

Council Chamber
City Hall, Saskatoon, Sask.
Monday, October 27, 1997
at 7:00 p.m.

INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

City Clerk Mann called the meeting to order and introduced Reverend Richard Van der Vaart, 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.

The City Clerk then called forward Councillors Atchison, Birkmaier, Harding, Heidt, Langford, Maddin, McCann, Roe, Steernberg 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.

A prayer for the Mayor and his Office was given by Reverend Richard Van der Vaart.

His Worship the Mayor took his seat on the dais and invited City Commissioner Irwin to take his seat within the Bar.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

His Worship the Mayor extended congratulations to all Council Members on their re-election and a special congratulations and welcome to the two new Councillors, Jim Maddin and Howard Harding.

Mayor Dayday advised that the economy of our city is vibrant and that Saskatoon has become a world leader in many sectors, profiling us in the global economy. He noted that the business community has the entrepreneurial expertise that makes us leaders, and a work force that can meet world standards which is very positive since it means jobs which are always in demand.

His Worship the Mayor indicated that one of his goals is to continue to work to make our city competitive by removing barriers so that we create a friendly business environment. He advised that as a city we have maintained the best possible bond rating, a Triple A Credit Rating, which is a challenge to attain, but we must be fiscally responsible and work to keep our taxes low.

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Mayor Dayday indicated that the infrastructure will continue to be an issue to be dealt with on an ongoing basis. He noted that having the support of the senior levels of government for the past few years through the infrastructure program, it will be important for us to convince both levels of government that in order for us to do long range planning we require their long range financial commitment to maintain the partnership this program has developed.

His Worship the Mayor advised that quality of life issues are always part of City Council's agenda, this includes the level and quality of services we provide which includes street maintenance, snow removal, parks and protective services. He indicated that these topics will be discussed and prioritized during the budget deliberations.

Mayor Dayday indicated that as a City Council we must always remember that we are here to serve the citizens of our city - the best we can - with the resources that are available. He advised that this means there are always choices to be made in what services we consider most important within our mandate, it becomes a balance between the demand and resources available.

His Worship the Mayor noted that Council must also work with the Administration to make operations and services more effective and cost efficient. He advised that to accomplish these goals, City Council and the Administration will be holding a planning session in November in order to review and discuss what they hope to achieve over the next three years, keeping in mind long range needs and objectives that will take us into the next century. City Council must develop a vision to meet the challenges presented to take us into the next century and beyond. He indicated that these challenges will have to take into account changes that are taking place because of the rapid evolution of the information era and we will need to meet these challenges as well as plan for the continuous growth of the city.

Mayor Dayday indicated that some planning has begun through the studies that have been commissioned. He noted that the studies underway are: an independent Commission on Reassessment that will be reporting to City Council prior to year-end; a Transportation and Transit Study that will review future needs and will be completed in about six months; Plan Saskatoon that will review development plans and zoning requirements for the future; and a Waste Minimization Study and Regional Waste Management Plan that will look at our solid waste requirement into the next millennium. He advised that these studies and reviews will become the basis for future discussions, recommendations and decision by Council.

His Worship the Mayor indicated that he is optimistic that the Public School Board and Princeton Development will negotiate a land agreement so that work can begin on South Downtown and give us a new focus for our downtown.

Mayor Dayday advised that due to the election, decisions regarding the budget for 1998 have not been made and this will require immediate attention since discussion will be required fairly soon especially for capital projects in the Capital Budget.

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His Worship the Mayor expressed his pride in the protocol in the Council Chamber during meetings, following certain procedures and rules that have been adopted by Council or are a requirement of legislation. He noted that Council worked within their mandate and stayed out of discussing topics that are outside their mandate and have not used the Council Chamber as a forum for debating issues that are not on the agenda. He encouraged the new Council to continue this approach in order to concentrate efforts on topics and goals that require Council's attention.

In closing, Mayor Dayday indicated that he is looking forward to the next term with a lot of interest and enthusiasm as challenges are always vast and require a great effort by all involved. He noted that the public has taken an interest in our local government affairs in the past and encourages them to continue doing so. He indicated that the Administration and staff work hard to provide good services to the public and if we work together, while recognizing differences in views and opinions, much can be accomplished so that we can continue to be the greatest city in Canada.

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

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk