



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Inaugural Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: December 3, 2018
Meeting Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Call to Order by the Town Clerk

- **Oath of Office – Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance in the order of:**
 - Councillor Peter Bordignon**
 - Councillor Andrea Matrosovs**
 - Councillor Rob Potter**
 - Councillor Rob Sampson**
 - Councillor Jim Uram**
 - Deputy Mayor Odette Bartnicki**
 - Mayor Alar Soever**
- **Declaration by Town Clerk of new Council duly sworn and constituted.**
- **Mayor assumes the Chair**
- **Mayor's Inaugural Address**

Mayor Soever welcomed Members of Council, Staff and the Community to the 2018 Inaugural Meeting of Council.

Mayor Soever noted that he is truly honoured and humbled that so many supporters came out, further stating that it shows how much people care about our great community. Mayor Soever thanked the community for their support for the new council. Mayor Soever noted that he would like to begin by congratulating every member of Council on their election. Mayor Soever noted that Council is prepared to work hard together to achieve great things for our community.

Mayor Soever noted his thanks to Town staff, led by Interim CAO Shawn Everitt, for the work provided during the election, and the work staff do every day for the Town to make it the great place that it is.

Mayor Soever noted that during the campaign he addressed three themes, trust, responsible government and managing change.

Mayor Soever noted that trust is something that must be earned, and is easily lost, further commenting that without trust, very little can be accomplished. Mayor Soever stated trust is earned through communicating and understanding each other, noting that the new Communications Committee will play an important role in this and that Council will strive to be accessible to the community.

Mayor Soever noted that, in regards to responsible government, Council will operate based on professionalism not politics.

Mayor Soever noted Council will be hardworking, creative, transparent, open, and accountable, further noting he will recommend to Council a review of the Procedural Bylaw, to bring forward changes which will make the way we operate more transparent and accountable.

Mayor Soever advised that he will also be recommending to Council to look at the various Committees to ensure there is at least one member of Council on each Committee who will also report back to Council and champion Committee activities.

Mayor Soever then spoke on managing change, as growth is inevitable and must be managed properly. Mayor Soever noted the importance of shaping the community into what we, and others want it to be.

Mayor Soever noted that it is important to convey our vision for the community to developers, businesses, and residents who want to move here, so they have realistic expectations of what they will be able to build and operate here. Mayor Soever further noted that if their proposals add value to our community, Council will work with them so that both they and our Town can thrive and prosper.

Mayor Soever noted the key issues to deal with on a priority basis are attainable housing and transportation, further noting rapid growth and soaring real estate prices have pushed our community to the breaking point with no attainable housing for young families with modest incomes. Mayor Soever noted the need to make sure that people who grow up in The Blue Mountains can afford to stay and live in the community.

Mayor Soever further noted that he is pleased that through the Attainable Housing Corporation, an action plan is being put together to bring together the policies, financing, and private sector partnerships which will allow the Town to move forward in an aggressive way to create affordable and attainable housing.

Mayor Soever noted that Council will also be establishing a Transportation Committee to address transportation issues, and to develop a Town-wide transportation plan which addresses agricultural needs, bicycling, and alternatives to widening Highway 26.

Mayor Soever noted that the new Members of Council have a lot on their plates in the coming months including addressing the 2019 budget, the Cannabis question, and the normal business arising at Council and Committee meetings. Mayor Soever advised he is confident that the skills and energy on Council, in Town Staff, and in the Community at large will allow for success in addressing the issues identified, further noting he looks forward to getting started and accomplishing a lot in the next four years.

Mayor Soever then turned the meeting over to each member of Council to say a few words, starting with Deputy Mayor Odette Bartnicki.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki spoke, noting it is an honour and a privilege to serve all the people of the Town of The Blue Mountains as Deputy Mayor alongside her colleagues on Council. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki advised she will do her very best to develop and implement a vision for environmental and economic sustainability with a long-term view of what is best for the Town today and for decades to come. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki then noted together, with the Mayor, she will also participate actively at Grey County Council to ensure that our entire region continues to be vibrant, healthy and inclusive and to bring more resources from the County back to benefit the Town of The Blue Mountains. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki noted that she looks forward to working with Council, with Staff and with members of the community to ensure excellent service for all who live, work and play in the Town of The Blue Mountains. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki then thanked everyone for their confidence in her.

Councillor Peter Bordignon spoke next, thanking the community for coming out for the Inaugural Meeting and advising that Council will work hard both with Staff and the public to show openness, transparency and get a lot of work done over next four years. Councillor Bordignon then thanked the past Council commenting that The Blue Mountains is only 20 years old with many great things ahead. Councillor Bordignon mentioned moving forward, there will be more Committees, more public input and more coordination with staff. Councillor Bordignon thanked the community for the confidence placed in him and the rest of the council noting he looks forward to working with the community over the next four years.

Councillor Rob Sampson spoke, thanking the Mayor, the voters and the people of the Town of The Blue Mountains for voting him in along with the rest of the council. Councillor Sampson commented on the great team at The Blue Mountains, further commenting on the heavy objective list that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have laid out. Councillor Sampson confirmed his confidence in the capabilities of Council, Staff and the residents, noting that Council needs the community to help deliver on some of the items the Mayor has spoken about. Councillor Sampson thanked the community for its support and pledged his commitment to Mayor Soever to work as hard as possible to deliver the list of objectives and to make the Town a better place to live, work and play.

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs thanked the community for its support in her, also thanking her husband Chris, her son James, her daughter Anna and her parents for their support leading up to the election and beyond. Councillor Matrosovs advised that the Inaugural Meeting marks the beginning of four years of working in collaboration with fellow Council members, Town staff, community groups and all citizens of The Blue Mountains to build a Blue for all ages and stages of life. Councillor Matrosovs noted the decision made at the table must create a path that is sustainable for the community, the environment, economic opportunities and for the generations that are to come.

Councillor Rob Potter spoke thanking his wife Linda and his team who worked with him during his campaign, also thanking the other candidates. Councillor Potter noted it's all about people asking questions that staff and Council must find answers to, further noting it takes a community. Councillor Potter then quoted previous Council Member Duncan McKinlay, "we are all in this together". Councillor Potter further noted that he cannot promise to always agree with everything, but he does promise to listen. Councillor Potter advised that the goal is to let everyone have their say, referencing the previous work done on the Sustainable Path and Red Hot and Blue documents, which were well informed by listening to the community. Councillor Potter noted his thanks to Town staff for working with him as a new member on council in the past four months. Councillor Potter noted the importance of managing growth, economic development and achieving obtainable housing. Councillor Potter thanked the community for taking part in the election, advising that he is looking forward to the next four years.

Councillor Jim Uram spoke, thanking all who enabled his successful campaign, specifically referencing his campaign team. Councillor Uram reminded the public that their insights and direction will be the driving force and priority of Council over the next four years. Councillor Uram further noted that he will be as available as possible to ensure the public has their say in almost everything. Councillor Uram noted that he's familiar with the *Planning Act* and will ensure the community is much more involved than in the past.

B. Adjournment

Moved by: Peter Bordignon

Seconded by: Odette Bartnicki

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 11:30 a.m. to meet again December 17, 2018, Town Hall, Council Chambers, or at the call of the Chair, Carried.

Alar Soever, Mayor

Krista Royal, Deputy Clerk