo belongs to everyone who lives here – both long-term residents and those who are new to the area. Students bring enthusiasm and ideas to this community, and contribute to our economic vitality. Together, we are accomplishing great things.

Finally, success is about spirit ... and that's something that's abundant in Waterloo. Think back to the fall of 2009. The community was beginning to embrace the new Waterloo Public Square. In fact, it was becoming a hub of activity thanks to the diverse programming there, with everything from ballroom dancing to live music. Budget constraints had prevented us from installing a skating rink to entertain the winter crowds though. Well, a group of four community leaders wasn't about to let that happen. They worked tirelessly to raise the money needed to install the rink, and it was a busy destination all winter, giving us opportunities for recreation, fun and fellowship. It's the Waterloo Way - our community coming together for the betterment of all.

We really have come a long way. We are now front and centre on the global stage. We are being spoken of as the knowledge capital of Canada. These accomplishments are something to be truly proud of. But I don't want to stop there. I would like to see our city take a step to the next level. And I know that this Council and the staff we have at the City of Waterloo can take us there.

I will continue to work on the establishment of a Health Care Centre of Excellence for our citizens, to ensure we all have access to doctors and health care within our city. We have established a Mayor's Age Friendly City committee and are working on issues affecting our seniors and how we can ensure our future growth considers the needs of an aging community.

We will also be establishing a new Multicultural Committee to ensure we are engaging and listening to the needs of all members of our diverse community.

Waterloo is a great city and we are still a young city! And that's what makes it so exciting. Over the next four years we have much work to do. We want to continue to build a city of the 21st century. We want a city with a quality of life second to none. It will be our journey together to further develop the personality of our community. Great cities are not built overnight - they continue to grow and mature over centuries. As we begin this next term, we have to be as diligent and committed as we have been in the past. We will continue to be fiscally responsible, focus on our economic development and affordable rapid transit and strive for a green Waterloo. As we build a city for the 21st century - we will continue to serve you to the best of our abilities and engage you in our decision-making.

We are about to enter an era in municipal government that is both exciting and challenging. Our job will be difficult at times, but it's a responsibility that we all take very seriously, one that we will embrace each day, rising to any challenges we face and celebrating our milestones along the way. With city staff, we will work as a team to continue to steer Waterloo on its long journey of success. I can't wait to see where it will take us.

I look forward to our exciting future, as together; we continue to create a Waterloo the citizens want.

Thank you.

**Councillor Scott Witmer
Ward I Southwest
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

Thank you Mayor Halloran.

I am very grateful and proud of the trust that voters have once again placed in me and I'd like to thank them for their support.

Thank you to the many citizens in Waterloo who became involved in the election process. It's a strong indication of how much people care about this great community.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to make their vote count on election day. We saw a tremendous spike in our voter turnout here in Waterloo and again another strong indication of how we all want to be a part of the future of this great City.

During this election I had the opportunity to speak with thousands of people across my ward. Many expressed comments of support for the accomplishments over the past four years and many expressed their thoughts about the issues this Council will face – whether it's spending at City Hall, solving the problem of traffic and safety in our neighbourhoods, or getting back to basics and ensuring that we deliver on our commitment to provide safe roads, recreation, fire and water. These are all challenges that, as I look around this table, I very confident we will successful manage.

Finally I would just like to thank those who worked so hard on my behalf to get me re-elected. Doing this job requires the support of a lot of people and I truly thank them, particularly my family. Whether I was knocking on doors in the rain, prepping for debates or waving on those street corners at 6:30 in the morning – a very humbling experience. I thank you for your support and most importantly I thank you for just offering it and me not having to ask

To Mayor Halloran and my colleagues on Council: we represent one of the greatest cities in the world. The public has entrusted us with a great responsibility and I wish all of you a very successful four years.

Thank you.

**Councillor Karen Scian
Ward 2 Northwest
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

Thank you Mayor Halloran.

- Honoured to be serving the community for another exciting four years

Thank you family and friends. I understand that I am extremely blessed:

- I was raised by exceptional parents who taught my sister and me all about community service;
- I am surrounded by very supportive friends;
- I am now proudly watching my own children develop into caring and engaged young adults.
- I have much to be thankful for.

