

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Amherstburg Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Monday, January 5, 1998 at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Hurst
Deputy Mayor Tony DiBartolomeo
Councillor Robert Anderson
Councillor Lynne Fox
Councillor Robert Pillon
Councillor Gerry Theriault
Councillor Tony Tiefenbach

ALSO PRESENT: Bill King, C.A.O.
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
David Mailloux, Clerk
Richard Beachey, Deputy Treasurer
Lory Bratt, Planning Co-ordinator
Richard Murray, Fire Chief
Domenic Donofrio, P/W Supervisor
Larry Smith, Amherstburg Hydro Electric Com.
Al Parnell, " " " "
Bill Fryer
Ken Mansell
Steve Brown, Chief Building Official

INVOCATION:

Rev. Maynard Hurst delivered the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF ELECTED OFFICE:

The Clerk administered the Declaration of Elected Office and Oath of Allegiance to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of the Amherstburg Municipal Council.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mayor Wayne Hurst delivered his Inaugural Address, as attached to these minutes.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Rev. J. Burkhart delivered the closing prayer.

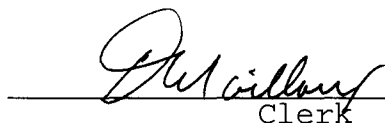
ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by T. DiBartolomeo, seconded by G. Theriault that there being no further business, the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried



Mayor



Clerk

Monday January 5th, 1998

11 a.m. Municipal Building Amherstburg, Council Chambers

- Good morning, I want to welcome the Media, printed and electronic, Department heads, staff, family, friends, residents and visitors
- How is everyone doing? It is certainly nice to see all of you out this morning.
- I want to take a moment to thank outgoing Mayor Bill Gibb and his wife Christine, We owe them both a debt of gratitude for his 21 years of dedicated service, commitment and contribution to our town. His departure was with little or no fanfare and I believe they deserve better than that.
- Also let me offer congratulations to the new council on their success in the civic election.
- And of course I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank the people of Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden for your trust, for your belief, for your confidence in electing me Mayor for the new town of Amherstburg.
- I consider this an honor and a privilege and look forward to working for you.
- I would like to deviate somewhat if I may. We have in our midst a couple of senior citizens, who I would like to speak about, these two people have been around for sometime and I am rather fond of them to say the least. They are my parents. My mom and dad worked very hard to raise their family. Let me tell you a little about my upbringing. We were poor but we were

LORENCE + EVELYN
HURST.

not needy. They taught us the important values of life such as; that there are no free lunches, if you wanted something you had to work for it. They taught us that being poor was not a curse it helped to build character and made us proud and determined in our resolve to excel in whatever we did. They taught us that the words, "I can" was more important than the letters I.Q. And they taught us that integrity is not 90 percent, Nor is it 95 percent, integrity is something you either have or you don't.

So I am very thankful for them and I want to say that all the good I will ever do I owe to them, both.

Let me begin my inaugural address by saying say to you that we are still not in a position to know exactly what the downside of the provincial cuts will be and what impact they will have. The province however, is trying to convince us that it will be revenue neutral. The question that comes to mind is for how long will it be revenue neutral?

Now I do not want to ~~by~~ spread a lot of doom and gloom, but the reality is we have some difficulties ahead; but we certainly are not going to withdraw ourselves. What we will do is work hard together to arrive at a solution to offset the loss of this funding. By finding ways, To implement cost management techniques to protect the tax dollar, but not to the point where it will inhibit our progress.

- After all there is a certain level of service the residents have come to expect and deserve and I want to see that it remains.
- None the less, the year 1998, should prove to be an interesting and rewarding one.

With the expansion of our boundaries incorporating the townships of Anderdon and Malden certainly makes this a great challenge; a challenge I may add that will not be without difficulties. And when you include the work that has been left undone by the transition committee the task becomes rather onerous, but I welcome it and view it as a wonderful opportunity. I say this is an opportunity because often times people do not recognize opportunity when it knocks because it sometimes comes disguised as hard work.

We still have some administration and staff positions that must be put in place.

The process of bringing the employees into a centralized work site must be accomplished.

Up dating the computer system must be finalized.

The buildings and properties must be reviewed to see where they fit into the equation.

Also the storing of important documents in order to keep them in perpetuity for the archives has to be addressed.

I believe we have an obligation to our employees, and I will meet and up date them on what is taking place in an effort to reduce the stress caused by the unknown.

Now there will be a period of transition, no question about it. But we must come together as one municipality, do not let any one, try to convince you otherwise.

So I ask for your patience and your understanding, and we will work as expeditiously as possible to get all the pieces into place



and when everything comes together we will be a better community because of it.

- You see we are in charge of our own destiny. We have a chance to be the model that other communities, will pattern themselves after.
- But to achieve this the job will take leadership and I have learned that a good leader never goes too far ahead of the troops.
- With that in mind I intend on having a well-informed council and a good working relationship with them, with administration, and with staff.
- I will not shrink from making the tough decisions. I will be fair but do not take my fairness as a sign of weakness because I will also be firm.

Let me give you a few examples of issues we must get involved with.

- If we are to hope for continued growth and development, and if we are to be able to service the other areas of our municipality we must begin the task of looking at ways to expand the capacity of our sewage treatment facilities.
- Our environment is very important to me, it is only on loan to us you see it belongs to our children and grandchildren and we must do our part to clean it up.
- We must continue to improve our infrastructure by separating the storm water from our sanitary sewers; and we must address the septic tanks that are still in existence in the core area.

- I will be setting up a meeting with the various industries as soon as possible to get a better picture of what the market forecast is and what may be on the horizon in research and development in their respective operations.
- And I want to open up better lines of communication with the chamber of commerce and in doing so create an improved working relationship with them.
- We must revisit and amend our official plan and zoning bylaws where necessary so that they will reflect the changing of the times.
- We must merchandise our community and we can start by maximizing the positive things in our community and minimize the negative ones. Because the challenge that we are faced with is to progress into the future not become one of its victims.

On youth activities

- This is an important issue as well. Youth employment is not a bright picture.
- Some of our youth are hanging out on the streets and the problem is compounded in part due to loss of activities such as bowling and swimming.
- So we have got to find a way to enhance their activities and we can begin by creating a better alliance in coordinating programs for them through existing organizations such as the House of Shalom and even the schools. In the hope of giving the youth an alternative to hanging out in the street.

On that same note, while there is always a need for affordable housing especially for our seniors, they too want to be able participate in activities that allow, them to interact and also benefits them physically as well as mentally.

The Parking Issue

I will work to find a way to tackle the issue of off street parking for the vehicles and trailers of our boaters.

I intend on having an open government one that's inclusive and I will be accessible, I have found that some people find the council chambers rather intimidating and I am prepared to meet with them in my office at their convenience to discuss their concern.

With this amalgamation process we have been given a tremendous responsibility, and it is no longer business as usual. It is a new beginning and we must be of a different mindset and that is not only council but also administration and staff as well.

We are running a rather large corporation, it's a business and like every business there are shareholders who in this case happen to be the ratepayers. So it is important that we display a friendly, polite disposition toward them any thing less is just not acceptable.

Many people have asked me what kind of council will this be?

Let me tell you what you can expect from council:

- If you are looking for a council that is continually in fighting, pointing fingers at each other, and going in all different directions, if you are looking for a fractured, ineffective council you will not find it here in these chambers.

Being elected we have been given the gift of privilege and with this comes responsibility.

Therefore, the approach we must take as a council, is not whether we should act, but rather how we should act.

And it is my hope you will find, a council with balance, protocol, and purpose. A council where there is a sincere effort on everyone's part to work together.

Now please, do not misread me, for I am not trying to silence debate. There is nothing wrong with a spirited discussion. Why! I have been known to participate in a few myself. Diverse thinking is healthy for a council or any group for that matter. But once the discussion has concluded, once the air has cleared, once a decision has been arrived at, we then go with that decision. That's the team concept my friends and remember there is no letter "i" in the word team.

And when we take that approach you will find that a lot of positive things will begin to happen.

So I say to you that this council is elected, this council is equal, and this council will be effective.

Now the time has come for us, to turn our attention to the needs of our residents. Its time to put our community first.

There is a major opportunity here and if we are guided by these principles we will be objectively on our way to becoming a great town, a town where people will not only say Amherstburg has turned the corner but that the town of Amherstburg has arrived.

This is a defining moment for us. History is in the making
today. The torch has been passed; Amherstburg's future is in
our hands.

In conclusion let me state that I am committed to my town. And
I announce that the train, is leaving the station. I ask all of you to
get on board.

At this time, I will ask council to stand and remain standing
when I call their names.

Councillor Lynne Fox, Robert Pillon,

Deputy Mayor Tony Dibartolomeo,

Councillor Gerry Theriault, Robert Anderson, and Tony
Tiefenbach.

Ladies and gentlemen I give you your New Council for your
New Town of Amherstburg.

Thank you, Enjoy the day.

Mayor Wayne Hurst.

The Town of Amherstburg.