

Council Chamber
City Hall, Saskatoon, Sask.
Wednesday, November 2, 1994,
at 7:00 p.m.

INDUCTION CEREMONIES FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

City Clerk Mann called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Michael Tai, who presented a prayer of invocation.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Gerein, Justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, administered the Declaration of Office to His Worship Mayor Henry Dayday, 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 Dr. Michael Tai.

The City Clerk then called forward Councillors Atchison, Heidt, Langford, Langlois, McCann, Postlethwaite, Roe and Steernberg, 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 Commissioner Irwin, City Solicitor Dust, Director of Works and Utilities Gustafson, Director of Finance Richards and Director of Planning and Development Pontikes, to take their seats within the Bar.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

His Worship Mayor Dayday noted that Councillors Birkmaier and Waygood were not able to be present at this meeting and would take their Declaration of Office at the next regular meeting of City Council.

Mayor Dayday extended congratulations to all Councillors, those newly-elected and those re-elected to City Council for a three-year term, noting that this was one of the largest changes on City Council during his 18 years with Council.

His Worship the Mayor indicated that he is pleased to be able to work with the Councillors in providing the best possible civic government for the citizens of Saskatoon. He noted that the next three years will be very challenging for City Council.

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Mayor Dayday advised that a strategic plan has been developed which will take the city to the year 2000. He noted that the plan is about the vision of our city, our strengths and our future that has received a lot of public input. He recommended that new Council members review the plan as it is a document that will be used in planning the future.

His Worship the Mayor indicated that there are five major issues which will require immediate attention. Firstly, Council will be required to review the Capital and Operating Budgets for 1995. He indicated that the City of Saskatoon has maintained an excellent fiscal position over the years and noted that one of the reasons for this is that the City operates with balanced budgets and has instituted policies that attempt to avoid fluctuations of expenditures and revenues in the budgeting process. He advised that because of these policies Council is better able to make adjustments that will not impact too greatly on the mill rate from one year to the next. Mayor Dayday indicated that snow removal needs to be looked at and it will be a priority in the budget. He noted that the City has embarked upon a five-year Capital Budget Plan and a four-year Operating Budget Plan. He stated that the Capital Budget will need to be approved by the end of 1994 and the Operating Budget will need to be completed prior to the end of March, 1995.

Mayor Dayday indicated that the second issue deals with reassessment, and that it is his understanding that the City will be embarking upon a reassessment by the end of the three-year term. The issue of reassessment is a very complex one and is being dealt with by SAMA in conjunction with the City.

The third issue raised by Mayor Dayday was economic development and the importance of creating a good business climate which will allow for improved business, attract investment and provide job opportunities. He indicated that the City works in partnership with the Economic Development Authority to improve business opportunities, and recommended that new Council members review the bylaw that recently set up the Authority.

His Worship the Mayor advised that the fourth issue is one of providing basic services to the public. He indicated that the civic staff provide good services to the public, and over the years, have been implementing changes in order to improve the services to make them more efficient and effective. Council members will have an opportunity to provide input into this process.

Mayor Dayday indicated that the fifth issue deals with the question of the referendum vote on the Casino. Council's position was to wait for the results of the vote on the Trade and Convention Centre and Casino on the City's south downtown property. He noted that the public has given Council a very clear message, and by law Council is adhering to their wishes, and there will not be a Trade and Convention Centre and Casino on this property. The City will, however, review the redevelopment of the property.

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His Worship the Mayor stated that Council has always attempted to deal with issues that relate to the City's mandate and not get involved with issues relating to the Provincial or Federal mandate. This way, Council's efforts can best be used in serving the citizens in dealing with civic issues. He expressed the belief that the Council Chambers should not be used as a forum for party politics, and advised that in the past Council has been reasonably successful in keeping the debates issue-oriented.

In closing, Mayor Dayday indicated that he is looking forward to a great three years. He noted that there are many challenges ahead, but there will also be many rewards, and that by working together Council can improve the social and economic climate for all who live and visit the City.

His Worship the Mayor expressed appreciation to those who attended the ceremonies.

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

Mayor

City Clerk