

2014 DECEMBER 01

An Inaugural meeting of the City Council was held in Edmonds Community Centre, 7433 Edmonds Street, Burnaby, B.C., on Monday, 2014 December 01 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: His Worship, Mayor D. Corrigan In the Chair
Councillor P. Calendino
Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Councillor D. Johnston
Councillor C. Jordan
Councillor A. Kang
Councillor P. McDonell
Councillor N. Volkow
Councillor J. Wang

STAFF: Mr. R. Moncur, City Manager
Mr. C. Turpin, Deputy City Manager
Mr. L. Chu, Deputy City Manager
Mr. L. Gous, Director Engineering
Mrs. D. Jorgenson, Director Finance
Mr. D. Ellenwood, Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Mr. L. Pelletier, Director Planning & Building
Mr. D. MacDonald, Fire Chief
Mr. D. Critchley, Officer in Charge, RCMP
Mr. S. Cleave, Deputy City Clerk

His Worship, Mayor-Elect Derek R. Corrigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

THE BLESSING

Father Tom Smith, Burnaby St. Francis de Sales Parish, gave a blessing.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Retired BC Provincial Court Judge Carol Baird Ellan performed the swearing-in of the newly elected members of Council.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

His Worship, Mayor Derek Corrigan delivered his Inaugural Address. The following is the text of the Mayor's address:

Welcome, everyone. On behalf of our newly re-elected council members and our new Councillor, James Wang, I want to say how pleased we are that you could all be here tonight for this inaugural meeting of City Council – and I want to thank you for the trust that you have again placed in me as Mayor and in our entire council. We are determined to do everything we can to exceed your expectations and to ensure that Burnaby continues to be a city that other cities look to as a model of how to do things right.

I'd like to take a moment to directly thank several people who are here helping us to ensure that tonight will be a wonderful community celebration.

MLAs

- Kathy Corrigan
- Jane Shin
- Richard Lee

Special Guests

- Freeman Victor Stusiak
- Freeman Celeste Redman
- Ruth Copeland
- Helen Brown
- Director General William Chuang of Taiwanese Economic Cultural Office

Bagpiper

- David Irvine

Flag Bearers from Byrne Creek Secondary School

- Canada: Michelle Kurtagich
- B.C.: Emily Pascual
- Burnaby: Molly Yang

RCMP

- Constable Kellan Ramsey
- Constable Joey So

Minister

- Father Tom Smith

Judge

- Retired BC Provincial Court Judge, Carol Baird Ellan

School Trustees

- Baljinder Narang
- Ron Burton
- Katrina Chen
- Meiling Chia
- Harman Pandher

Union Presidents

- Rob Lamoureaux, Burnaby Firefighters Local 323
- Simon Challenger, CUPE 23

Burnaby City Councillors-elect

- Councillor-elect Sav Dhaliwal
- Councillor-elect, James Wang
- Councillor-elect, Colleen Jordan
- Councillor-elect, Dan Johnston
- Councillor-elect, Pietro Calendino
- Councillor-elect, Anne Kang
- Councillor-elect, Nick Volkow
- Councillor-elect, Paul McDonell

...and we have a lovely 18-student choir here tonight, led by Mr. Kyle Axford

...and dozens of members of our many city boards and committees, who volunteer their time throughout the year to ensure that decisions made represent our entire Burnaby community.

...and, finally, I'd like to thank all of the staff in our Clerk's office who have worked so hard over the past several months to ensure that all Burnaby citizens had an opportunity to vote in our municipal election – and for their significant contributions to tonight's inaugural meeting of Burnaby City Council.

Thank you so much to all of you for being here to make this evening special.

I talked a few moments ago about how other cities look at Burnaby as a model of how to do things right. There are many reasons for this, but they all depend on two key facts: we don't make plans in this city without the direct involvement of citizens, businesses, community leaders and representatives from non-profit organizations; and once we've made a plan, we respect it.

It's because of this that we now have a sustainability framework and Official Community Plan that guide our activities. And it's also the reason that we are achieving significant long-term goals set long ago with our community.

We have award-winning Economic Development and Social Sustainability strategies in place and a robust Environmental Sustainability Strategy that is almost complete – being developed in collaboration with (so far) more than 2,000 citizens, not-for-profit organizations and business leaders. I know this strategy will set the framework for many future actions and directions, with positive impacts that, perhaps, we can't even yet imagine. A good example of similar far-sighted planning from Burnaby's past is the 'Open Watercourse Policy'. This direction was set in the 1970s and has preserved a network of 79 streams contained in three major watersheds. This is extremely unusual in an urban environment and something we should all be proud of. Demonstrating the success of this approach, this year salmon have returned to both Buckingham Creek and Still Creek. For decades, these streams didn't support spawning.

