



Regional Council Minutes

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

The Inaugural Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo for the term 2014-2018 was held in the Regional Council Chamber, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario, commencing at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Kris Fletcher, Regional Clerk as Presiding Officer, in the presence of the Honourable Justice Mr. Patrick J. Flynn, Regional Chair Ken Seiling, Regional Councillors, Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer and Guests.

Call to Order

The meeting opened with the singing of “O Canada” with music provided by members of the KW Symphony Brass Quintet.

Regional Clerk K. Fletcher acknowledged the participation in this evening’s proceedings of Piper, Staff Sgt. (Ret’d) Nigel Moore, Waterloo Regional Police Services and the KW Symphony Brass Quintet.

Regional Clerk K. Fletcher read the Certificate of Qualification of the Regional Chair and the elected Regional Councillors as follows:

Regional Chair: Ken Seiling

Regional Councillors - Cambridge: Helen Jowett, Karl Kiefer

Regional Councillors – Kitchener: Tom Galloway, Geoff Lorentz, Karen Redman and Wayne Wettlaufer

Regional Councillors – Waterloo: Jane Mitchell and Sean Strickland

Regional Clerk K. Fletcher read the Certificate of Qualification from the Area Municipalities designating the Area Mayors to Regional Council. The list is as follows:

City of Cambridge – Doug Craig

City of Kitchener – Berry Vrbanovic

City of Waterloo – Dave Jaworsky

Township of North Dumfries – Sue Foxton

Township of Wellesley – Joe Nowak

Township of Wilmot – Les Armstrong

Township of Woolwich – Sandy Shantz

The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick J. Flynn administered the Declaration of Office to Regional Chair Ken Seiling. Justice Flynn then placed the Chain of Office on Regional Chair Seiling.

The Regional Clerk presented the gavel to the Regional Chair who then assumed the Chair.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Flynn administered the Declaration of Office to members of Council, all of whom were present. He then provided congratulations to all members of Council and provided remarks on the evening.

Regional Chair Seiling thanked the Honourable Mr. Justice Flynn for his participation in the evening's proceedings. He also acknowledged the presence of family members and former members of Regional Council.

Regional Chair Seiling then gave his [Inaugural Address](#), a copy of which is appended to the original minutes.

Regional Chair Seiling thanked everyone for coming this evening and invited everyone to partake of refreshments in the main foyer following the adjournment.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under The “Municipal Conflict Of Interest Act”

None declared.

Reports – Regional Chair

a) RC-15-001, 2015 Meeting Schedule and Appointments

Chair Seiling noted the addition of the Rapid Transit Steering Committee.

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by D. Jaworsky

1. That Regional Council approve the schedule of meetings for 2015 attached as Appendix A to report RC-15-001, and

2. That Regional Council approve the following appointments for the 2014-2018 term of Regional Council:

Planning and Works Committee (PW):

All Members of Regional Council

Chair: Councillor Tom Galloway

Vice-Chair: Councillor Karl Kiefer

Community Services Committee (CS):

All Members of Regional Council

Chair: Councillor Geoff Lorentz

Vice-Chair: Councillor Sue Foxton

Administration and Finance Committee (A&F):

All Members of Regional Council

Chair: Councillor Sean Strickland

Vice-Chair: Councillor Karen Redman

Budget Committee of the Whole:

All Members of Regional Council

Chair: Councillor Sean Strickland, Chair A&F Committee

Vice-Chair: Councillor Karen Redman, Vice-Chair A&F Committee

Economic Development & Promotion Committee (EDP):

Councillor Doug Craig

Councillor Dave Jaworsky

Councillor Helen Jowett

Councillor Geoff Lorentz

Councillor Joe Nowak

Councillor Sean Strickland

Councillor Berry Vrbanovic

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

Audit Committee:

Chair: Councillor Sean Strickland, Chair A&F Committee

Members: Councillor Karen Redman, Vice-Chair A&F Committee

Councillor Geoff Lorentz, Chair CS Committee

Councillor Tom Galloway, Chair PW Committee

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

Library Committee:

Councillor Les Armstrong

Councillor Sue Foxton

Councillor Joe Nowak

Councillor Sandy Shantz

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

Licensing and Hearings Committee (LHC):

Councillor Les Armstrong

Councillor Doug Craig

Councillor Geoff Lorentz

Councillor Jane Mitchell

Councillor Joe Nowak

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

Rapid Transit Steering Committee:

Councillor Tom Galloway, Chair PW Committee

Councillor Karl Kiefer, Vice-Chair PW Committee

Councillor Geoff Lorentz, Chair CS Committee

Councillor Sean Strickland, Chair A&F Committee

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

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Waterloo Regional Police Services Board (WRPSB):

Council: Regional Chair Ken Seiling
Councillor Tom Galloway
Councillor Karl Kiefer

Citizen: Jim Wideman

Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA):

Council: Councillor Les Armstrong
Councillor Sue Foxton
Councillor Helen Jowett
Councillor Geoff Lorentz
Councillor Jane Mitchell
Councillor Joe Nowak
Councillor Sandy Shantz
Councillor Wayne Wettlaufer

Citizens: Warren Stauch
Wayne Roth

Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRPCPC):

Councillor Helen Jowett
Councillor Jane Mitchell
Regional Chair Ken Seiling (ex-officio)

Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC):

Councillor Geoff Lorentz
Councillor Jane Mitchell

Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (ANMC):

Councillor Geoff Lorentz

Ecological & Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC):

Councillor Joe Nowak

Employment & Income Support Community Advisory Committee (EISCAC):

Councillor Jane Mitchell

Jack Young Civic Award Committee:

Councillor Sue Foxton

Councillor Tom Galloway

Councillor Dave Jaworsky

Councillor Karen Redman

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

Heritage Planning Advisory Committee (HPAC):

Councillor Wayne Wettlaufer

Public Art Advisory Committee:

Councillor Dave Jaworsky

Councillor Berry Vrbanovic

Waterloo Region Community Housing Advisory Committee:

Councillor Les Armstrong

Councillor Sandy Shantz

Water Efficiency Advisory Committee (WEAC):

Councillor Les Armstrong

Councillor Tom Galloway

Councillor Helen Jowett

Regional Chair Ken Seiling

Specialized Transit Services Advisory Committee:

Councillor Sue Foxton

Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC):

Councillor Sue Foxton

Kissing Bridge Trailway Advisory Committee:

Councillor Sandy Shantz

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation:

Councillor Tom Galloway

Regional Chair Ken Seiling (ex-officio)

Region of Waterloo Arts Fund:

Councillor Karen Redman

Ken Seiling (ex-officio)

Grand River Hospital Board of Trustees:

Councillor Berry Vrbanovic

St. Mary's Hospital Board of Trustees:

Councillor Wayne Wettlaufer

University of Waterloo Board of Governors:

Regional Chair Ken Seiling (ex-officio)

Wilfrid Laurier Board of Governors:

Councillor Helen Jowett

Carried

Enactment of By-Laws – (First, Second & Third Readings)

Moved by J. Mitchell

Seconded by L. Armstrong

- a) That a By-law to Provide for an Acting Chair be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 15-001 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

- b) That a By-law to Confirm the Actions of Council of December 10, 2014 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 15-002 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

Carried

Adjourn

Moved by S. Foxton

Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the meeting adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Carried

Regional Chair, K. Seiling

Regional Clerk, K. Fletcher

Inaugural Address

December 10, 2014

Ken Seiling Regional Chair

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Inaugural Meeting of the 2014-2018 Regional Council. It is great to see so many out this evening and I am especially pleased to see previous members of Regional Council who have come out this evening as well as Councillors from the area municipalities.

The people of Waterloo Region have had the ability to elect both their Regional Chair and their directly elected Regional Councillors for some time who are joined by the Mayors of our area municipalities. Together we have worked and will continue to work to ensure that the Region remains a leader in the Province, forward thinking in its approaches, but caring and compassionate as it tends to the health and well being of the broader community.

This Council will carry forward the implementation of our growth management plans, rooted in our new official plan and in the construction of our rapid transit system which anchors it. Whether through negotiation or otherwise, we will need to get final approval of our official plan to limit outward growth and protect our farmland and environmentally sensitive areas. The construction of our rapid transit system ION, which is now underway, will help provide the impetus for intensification. It, along with a revised and expanded transit service and active transportation initiatives, will provide viable alternatives to the automobile as our population continues to grow and our roads become more congested. At the same time investments in road improvements are planned to reduce congestion. This term will see us continue to move ahead with a balanced program of transit, road improvements, and active transportation planning.

Another initiative during this term will be the new transit hub to be developed at King and Victoria. The integration of various transit modes is an important piece of shaping our growth and providing transportation alternatives. Council will have to finalize how it wishes to proceed with the project.

We saw during the last term the beginning of expanded GO bus service and GO trains. Although the Province has committed to improve the service on the north line, we will need to keep pressure on the Province to get on with the line improvements and service improvements while at the same time working on advancing service to Cambridge on the CPR line to the south.

Although we are considered one of the more successful economies in the Province and in the Country, we need to be increasingly active in ensuring that investment and jobs

are high on the agenda. The first ever Waterloo Region Economic Development Strategy and the proposal for a new economic development body will come shortly to this Council and to the area Councils and we need to act on them. Concurrently, we will move on bringing east side lands in Cambridge on stream and continue to push the Province to permit a more flexible role for the Region in economic development.

Although the visible hard services often garner much attention, this Region has always had a reputation for progressive and compassionate social, health, and community services. We took a leading role in facilitating the building of affordable housing when the mandate was transferred to us. In this term we must turn our attention to both the creation of more affordable and supportive housing as well as deal with the renewal of our existing housing stock which was transferred to us by the Province. We moved to fill in some of the gaps when the funding for discretionary benefits was reduced by the Province. We are taking a lead in finding new ways of dealing with homelessness. We have pioneered a model for community crime prevention and community safety working with agencies and grassroots programs, all of whom continue to work collaboratively with us.

