



City of Kelowna
INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Date: Monday, November 7, 2022
 Location: Community Theatre
 1375 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Council Members Present Mayor-Elect Tom Dyas, Councillors-Elect Ron Cannan, Maxine DeHart, Charlie Hodge, Gord Lovegrove, Mohini Singh, Luke Stack, Rick Webber and Loyal Wooldridge

Staff Present City Manager, Doug Gilchrist; City Clerk, Stephen Fleming; Deputy City Clerk, Laura Bentley; Legislative Coordinator (Confidential), Arlene McClelland, Lesley Driscoll, Administrative Coordinator; Caroline Ivey, Theatre Manager, Nick Bonnett. Theatre Technician II, John Adams, Theatre Technician

Guests The Honourable Judge Andrew Tam; Former Mayor, Colin Basran; Former Councillors Ryan Donn, Gail Given and Brad Sieben; Master of Ceremonies, Casey Clarke; KFD Bagpiper, Andy Moore; KFD Honour Guard, Adam Benson and Rick Euper; RCMP Constables Michael Della-Paolera and Jonathan Viejou; RCMP Superintendent Kara Triance; Westbank First Nation; Krystal Lezard; The Kelowna City Band

National Anthem by Dennis Colpitts and musical entertainment provided by the Kelowna City Band, and Bagpiper Andy Moore.

1. Commencement of Inaugural Ceremony

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

2. Welcome to Guests

Master of ceremonies (MC) Casey Clarke welcomed everyone to the inaugural Council meeting.

3. National Anthem

Dennis Colpitts led in the singing of the National Anthem.

4. Okanagan Song - Krystal Lezard

MC Casey Clarke called upon Krystal Lezard to perform the Okanagan Song.

4. Introduction of newly elected Council

MC Casey Clarke introduced the in-coming Council.

5. Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Tom Dyas

The Honourable Judge Andrew Tam administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Tom Dyas.

6. Administration of Oath of Office - Councillors-Elect

The Honourable Judge Andrew Tam administered the Oath of Office to Councillors-Elect Ron Cannan, Maxine DeHart, Charlie Hodge, Gord Lovegrove, Mohini Singh, Luke Stack, Rick Webber and Loyal Wooldridge.

7. Meeting Call to Order by His Worship Mayor Tom Dyas

His Worship Mayor Tom Dyas called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

8. Mayor Tom Dyas' Inaugural Address

Introduction and thank you:

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us on this very special night.

I will now call to order this City of Kelowna, Inaugural Council meeting.

Since election night of October 15th, my family and I have been busy. Right after the election, on Oct 17th we celebrated my Dad's 102nd Birthday in Toronto

With Remembrance Day being this Friday the 11th and my Dad being one of the few remaining Veterans of the 2nd World War these two events combined always made this a significant time of year for him.

We were also able to celebrate briefly on October 17th with my mother the Election win and my Dad's birthday.

Regrettably a few days after that celebration she entered palliative care and her health started to decline quickly and within a week she was unable to recognize myself and my sisters and she passed away last week, with her funeral being this past Friday.

The amazing thing about parents though is that they are always teaching their children lessons and even through this difficult time, my Parents shared a lesson with me.

My father shared a lesson of strength and courage to be there mentally and physically through this trying time for his family and my Mom, his partner through 73 years of marriage.

My mother's ability to communicate with people and be there to care for others was only reassured by the beautiful positive comments made by those who attended her Funeral.

The lessons of strength and communication and caring for people were very timely lessons for me and a good reminder for me to carry forward.

I know that my dad will see this event tonight online, and I know that my mom is with us tonight in spirit which helps provide comfort for me and my sisters.

I would like to take a moment to thank a few people for being involved in tonight's special event. Krystal Lezard, I thank you for sharing your traditions with us and getting this Council started on the right path.

Justice Tam thank you for taking part in the Inauguration Event and administering the Oath of Office to myself and Council.

Casey Clarke thank you for agreeing to be a Master of Ceremonies tonight. I couldn't think of a better person. You have done so much for Music, entertainment and the arts both locally and nationally and we know how important the Arts are to our community.