I am excited about working with this council – we are indeed a “City of Possibilities” and I see a bright and exciting four years ahead of us. We will have challenges and we will face them together.

I predict that this council will be characterized by two key attributes:

- The demonstrated ability to *listen* ... to each other and to the community.
- The ability to creatively *problem solve* – together – to find better alternatives and better solutions to the challenges we will face.

I would ask each of us to take pause occasionally and consider the relationship between Politics and Leadership ... they are not always the same thing, but they can work together effectively.

**Councillor Angela Vieth
Ward 3 Lakeshore
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

Mayor Halloran, Council colleagues, staff and citizens of Waterloo.

It is a privilege to be in this chair again and I am proud to have the opportunity to serve Ward 3 and indeed all the citizens of Waterloo for another term on Council.

John and I chose to stay in Waterloo because of the opportunities for education, recreation, culture and employment it offers us and our family.

Our city is thriving and changing constantly. A strong and prosperous core makes a city vibrant. We have that here in Waterloo and careful and deliberate growth should continue. This Council, on behalf of the citizens of Waterloo, will have a strong hand in shaping and controlling the growth we will experience within our fixed boundaries in the next few years.

We will need to be visionaries and risk takers and continue to work in partnership with our stakeholders including citizens, business and educators in our city. That vision for me includes more pedestrian and bicycle options, with lots of connected trails, bike lanes and excellent public transit routes so more folks will be able to consider taking the bus to where ever they are going.

The citizens of Waterloo like the small town atmosphere here and I will work with Council, staff and citizens towards maintaining that ideal. The popular Thursday Market in the Public Square and the Artist Alley at the Button Factory are great examples of small town activities.

Congratulations to Mayor Halloran and returning Councillors and welcome to Councillors Henry and Durrell.

My thanks to the voters in Ward 3 who had the faith in me to give me another term to represent them.

I look forward to the privilege of serving the citizens of Waterloo for another 4 years.

Thank you!

**Councillor Diane Freeman
Ward 4 Northeast
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

Mayor Halloran, members of Council, staff and honoured guests.

As I journey down the path of another four years as a City of Waterloo Councillor I do not walk alone. I am so very thankful for the support shown to me by the citizens of Waterloo, as well as my employer, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, the professional staff at the City of Waterloo and most importantly my extended family and my husband Peter Hicks and my children, Scott and Adam. As you know, being a part-time Councillor is a full-time commitment and without 120 percent support from my family, I would not be able to serve the citizens to the extent that I strive to do.

I look forward to the next four years as we work together as a Council to build consensus and uphold the trust placed in us by the citizens of Waterloo. We will not always make popular decisions, but I hope that they might be the right decisions. It takes courage to do what is right, not what is popular and I hope we will all have the courage when those decisions challenge us.

Over the next four years I hope we can continue down the path of supporting active transportation initiatives and designing streets that all users can access.

We have much to do with regard to infrastructure reinvestment and I worry about the ability to pay, as a City, for this much needed work.

It is amazing to me to see all of the development in Waterloo. This kind of intensified growth and development will require continued leadership on behalf of Council and I trust we are up to the challenge.

One observation I have made over the past four years is that as a City we could never deliver half of what we do without the countless hours of volunteers. I have been humbled by the multitude of individuals with a strong desire to serve and contribute to our City.

It was said in these Chambers by Jack Harper's son that he was raised to know that "volunteerism is the rent we pay, for the space we occupy here on earth".

Much volunteer rent has been paid for the City of Waterloo.

Andrew Carnegie said: "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

Together, as a team, I know we can make a difference. I look forward to being a part of the team....Thank you.

**Councillor Mark Whaley
Ward 5 Southeast
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

I am truly thankful to my family who have made the opportunity to do this work as City Councillor possible. My thanks to the citizen's of Ward 5 who have again put their trust in me to act in their best interest as their representative. I will do my utmost not to let them down.

I am hopeful that my long experience in the field will be of value to this new council and to our amazing staff, who are the engine that drives our efforts here at city hall.