Our four town centres are evolving to become the unique complete communities first envisioned with you more than 20 years ago, focusing density and enabling us to keep 25 per cent of our city as park and green space and to protect our valued single-family neighbourhoods.

All four quadrants of our city – Metrotown, Brentwood, Edmonds and Lougheed – saw significant development and rejuvenation during the year, all of which continues to position Burnaby as a regional leader in creating sustainable transit-oriented town centres. Much more is planned for 2015 and beyond, as businesses and citizens continue to choose Burnaby as their preferred location. For 2014, building permit values are on track to be approximately the same as last year's impressive \$675 million total, among the highest annual totals in the city's history.

And we are ensuring that we stay focused on getting complementary, extremely cost-effective amenities for our citizens as these developments come to fruition. Innovative policies often help us realize that goal. Costs for new assets are often completely eliminated by initiatives such as our Community Benefit Density Bonus Policy that sees private developers pay for city programs and facilities in exchange for increased density in buildings they are constructing. This policy enables taxpayers to receive valuable community services – such as daycares and community centres – for no capital cost. Since 1997, more than \$154 million in community benefits has been achieved.

Just this past year, Council approved the largest contribution ever granted from the City's Community Benefit Bonus Policy Housing Fund. Over \$1 million dollars was approved to support the development of 122 units of seniors' housing for the George Derby Care Society. Currently, 20 per cent of all funds received through the Community Benefit Bonus Policy are allocated to the Burnaby Housing Fund to provide assistance with affordable housing projects such as this one.

Priority projects we'll soon achieve through this program include:

- a new performance/event centre in Metrotown;
- a new Brentwood Community Centre;
- a new linear public park along Willingdon Avenue, linking Brentwood Town Centre to Confederation Park;

- a new arena in the Edmonds area;
- the replacement of the Cameron recreation centre, including a pool, and the replacement of the Cameron Library in Lougheed; and
- up to 12 child care facilities on school sites throughout the city (that will triple the number of child care spaces). This plan -- the result of a new partnership between the school district and the city -- has the potential to create 500 to 600 child care spaces. The city will fund capital costs for the facilities, while the school district will provide the sites and manage the operations.

Two valuable, new amenities obtained through the Policy are located in Metrotown, our regional city centre – the newly opened Metrotown Community Resource Centre, which provides 16,000 square feet of subsidized office and program space for Burnaby non-profit associations, and the 6,000 square foot Kingsway-Willingdon Community Resource Centre, which we expect to open by summer 2015. The City, by negotiating and operating these amenities, helps local non-profits to provide needed services and programs to Burnaby residents.

And so much more is happening in Metrotown. Developments under construction include the ‘Art Walk’ on Beresford Street between Dow and McKay avenues, which will be one of the largest concentrations of public art in the region.

In Brentwood, Phase 1 of the Brentwood Town Centre redevelopment is well under way, including the new central civic plaza, which will be a vibrant community gathering place, adjacent to the Brentwood SkyTrain station.

And to the north in Confederation Park, a new spray park recently opened, complementing the feature playground that opened last year. Our planned Willingdon linear park will make pedestrian and cyclist travel between Brentwood and Confederation Park easier than ever.

Lougheed Town Centre is also poised for change, with construction of the Evergreen rapid transit line is now well under way. This line, which will connect Lougheed Town Centre to the Port Moody and Coquitlam town centres, will enable this area to be another pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use, rapid-transit-centred community.

In Edmonds Town Centre, where the community has embraced the new Community Centre and adjacent plaza and where there will be a playground and spray park added to Edmonds Park, the Southgate Neighbourhood Master Plan will incorporate the City’s principles of sustainability directly into a new neighbourhood. Encompassing some 48 acres in the heart of the town centre, the site is centred on a five-acre park that will include amenities and trails that will facilitate walking and cycling.

And in the green heart of our City, more residents than ever are enjoying the free Burnaby Village Museum, which saw attendance grow for the third year in a row in 2014, and which – along with council – just won a BC Museums Association Outstanding Achievement Corporate Service Award for our free admission initiative.

And staff are working to develop the concept plan for the entire Burnaby Lake Complex, where there'll be a new CG Brown pool. The area will continue to develop as the central recreation and leisure hub for the City and the region.

Our focus on efficiency, partnerships and innovation continues to ensure that the City's fiscal position remains strong. Our investment portfolio is projected to return an annual yield of 4.50% and income of \$42 million by year end, December 31 – the largest single-year investment income ever for the City. This income helps to reduce City taxes and provides funding for the City's capital investment in infrastructure. Sound investment practices have provided Burnaby with steady income over the last decade, ensuring liquidity when needed and growth to help offset increases in our operating budget and providing funding for various capital projects. I'm pleased to say that for 2015, in an environment in which interest rates are lower than those of some of our recently matured investments, the City is projecting only a slightly lower annual return of 4.2%.

The City's exemplary staff continue to be the key to our ongoing success, as they work with citizens to ensure that local priorities are emphasized, community goals are achieved and nothing is wasted.

This year, Burnaby, Vancouver, Richmond, Delta, Surrey and New Westminster collaborated to offer trade-related businesses the opportunity to purchase an Inter-Municipal Business Licence that enables businesses to operate under a single business license in all participating cities, saving the business both time and money. During the year, 286 Burnaby-based businesses took advantage of this opportunity.

For businesses and for citizens, all departments are continuing to make as many services as possible available for those who prefer on-line transactions. And our purchasing staff, in concert with the Burnaby Board of Trade, continue to offer workshops to the business community to provide support to them in carrying out their work.

The City has always been a close partner with our progressive Burnaby Board of Trade and with Tourism Burnaby – which was a proud partner of the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour that came to our Bill Copeland Sports Centre on November 8 and 9. It was a great weekend! In addition, we continue to support and partner with our active and dedicated local Merchants Associations, and the many businesses that call Burnaby home. With the City playing an active role, international and family-operated businesses continue to thrive here. But to be sure we stay relevant as a preferred business destination, we know that we have to continue to develop and innovate. To this end, we recently completed master planning for the Riverbend Business Park, the first phase of which will soon advance to public hearing. This development will provide a million square feet of industrial and commercial space, to retain and attract businesses in the Big Bend district.

I would also like to highlight two other key initiatives from the past year. The Burnaby Secondary Suite Program was implemented, and in the past year alone almost 180 newly approved suites were added to our rental housing stock. As well, existing legal

suites were recognized, to provide additional, affordable rental units in Burnaby.

Our RCMP are, as always, providing exemplary service, and crime rates continue to drop in the city. I'm so pleased to note that Staff Sergeant, Andy Leclair received the Order of Merit of the Police Forces from Governor General Johnson in September 2014, only the second member of the RCMP to receive this Order of Canada-level honour. And the police are proud to note that, along with 500 citizens, Burnaby-native, Michael Bubl , attended their second-annual Burnaby detachment open house!

Our libraries continue to be valued neighbourhood focal points and community developers. This year, initiatives included many to help facilitate transitions for people new to Burnaby – and often new to Canada. A great example of this is the Library Champions Project, which engages new immigrants who are recruited as library champions, and draw on their language skills, cultural knowledge and understanding of the immigrant experience to connect with newcomers and encourage them to discover public library resources. Immigrant serving agencies are key partners in this project.

Because Burnaby's planning framework is community-driven, we move forward with the confidence of knowing that we're focused on the goals our citizens, businesses and non-profit partners see as priorities. Along with your city councillors and Burnaby staff, I look forward to continuing to partner with all of you who have made Burnaby the world's best city -- to continue to work together to keep it that way.

We are a thriving community that is realizing the benefits of our long-range vision and collaborative planning. Together, we are creating: the best civic facilities; exciting town centres; unique neighbourhoods that reflect the diversity of a city in which more than 100 languages are spoken; busy shopping streets; and leading-edge business centres. Looking forward, we remain well positioned to build on our plans and achievements and to continue to make Burnaby a city that models sustainability.

As a Council, you have trusted us to work with you to lead Burnaby toward achievement of the goals that you have helped to set. I promise you – and all Burnaby citizens – that we will not let you down. Together, we will ensure that Burnaby remains a shining example of a city that respects all viewpoints, embraces the unique and invaluable diversity of its citizens, and stays focused on efficiency as we create new programs, developments and initiatives in our exciting, welcoming and economically robust community.

Thank you and please enjoy the rest of the evening – and the next four years! – with us.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON:
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN:

“THAT His Worship, Mayor Derek Corrigan's Inaugural Address be received.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Corrigan extended an invitation to everyone to stay and enjoy the reception following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN:

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR CALENDINO:

“THAT this Inaugural Council Meeting do now adjourn.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Inaugural Council Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Confirmed:

Certified Correct:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK