

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
INAUGURAL COUNCIL MINUTES
MUNICIPAL HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008

COUNCIL:

Mayor-Elect P. Goldsmith-Jones; Councillors-Elect T. Panz, M. Evison, M. Lewis, M. R. Smith, W.S. Soprovich and S. Walker.

STAFF:

G. McRadu, Chief Administrative Officer; B. Leigh, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; S. Scholes, Municipal Clerk; R. Fung, Director of Engineering and Transportation; R. Laing, Director of Finance; B. Sokol, Director of Planning, Lands and Permits; K. Pike, Director of Parks and Community Services; and M. Chan, Deputy Municipal Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The 90th Inaugural Council Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
The proceedings commenced with the national anthem sung by Jason Cook.

2. SWEARING IN OF DULY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Honourable Madam Justice J.R. Dillon conducted the swearing-in of the duly elected and re-elected Members of Council, and took the Oaths of Office of Pamela Goldsmith-Jones for the Office of Mayor and of Michael Evison, Michael Lewis, Trish Panz, Michael Smith, Bill Soprovich and Shannon Walker for the Office of Councillor.

3. SQUAMISH NATION GREETINGS AND BLESSING

Chief Bill Williams and B. Baker conveyed greetings to the new Council, offered a traditional prayer for the success of the newly elected Council, spoke relative to the inauguration of Council and offered a formal welcome from the Squamish Nation. Chief Williams and B. Baker concluded with a song celebrating the inauguration.

4. PERFORMANCE BY ALIQUA

The 9 member choral group "Aliqua" performed a choral piece.

5. INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY MAYOR GOLDSMITH-JONES

Mayor Goldsmith-Jones provided her inaugural address:

This is an interesting day for our country, as our elected leaders in Ottawa seem to struggle with what is in the best interests of Canadians. The lesson is instructive for us. We may have been elected for our differing points of view, but our work is done together, and our decisions are made as a group. We do our work by presenting different points of view or approaches to a problem. The metaphor of polishing ourselves against one another is how I like to think of our debates. Rough ideas become refined, faulty logic gets reordered, narrow interests become more inclusive, a minority view develops into a mainstream idea. May we shoot for this ideal in our work over the next three years, and may we remember the feeling of hope and optimism in our Chambers tonight.

Our swearing-in ceremony is an important time to think about the fact that we are one body, not seven individuals. As Mayor, I am committed to supporting each of you so that you may fully realize your potential as a member of Council. That's what the community expects. We are all responsible for upholding Council decisions, once they are made, because our authority comes from the motions we pass, not our personal opinions.

Each of our Councillors brings rich community experience, optimism, and energy to the public realm. Each has expressed their intent to work collaboratively on Council. Everyone has already worked together on working groups, Committees of Council, or local Boards of Directors. Judging by the emails I've already received, this is a keen group. I am inspired by your enthusiasm, and I am counting on your ability to continue to smile at one another and remember that while some of the issues we deal with may be tough, the points of view we each express come from our love of the community.

It is easy to be cynical about politicians. It is much harder to walk in those shoes. Our swearing-in ceremony is a measure of the community's respect for the commitment each of us is making, and we appreciate the trust you have placed in us, and the reciprocal commitment we make to put others' interests before our own. I think it is really good news for West Van to have four new members of Council. We have a great opportunity to redefine how we work, to establish a higher standard for effective governance, and to challenge ourselves to develop a long range strategic plan. The synergy between new perspectives and those with experience on Council is an exciting prospect.

Council doesn't just set the priorities for the organization, we set the tone. A cohesive Council that can coalesce around the decision of the majority empowers the staff to execute our goals successfully. Our ability to stay focused also contributes directly to the efficiency of the organization. Council is taking office at an important turning point. Our Chief Administrative Officer,

Grant McRadu, has been here six months now. His restructuring has begun, new teams are taking shape, Directors who have served us well are beginning to retire and the next wave of talent in the organization is stepping up. A recent Harris poll indicated that the top two priorities for successful businesses are its people and the community it serves. Those are our priorities as well.

We know that the world economy has changed dramatically, and the workforce is undergoing a major transition. We also know that we serve an incredibly engaged community, with very high expectations. Very tough decisions will need to be made in the days ahead. Our job is to ensure that these decisions add to the long-term social, financial, and environmental stability of West Vancouver. Local government **is** closest to the people. Our swearing-in is our public and personal commitment that we **will** pull together.

In the past term, Council demonstrated our ability to deliver on an agreed-to set of priorities. West Vancouver has been **extremely** well served by volunteer citizens on working groups, as they took on complex public policy questions. Our challenge now is to move beyond a one year budget cycle, or a three year term, in our thinking. We need to build on the work that went before, for example with regard to housing and neighbourhood character, the long term integrity of our parks and wilderness areas, the potential of the new community centre, and the very real need for a budget that drives our strategic goals and measures how we're doing. I am counting on members of Council to keep our discussions at a policy level, and to respect that the Council meeting time we have together is a precious resource, to be shared equally amongst all members of Council.

I would like to close with a personal message. At the risk of sounding provincial, we all need to remember the power of being polite in our daily lives, and to show that we care about each other. Slow down, wave at people, let someone else go first, don't litter, thank a firefighter, don't blame the bylaw officer, remember how important it is to be a good neighbour. As resources shrink, and individuals and families are put under great strain, I think it is important to remember that above all, we are a community.

West Vancouver is made up of extraordinarily caring people of all ages. We all recognize and understand the tangible feeling of loving West Van that can overcome you at the library, the seniors' centre, the soccer field, the coffee shops, on the trails, or wherever your own special spot is. Tonight may we all reflect on the responsibility we all share, to connect with one another because we understand the importance of community, we do not take it for granted, we are grateful for what West Vancouver has given us, and we realize the part we play in creating a greater good.

Thank you – the public are all very welcome to join us at the Museum across the street for a reception after we adjourn.

6. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING MAYORS FOR 2008/2009

MOVED by Soprovich, seconded by Smith:

THAT Acting Mayors for 2008/2009 be appointed as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| December/January | Councillor Soprovich |
| February/March | Councillor Smith |
| April/May | Councillor Lewis |
| June/July | Councillor Walker |
| August/September | Councillor Evison |
| October/November | Councillor Panz. |

CARRIED

7. METRO VANCOUVER APPOINTMENTS

MOVED BY Smith, seconded by Soprovich:

THAT the following appointments to Metro Vancouver be approved:

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors:

- Mayor Goldsmith-Jones

Metro Vancouver Labour Relations Board:

- Councillor Smith.

CARRIED

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY MAYOR GOLDSMITH-JONES

With respect to the Inaugural Council Meeting and Inaugural reception, Mayor Goldsmith-Jones acknowledged:

- Jason Cook
- The Honourable Madam Justice J.R. Dillon
- Squamish Nation - Chief Bill Williams and B. Baker
- Aliqua
- Corporal F. Harding, Honour Guard, West Vancouver Police Department
- Firefighter J. Neseth, Honour Guard, West Vancouver Fire & Rescue
- S. Scholes (Municipal Clerk), C. Matheson (Manager, Cultural Affairs and Partnerships) and P. Cuk (Executive Assistant to the Mayor).

Mayor Goldsmith-Jones also thanked the West Vancouver Firefighters for putting up the Christmas lights at 13th Street and Marine Drive and informed that the Dundarave Christmas lights would be lit on the weekend of December 7, 2008.

Mayor Goldsmith-Jones invited everyone to attend the Inaugural Reception being held at the Museum, immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Walker, seconded by Panz:

THAT the first Meeting of this Council held December 1, 2008 be adjourned.
(7:35 pm)

CARRIED

Certified Correct

MAYOR

MUNICIPAL CLERK

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