As well, that my continuing commitment to this work and my enduring love for the City of Waterloo will be of help as we progress as a Council.

Finally, I hope that the human traits of thoughtfulness and humility will be constant companions in my work as we go forward together.

**Councillor Jeff Henry
Ward 6 Central-Columbia
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010**

Thank you Mayor

I want to start by thanking the good people of Ward 6 for showing great faith in electing me. It's a challenging position as we've already heard tonight – a part time role with full-time expectations and with so many challenges ahead of us that together I think we can face successfully.

But all of that never would have been possible without all the volunteer hours and support that I was provided by so many kind people that I've come across over the years I've spent here in Waterloo and without them I certainly wouldn't be here today

I'd of course like to thank my family and friends, some for journeying for some distance to be here. It's going to enjoyable to spend and celebrate some time together after we exit this chamber.

I want to thank my spouse Kate in particular. I think when we met seven years ago at a Committee meeting at the University where we were going to school, perhaps this was not entirely unexpected to everyone else but me that I would end up around the horseshoe today but it was to me I never expected to be here

It is the support along the way and the encouragement that I think takes us forward as a community.

I talked about many priorities on the campaign trail. We will have plenty of time over the next four years to talk about those.

As a male engineering graduate today, on December 6, 21 years after l'École Polytechnique, I think about diversity in our community. I think about celebrating inclusion in our community and of never forgetting that it really matters to some people, that it can really hurt some people when we ignore the diversity in our community and some of the challenges that brings us.

As an engineering graduate I can't help but have my thoughts wander to those fourteen, 21 years ago today.

Our work ahead of us we have to do together. We have to make sure that we're looking out for each other, that we're mindful of each other's perspectives, each other's differences, that we do more than celebrate those, that we work to make sure we can all be proud of our great City.

I hope that just some of the work we do as a Council, as a great Council, over the next four years will help make Waterloo an even better place for all of us to live.

I look forward to working with my seven colleagues around the horseshoe and I thank you Mayor Halloran for the time to speak tonight.

Councillor Melissa Durrell
Ward 7 UpTown
Inaugural Address
December 6, 2010

It is such an honour to be here tonight and I too have lots of people to thank for helping me get here. I'm going to start with my husband, Jason VanderMuelen, my best friend and my partner; my two kids, Kennedy and Marcus – they were very supportive, cheering as they passed my lawn signs; my parents Jim and Sam Durrell from Ottawa. Thank you very much.. You've always believed in me and I thank you for that.

And thank you to all those people who helped make it possible for me to be here and to all the volunteers, my team, and the proud residents of the UpTown Ward 7 for your support.

I'm here because I believe in Waterloo and I truly believe this is one of the best cities in the world and I am humbled that I get to be a part of its future.

One of my favourite quotes is by a man named Peter Drucker and he says "The best way to predict the future is to create it", so I say let's roll up our sleeves.

This City has some difficult decisions to make when it comes to money and we have to ensure strong financial stability. We have to respect taxpayers. That said, not everything costs money. Ideas are free. We have great thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs here in Waterloo.

UpTown is changing dramatically and I would say Waterloo is going through a little bit of a renaissance right now. Nearly every corner in UpTown has a crane or a construction site or an application to develop. It's incredibly exciting and as we experience this growth spurt, we must respect our heritage and incorporate the historical architecture. Growth means much more traffic and for the residents living in UpTown, that's a frightening realization. One of my number one priorities is to keep our urban neighbourhoods safe, adopting new traffic calming measures in the core and promoting a better public transportation system.

I want to see the people of Waterloo embrace their artistic side, promoting art in the core, on our streets, in our businesses and in Waterloo Park.

I'm proud to be from Waterloo and I want every resident in UpTown Ward 7 and in the City of Waterloo to be proud to live here too.

I think that's part of my job – to make sure over the next four years that we continue this renaissance, enabling artists and small businesses, growing responsibly and engaging our citizens to make sure that your needs are being met.

This is a great job and this is a great team. I pledge to work hard and represent you to the best of my ability.