With more people moving into their senior years, we have taken a lead on services for those affected by Alzheimer's and we will soon see a further expansion of our programs. The list goes on.

I mention these but I know there will be many new and ongoing challenges this term and the need to find even better ways to address them and others as they emerge.

A few examples come to mind.

The recent closure of the Out of the Cold programs and the interim move to an alternate shelter leaves the community with the challenge of finding a longer term solution.

Although our mandate in childcare is largely around subsidized care, we are the system manager and must work to deal with the financial instability within the child care sector which has been created by the loss of children to full day kindergarten. A healthy childcare system, with operators from various sectors, is important so that families can find appropriate and quality childcare when they need it.

Our paramedic services and response times are always a challenge and we will need to continue to find ways to deal with them. I believe we will also see new ideas and models for policing emerge in the coming year which will generate discussion, not only here, but across the Province.

Among the challenges facing us, I would like to identify one that will come quickly to Regional Council. This Region was the home of the blue box program (I note the recent

death of Lilian Croal) but we must now move the goal posts in the area of waste reduction. Compostable garbage is consuming too much valuable and irreplaceable landfill space and contributing to odours and green house gases at our landfill. To reach increased waste diversion targets, to extend the life of our landfill, and to lessen the environmental impacts of our garbage, we need to work with the public to increase waste diversion within the Region.

Our cultural community continues to face uncertainty. Although we are not primarily responsible for it, we are one of the players, so to speak, in the field and we will need to look carefully at the sustainability of the cultural sector and our role.

We are a growing and successful Region. Along with that growth and success comes a need to ensure we have good infrastructure, both physical and human to support and maintain our economic health. Because we have older communities within the Region, we face a double barreled challenge of renewing and upgrading older infrastructure while at the same time providing the necessary infrastructure for new growth. Many municipalities in the GTA are largely new and have more current infrastructure. Many have lake based water and sewage systems which are less complex and less costly than our systems that are based inland and which depend on groundwater and our rivers. As more mature communities, our social service needs tend to stay within our community rather than migrate elsewhere so we are faced with pressures in those areas while many newer growth communities are less impacted.

As a Region, we continue to have a good financial track record. Our property taxes are lower than most other urban centres in southern Ontario, especially in the GTA. We continue to maintain a triple A credit rating. Our borrowing, which is investing both in future growth and infrastructure renewal, remains well below Provincial guidelines and supports the investments necessary to keep our local economy and community strong. There will be pressure on our property tax and rate budgets in the next few years but they reflect maintaining and supporting a growing and successful community with policies and projects that reflect our need to manage growth, care for people, and build for jobs and investment. Failure to invest sufficiently will have an adverse affect on all of our futures.

One thing that sets this Region apart, I believe, is the active participation of and partnerships with so many agencies and groups. We have many community partners who do great work and who need to be acknowledged. I have always maintained that so much good gets done in this Region because of the strength of the grassroots and their willingness to get involved. For example, this is certainly the reason our affordable and supportive housing work has produced the results it has to date. Our challenge continually is always to find ways to enhance our partnerships, whether they be

community, agency, or government partnerships, something for which our Region is known.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the staff of the Region. At our last meeting of the previous term, it was obvious by the comments made by departing Councillors that they valued the work done by Regional staff at all levels, both in their interaction with Council and their work with the public.

Tonight's inaugural sees many new faces around the horseshoe. Although many chose to stand down at the end of the term, I was pleased to see that the people of this Region have chosen what I believe, will be a strong Regional Council, one up to the tasks at hand. When you layer on top of the regular work of Council, the Service Review currently underway, a new budget for next year, and work on a new strategic plan, you can see the plate is very full.

On a personal note, I want to thank those in the community who supported me and re-elected me to be Regional Chair. In reviewing the results of our recent elections, I believe the policies and projects, that Regional Council as a group had undertaken, have been endorsed in the re-election of incumbent Councillors, the election of new Councillors who supported these initiatives, and myself as Regional Chair. I must admit that I was somewhat taken aback, but also humbled, by the many people who came out in the last few weeks to work, not necessarily for me personally, but to support and to protect the direction that had been set for the Region – one which they clearly valued.

I want to thank my wife Kathryn, my family and friends, and the many, many people who worked and supported me in so many ways during the campaign and who have supported me during my time as Regional Chair. I believe I can also say that everyone around this Council horseshoe would say the same thing to their family, friends and supporters.

I believe in this Region. I want to see it continue to prosper. We need to preserve the things that it has always valued – care for the land, care for people, stewardship of what we have, and vision to invest in the future - so we can pass along to our children and grandchildren the successful, yet caring and compassionate community we have all enjoyed.

Tonight is the formal start. Now the work begins and I look forward to working with you as members of Regional Council and with the broader community as we move ahead into the new term.

Thank You.