To City Manager Doug Gilcrest and the countless City staff who I know have worked hard to make this event seamless, thank you for all your work.

Thank you to my Family and Close friends for being here to support me.

Thank you to the Councilor's family and close friends for being here for their support.

And finally, thank you Kelowna for putting your trust in the nine of us here today to move our city forward.

Councilors

I'm proud of the Councilors that I will share the Council table with for the next four years

We have a great mix of incumbents with the institutional knowledge to get things done, and new Councilors who are coming to the table with their own new ideas.

I have spent most of the last week in orientation with each of you and I have been getting to know each of you a little better.

Ron Cannan, Loyal Wooldridge, Rick Webber, Gord Lovegrove, Mohini Singh, Luke Stack, Charlie Hodge and Maxine DeHart I cannot wait to see what we all can accomplish together.

Throughout the election I heard common themes at the door from residents:

- Crime
- Homelessness
- Traffic
- Transparency
- Communication
- Affordable Housing

These are major issues, and they do not have simple or quick fixes. They are going to take time, strength and communication to address. But four years is a long time.

And the Residents of Kelowna deserve action, I promised you that I wouldn't pass the buck to higher levels of government and throw my hands up in defeat. That is my commitment to you.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world with some of the greatest residents with all levels of skills to help our community and we can never lose sight of that.

We must always strive to do better, we cannot be complacent.

Plans Moving Forward:

Politicians often promise lofty items during a campaign and then once they take office, they lose sight of those promises. I won't do that.

I've already been meeting with Councilors and we are starting to put together an action plan and this will be reviewed at an upcoming strategic plan priorities meeting which will confirm a path and plan we have all agreed upon.

It's one thing to say you're going to increase transparency or tackle crime it's another to actually take tangible concrete steps to achieve it.

Not everything we try will work and we have to admit when it doesn't.

But saying there's nothing that can be done isn't good enough.

I truly believe that the voters showed us that on Oct 15th

We have to have courage. The courage to step further, act stronger, listen to others, try something new, and the courage to admit when we're wrong.

This Council is filled with incredibly smart people... but we don't know everything.

We must have the courage to ask for advice.

I'm committed to trying new initiatives and ideas to tackle our biggest issues.

We will ensure we can measure their success and if they're not working... rebalance and adjust our strategies.

Rather than having strategies and goals that are impossible to measure, this Council will have concrete action items.

We will have the courage to show people what we stand for and what we hope to achieve.

We owe it to you as residents.

9. Regional District Appointments 2022-2026

Moved By Councillor Wooldridge/Seconded By Councillor DeHart

THAT the Regional District appointments for the City of Kelowna be as follows:

Appointees

Mayor Tom Dyas - 5 votes
 Councillor Ron Cannan - 5 votes
 Councillor Charlie Hodge – 4 votes
 Councillor Gord Lovegrove – 4 votes
 Councillor Mohini Singh – 4 votes
 Councillor Loyal Wooldridge – 5 votes

Alternates

Councillor Maxine DeHart
 Councillor Luke Stack
 Councillor Rick Webber

Carried

10. Gift Presentation to Outgoing Council

His worship Tom Dyas presented a gift of appreciation to former Mayor Colin Basran and former Councillors Ryan Donn, Gail Given and Brad Sieben.

11. Inaugural Address (continued)

Conclusion:

The challenges before this Council are not small, and the tasks that residents have assigned us are significant.

It won't be easy, and we know we will never make all residents happy.

But my goal over the next four years is to do what I said I would.

To be honest with residents.

And to show you that politicians can listen and come up with new ideas.

We will be courageous, innovative, honest, responsible, transparent and have the strength, courage and communication that I referenced earlier.

Thank you for joining us here this evening and placing your trust in each council member and myself.

Together we will work for our residents of Kelowna to make a difference.

The Honourable Judge Andrew Tam presented Mayor Tom Dyas with the Chain of Office.

12. Invitation to Reception

His Worship Tom Dyas invited guests in attendance to join members of Council for light refreshments.

13. Termination

The meeting was declared terminated at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor
/cm

City Clerk