

**MINUTES - INAUGURAL MEETING OF VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2002 AT 2:00 PM**

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Council Chambers, City Hall

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lowe in the Chair and Councillors Coleman, Fleming, Fortin, Holland, Hughes, Madoff, Savoie and Thornton-Joe

**OATH OF OFFICE AND OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**JUDGE MICHAEL HUBBARD**

Declarations signed by Judge Michael Hubbard were sworn certifying that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2002, Alan Lowe, Chris Coleman, Rob Fleming, Dean Fortin, Bea Holland, Helen Hughes, Pamela Madoff, Denise Savoie and Charlayne Thornton-Joe each appeared before the Judge and took the Oath of Office required under the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, and the Oath of Allegiance (declined by Councillor Savoie).

**INVOCATION**

**VERY REVEREND JOHN WRIGHT, DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

On the invitation of the City of Victoria, Very Reverend John Wright offered an invocation for the occasion of the Inaugural Meeting of Victoria City Council.

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALAN LOWE**

Good afternoon and thank you for attending our inaugural council meeting.

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to once again serve the residents of this incredible community. Your overwhelming vote of confidence and support gives me a renewed mandate to continue along the path of positive change which we started on together three years ago.

I would first like to thank outgoing Councillors Lunt, McLean and VandenBerg for your support and friendship over the past three years. In cooperation with your fellow councillors, you have worked diligently for the benefit of our citizens. Your passionate advocacy on their behalf will be missed. Each of you used your voice—some more loudly than others!—so that everyone in our community could be heard. Your voices were instrumental at the Council table in helping to steer major projects forward, including securing public approval to build the much anticipated Multipurpose Facility ... so I hope you will mark your calendars for fall, 2004 and join us in celebrating the ribbon cutting ceremony. I wish you well in your future endeavours and on behalf of the citizens of Victoria, I thank you for your service to our community.

To my returning Councillors, welcome back. I have enjoyed working with you over the past three years and I look forward to the same productive working relationship over the next three years. This will be the second term for Councillors Fleming and Savoie, the fourth term for Councillors Madoff and Holland, and the fifth term for Councillor Hughes. Helen continues to top the polls and inspire all of us with her energy, stamina, and determination to get things done. It is also my pleasure to welcome back Councillor Coleman after a three-year absence as well as our rookie Councillors Fortin and Thornton-Joe. Congratulations to all of you on your successful campaigns. You each bring a unique set of interests and skills to your position.....

.....and it is these very differences that will help to make this Council an effective vehicle for advancing our community's interests. With nine perspectives seated around the council table, I know our debates will continue to be rigorous—a hallmark of any democracy. And I expect nothing less.

The citizens of Victoria have placed their trust in us to be good stewards of their community. With that opportunity comes great responsibility and a significant challenge in the face of current fiscal pressures. The measure of our success will be whether Victoria continues to be in fact, as well as in reputation, one of the most livable cities in the world.

My vision of a livable city is one that has a strong economy, a safe and attractive downtown, affordable housing, a thriving arts community, accessible social and recreational services, stable infrastructure funding, an efficient transportation system, a clean natural environment and cost effective delivery of municipal service all of which depend on strong regional cooperation. Helping to create a better quality of life for everyone in our community should be our bottom line and our ability to achieve this will be directly impacted by the economic health of this region.

A strong economy is a prerequisite to investing in the social health of our community. Cities are in a race against time to secure a level of investment that reflects their stature as economic generators. Four out of five Canadians currently live in or near large urban centres—and by 2020, up to 90% of Canada's population will be calling an urban region "home." Cities are where the quality of life ideal will be put to the test and I will be lobbying the Federal Government, along with my fellow mayors across the country, to make good on the recommendations of their Task Force on Urban Issues.

Affordable housing has been the topic of much public discussion lately...and for good reason. With the apartment vacancy rate at only 1.5%, and the supply of all types of new housing inventory in decline, we are confronting a chronic shortage and like other cities across the nation we require assistance in meeting demand. We are facing a crisis situation—a situation that will not be remedied without the active participation of the Federal and Provincial Governments. Too many of our citizens are living month to month, not knowing if they can pay their next month's rent. With anticipated rent increases in the future, this situation will only get worse. The City can, and should, become a catalyst in developing more affordable housing.

We need to create more supply to meet demand – we need to create better incentives modeled on the City's successful heritage incentive program for developers to build more affordable housing. We need a realistic, and effective, housing strategy. Through this strategy, I hope to work with the region to lobby for an affordable housing levy, similar to the parks levy approved by voters 3 years ago. With seed money, we can leverage funding from other levels of government for affordable housing throughout the region.

This is a regional problem that requires a regional solution—one which is based on sustainable funding from all three levels of government. I had the pleasure of meeting with the Federal Minister of Labour and Minister in charge of Homelessness last month when she was in Victoria. We had discussions about the state of homelessness and how we as a community can best help. We need to build on the Federal Government's investment in transition housing. We need more emergency and permanent housing units to stem the tide of people to our streets. I will push for more funding from the Minister and I will recommend to the Minister that the City of Victoria be selected as a pilot project for transition housing.

It is not too late to make a difference but we have to start finding solutions now. The solutions won't come overnight but they will make a lasting difference in the lives of our residents. Affordable housing is one part of our urban landscape. A safe and clean downtown is another.

Solution oriented policing—working directly with residents and businesses to identify and resolve problems quickly before they tear a hole in the fabric of our city—is an important safety tool. The tool kit also has to include social services such as needle exchanges, detox centres and possibly medically supervised safe injection sites complete with treatment – services that are part of a continuum of care that recognizes that drug use is a health issue as well as an enforcement issue.

Everyone has a right to feel safe in their homes, safe on their streets, and in the downtown core. And finding a better way to pay the social costs of addiction is in everyone's best interest. Downtown is the focal point of our city and our region – and for this reason, it will continue to demand, and receive, our attention with a special focus on the north end of Downtown.

For years, there has been discussion about how to draw more people to the north end of town. With the construction of the new multi-purpose facility, the completion of the CRD engineering building in Centennial Square and the pending redevelopment of the Bay building, we have moved from discussion to action. And there is still much untapped potential, including a possible expanded CRD presence in Centennial Square. We have a unique opportunity to reshape the image of the north end of Downtown – and I will continue to aggressively promote this area, and these changes, as a catalyst for other future development – development that will contribute to the economic vitality of our city.

To ignore our economy means to ignore the social health of our community. Promoting our city as open for business—promotion that is based in actions, not words—is not an end unto itself, it is a means of securing a better quality of life for everyone. We are establishing a proven track record in attracting and retaining outside investment. Investment that is fuelling our high-tech sector.

We must be responsive to the needs of this industry as well as to the demands of small business, which represent 90% of our local business base. Nurturing diversification must be balanced with support for our more traditional industries.

Tourism has always been a strong employer in our city. Protecting and leveraging our strong competitive position within the tourism market is critical to our community's economic survival. To do that, we must establish clear priorities funded through visitor dollars. Victoria cannot afford to rely solely on our traditional market image. We need to look at new tourist attractions, and continue to promote sport tourism, eco-tourism and cultural tourism. We will work with the Tourism Industry to see how we can best tap into these potential markets.

For some, arts and culture is an expendable commodity. But the health of a city's arts and cultural programs is an important measure of the quality of life for residents of that community – something that takes real shape through public events like the Symphony Splash, Folkfest and the Moss Street Paint-In to name a few. The arts industry is a significant economic generator. In Greater Victoria alone, it is a \$30 million growth industry. Two years ago, Victoria made a five-year commitment to increase its arts funding to bring municipal arts investment closer to the national average—and I stand by that commitment. We need to bring certainty and stability to the local arts scene and we need to have open, transparent discussion at the regional level about funding priorities.

Today I have outlined an ambitious agenda that will guide the work of Council over the next three years. In many instances the priorities I have identified represent another step forward on a journey that began three years ago. And in some cases, new areas of focus will demand Council's time and attention. Without an effective structure in place, the vision I have outlined will remain just that.

I am confident that in collaboration with our neighbourhoods, advisory committees, and staff resources, Council will enjoy real and lasting success in tackling the issues before them.

I have met with my new Council, and sought out their interests and expertise. In doing so, I have tasked my Councillors with various portfolios where I believe they can make a difference.

The Councillor neighbourhood liaisons, including the Police Board Member Liaison, are as follows:

<b>Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Police Board</b>
Downtown	Charlayne Thornton-Joe	Walter Donald
Vic West	Denise Savoie	Tyna Mason
Burnside/Gorge	Denise Savoie	Tyna Mason
Fernwood	Dean Fortin	Jannit Rabinovitch
Oaklands	Helen Hughes	Bruce Gibson
South Jubilee	Pamela Madoff	Bruce Gibson
North Jubilee	Pamela Madoff	Bruce Gibson
Fairfield	Bea Holland	Walter Donald
Gonzales	Bea Holland	Walter Donald
Rockland	Chris Coleman	Walter Donald
James Bay	Rob Fleming	Maureen Meikle
North Park	Pamela Madoff	Jannit Rabinovitch
Blanshard	Chris Coleman	Bruce Gibson

The Councillors responsible for the various portfolios are as follows:

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
Downtown	Charlayne Thornton-Joe	Rob Fleming
Parks & Recreation	Chris Coleman	Dean Fortin
Transportation	Rob Fleming	Denise Savoie
Planning	Pamela Madoff	Charlayne Thornton-Joe
Heritage	Pamela Madoff	Charlayne Thornton-Joe
Arts & Culture	Mayor Alan Lowe	Pamela Madoff
Harbour	Bea Holland	David McLean
Finance/Personnel	Rob Fleming (Chair)	Bea Holland
Economic Development	Chris Coleman	Chris Coleman
Housing	Dean Fortin	Bea Holland
Social Planning	Helen Hughes	Chris Coleman
Youth Liaison	Rob Fleming	Dean Fortin
Seniors Liaison	Bea Holland	
Environment	Denise Savoie	Chris Coleman
Emergency Planning	Mayor Alan Lowe	Bea Holland

The Councillors responsible for the various advisory committees and boards of Council are as follows:

<b>Advisory Committees &amp; Boards</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
Advisory Cycling Committee	Denise Savoie
Advisory Design Panel	Pamela Madoff
Advisory Housing Committee	Dean Fortin
Advisory Parks & Recreation Committee	Chris Coleman
Advisory Planning Commission	Pamela Madoff
Advisory Social Planning Committee	Helen Hughes
Advisory Transportation Committee	Rob Fleming
CREST	Dean Fortin
Downtown Advisory Committee	Charlayne Thornton-Joe
Environment & Shoreline Advisory Committee	Denise Savoie
Heritage Advisory Committee	Pamela Madoff
Honourary Citizens Committee	Helen Hughes
Public Art Advisory Committee	Pamela Madoff
Seniors Liaison	Bea Holland
Victoria Athletic Commission	Chris Coleman
Victoria Civic Heritage Trust	Pamela Madoff
Victoria Conference Centre	Mayor Alan Lowe
Victoria Heritage Foundation	Pamela Madoff
Victoria Police Board	Mayor Alan Lowe
Youth Liaison	Rob Fleming

**Statutory Committees & Boards**

Board of Cemetery Trustees  
Capital Regional District

Capital Regional Water Supply Commission

Capital Regional District Arts Committee  
Greater Victoria Family Court  
Greater Victoria Public Library Board  
Greater Victoria Airport Authority  
Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association  
Royal/McPherson Theatres Society  
Provincial Capital Commission

Regional Transit Commission

Victoria Parks & Recreation Foundation  
Tourism Victoria

**Councillor**

Bea Holland  
Mayor Alan Lowe  
Denise Savoie  
Rob Fleming  
Dean Fortin  
Rob Fleming  
Charlayne Thornton-Joe  
Mayor Alan Lowe  
Helen Hughes  
Helen Hughes  
Rob Fleming  
Bea Holland  
Pamela Madoff  
Helen Hughes  
Rob Fleming  
Mayor Alan Lowe  
Councillor to be appointed by Province  
Chris Coleman  
Charlayne Thornton-Joe

**Alternate**

Chris Coleman  
Pamela Madoff  
Dean Fortin  
Chris Coleman  
Denise Savoie  
Bea Holland

**Acting Mayor 2003**

January	Rob Fleming
February	Denise Savoie
March	Pamela Madoff
April	Bea Holland
May	Chris Coleman
June	Charlayne Thornton-Joe
July	Dean Fortin
August	Helen Hughes
September	Rob Fleming
October	Denise Savoie
November	Pamela Madoff
December	Bea Holland

**Acting Mayor 2004**

January	Chris Coleman
February	Charlayne Thornton-Joe
March	Dean Fortin
April	Helen Hughes
May	Rob Fleming
June	Denise Savoie
July	Pamela Madoff
August	Bea Holland
September	Chris Coleman
October	Charlayne Thornton-Joe
November	Dean Fortin
December	Helen Hughes

It was moved by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Fleming, that in accordance with the Inaugural Address of His Worship the Mayor, the appointments be endorsed. Carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councillor Savoie, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that the Council Meeting now adjourn.  
Time: 2:36 PM

Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

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MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA