

Council Chamber
City Hall, Saskatoon, Sask.
Monday, October 30, 2000
at 7:00 p.m.

INDUCTION CEREMONIES FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

City Clerk Mann called the meeting to order and introduced Reverend John Middleton, who presented a prayer of invocation.

The Honourable Chief Justice Gerein, of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, administered the Declaration of Office to His Worship Mayor James Maddin, placed on his shoulders the Chain of Office of the Mayor of the City of Saskatoon, and charged him with the duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the City.

A prayer for the Mayor and his Office was given by Reverend John Middleton.

The City Clerk then called forward Councillors Atchison, Fortosky, Heidt, McCann, Paulsen, Penner, Roe, Steernberg, Swystun and Waygood, individually, who took their Declaration of Office before the Mayor, following which His Worship the Mayor charged the Councillors with the responsibility to employ themselves in their office in a diligent, faithful and impartial manner, and welcomed them as members of City Council.

After salutations were extended, the Councillors took their seats and His Worship the Mayor took his seat on the dais. His Worship the Mayor invited the members of the Administration, City Manager Richards, City Solicitor Dust, General Manager Corporate Services Veltkamp, General Manager Community Services Gauthier, General Manager Fire and Protective Services Hewitt, General Manager Infrastructure Services Uzelman and General Manager Utility Services Munch, to take their seats within the Bar.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

"I want to begin my remarks this evening by expressing my gratitude to the citizens of Saskatoon for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I am experiencing a mix of emotion just now, but I am assured that I have been selected to this office as the result of a call for change, a call for change that has, as we now know, been heard elsewhere as well.

It is a reminder that complacency and the status quo cannot be endured for very long in our rapidly changing world, and it also reminds that innovation and new thinking must be directed toward resolving old problems.

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We must continually move forward, and I believe the changing political landscape is evidence that our citizens are of the same view.

I want to extend a warm welcome to the new City Council. We have a very interesting blend of rookies and veterans, and I am excited to be a part of this Council. We are well positioned, I believe, to do great work on behalf of Saskatoon.

In addition, I want to thank the previous Council for an interesting and eventful term. I particularly thank former Mayor Henry Dayday for his unfaltering commitment to Saskatoon. He served 12 years as Mayor and 12 years as Alderman prior to that. Henry, on behalf of the citizens of Saskatoon, I thank you. We trust we have your continued support in the future.

My remarks would not be complete without an affirmation of support for City Manager Phil Richards and Senior Administration. Politicians may indeed wield power and control with respect to decision-making, but I cannot think of a single politician who knows how to run this city. We trust in you and your staff and we rely on our civic employees to get the job done.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have just taken an oath before you that sets out the duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the City. I suggest that oath is not only mine, but ours, together. I, acting alone, cannot accomplish anything. Our future, our fate, and the destiny of our generation is dependent on all citizens, not upon one citizen alone. So let us create our destiny together. Let us work together to build a better life in Saskatoon.

Join me in a pledge to work openly and with transparency in an accessible environment. Join me in a pledge to remove discriminatory barriers so that we may build community relationships based on respect, trust, honour and justice. Join me in a pledge to establish and promote healthy communities...communities that are safe, secure and desirable. Join me in a pledge to ensure adequate housing and job opportunities, elements that secure a sense of ownership and pride, and join me in a pledge to see that our ever-increasing elderly population may live in comfort, dignity and safety. These are not lofty objectives, largely out of reach. They are basic. To me, they are fundamental objectives that should be common to all.

In this City, in this time, no child need be hungry, no child need be uneducated, no child need be unsheltered, no child need work on our streets in the most horrific of trades, and not a single person need live in fear. Yet, with all we have today, these things are permitted to occur. We, who answered the call for change, must be that change.

As part of a plan to engineer meaningful change, I shall be acting in the future:

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- to establish a stronger co-operative relationship with the Province of Saskatchewan;
- to earn the respect, trust and honour of aboriginal people and work honestly with aboriginal governments;
- to broaden the scope and mandate of the City's Race Relations Committee;
- to continue improvements in civic labour relations;
- to immediately address crime and security concerns in our westside downtown inner city;
- to achieve employment equity targets;
- to restore confidence in the Saskatoon Police Service and to build consensus for a community-based policing model;
- to work closely with business leaders and community stakeholders to identify economic development opportunities, attract investment, and market our city to the world;
- to encourage review of the property tax structure; and
- to strengthen existing partnerships and pursue new ones.

My motivation is simple. We act today for future benefit.

And, if I ever become tired, impatient, or disillusioned, I need only to glance at a photograph of my children and their children. I am reminded instantly why I choose to do this.

So, onward with change. It is the will of the people.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the presence this evening of my closest supporters:

- my son Kelly;
- my own ray of sunshine, Roberta, and her sons Jason and Joshua; and, as well,
- governmental and community leaders who grace this gathering with their presence; and
- most importantly, I acknowledge the presence of ordinary citizens of Saskatoon. It is you who we represent."

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The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk