

Town of Bishop's Falls
Public Council Meeting No. 1251
Special Meeting – Swearing In Ceremony
October 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm
Council Chambers

Minutes

Randy Drover, Town Clerk, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the following individuals in attendance:

Bob Hobbs
Doreen Tremblett
Bryan King
Anita Hynes
Peter Budgell
Fred Mills
Rob Canning

Wayne Champion, Town Manager

Item 1: Swearing In Ceremony

In accordance with section 9 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, the Town Clerk/Returning Officer administered the following oaths of office to the elected members of Council:

MAYOR OATH OF OFFICE

Bob Hobbs

COUNCILLOR OATH OF OFFICE

Doreen Tremblett
Bryan King
Anita Hynes
Peter Budgell
Fred Mills
Rob Canning.

Having administered the oaths of office, the Town Clerk passed the Chair to Mayor Hobbs.

Item 2: Mayor's Opening Remarks

Before making his opening remarks, Mayor Hobbs asked Councillor Mills to say an opening prayer. A prayer was then recited by Councillor Mills.

Mayor Hobbs began his opening remarks by congratulating the Councillors on their election. He believed that collectively they represent a strong team. He stated that the swearing in ceremony occurred rather quickly, simply because it is important for everyone to be brought up to speed as fast as possible. His Worship explained that there is a large job ahead over the next four years, and the work begins today (we cannot spend our time worrying about the past). There are many things to do, and they will not be accomplished in the next few weeks. Success must be measured at the end of the four years.

His Worship advised Council that Town staff prepared a briefing binder that contains relevant information. He advised each Councillor to review the contents in detail. He then stated that each Councillor will be expected to serve on two Standing Committees. A form was included with the briefing binder to facilitate the selection process, and the Councillors are expected to complete the form by Monday morning (it must be delivered to the Town Office). Mayor Hobbs indicated that he will take into account the interests of each Councillor when making his decision.

Mayor Hobbs explained how decisions are made at a Council level. No Councillor, not even the Mayor, should be assigning work to staff. He went on to say that Standing Committees will take an issue and formulate a recommendation for Council. No individual can come down to the Town Hall and pass out orders. Councillors with issues/concerns should have the matter added to a Standing Committee agenda by speaking with the Chairperson. His Worship stressed the importance of working together. He will ensure that each Councillor is aware of the decision that has been made, which will enable him/her to justify that decision to the community. Mayor Hobbs then stated that each Councillor should feel comfortable being "stupid". He will not allow people to be ridiculed. Everyone will equally contribute to the discussions, and will feel comfortable doing so. Mayor Hobbs indicated that he will, on occasions, instigate debate if the matter is not being discussed. This will not be a status-quo Council – we need to be looking for new ideas and new ways of doing things.

Finally, His Worship explained that one of his roles as Mayor is to be the voice of Council. The Deputy Mayor will be serving the same role. However, every Councillor will be given an opportunity to present themselves over the next four years. The goal is to present a positive approach.

Item 3: Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Hobbs opened the floor for nominations to the position of Deputy Mayor.

Nomination 1 – Councillor Budgell/Councillor Mills

Councillor Doreen Tremblett.

Mayor Hobbs asked Councillor Tremblett if she accepted the nomination. Councillor Tremblett responded in the affirmative. His Worship called for nominations two (2) more times. There being no further nominations, he declared Councillor Tremblett acclaimed to

the position of Deputy Mayor. Mayor Hobbs congratulated Deputy Mayor Tremblett on behalf of Council.

Item 4: Standing Committee Representation

Once again His Worship advised the Councillors that they must complete the *Councillor Standing Committee Selection Form* by Monday, October 5, 2009. He also stated that he will be sitting on each Committee as an ex-officio member. Mayor Hobbs reminded the Councillors that Committees are not decision-making bodies. They make recommendations to Council.

Item 5: Committee of the Whole

Mayor Hobbs believed that the Committee of the Whole should be removed from the governance structure of Council. It was his opinion that debate should take place in the public domain, and not at a privileged level. His Worship explained that the majority of municipalities do not have a Committee of the Whole, and he is very objectionable to the practice. Councillors need to feel comfortable with each other and this will lead to good debate. Councillor Budgell agreed with the Mayor, and reminded Council that privilege meetings are still permissible when necessary. There may be times when closed sessions are required because of the matter being addressed. Mayor Hobbs stated that a motion to abolish the Committee of the Whole will come before Council at its next sitting.

Item 6: Councillor Statements

His Worship opened the floor for Councillor Statements.

Councillor Canning congratulated everyone, and stated that he would like to have been present on election night. There is a great group of people around the table, and he looks forward to the next four years.

Deputy Mayor Tremblett thanked Council for its confidence in her to be Deputy Mayor. There is much to do over the next four years, and she looks forward to working with everyone.

Councillor Budgell stated that it was a good campaign, and he believed the people of Bishop's Falls made the right choice. He indicated that change will not come overnight, and he looks forward to the term.

Councillor Hynes indicated that she looks forward to the next four (4) years. She went on to say that the work of a Councillor is much different from that of a community volunteer, but it is rewarding. Councillor Hynes concluded by congratulating everyone.

Councillor Mills believed a good team was selected, and he was pleased to see everyone swear their oath of office. Councillor Mills suggested that each meeting of

Council should be opened with a prayer. Mayor Hobbs noted the suggestion, and stated this will be discussed later. Councillor Mills concluded by congratulating everyone on the election.

Councillor King opened his statement by saying it was a privilege to be elected to Council. He is very proud to be sitting at the table, and he is taking the role very seriously. The team that has been elected is good, and it makes him feel better about putting his name forward. Councillor King is looking forward to a fun and enjoyable term.

Mayor Hobbs put Councillor Mills' suggestion to have a prayer before each meeting to Council. Specifically, he asked if there were any objections. Councillor Budgell objected to the suggestion because he believed such a practice was a personal decision. Mayor Hobbs then stated that it can be put to a vote during the next sitting of Council. This will give people more time to consider the matter. Councillor King agreed that more time is required. The next meeting of Council will be Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Item 6: Staff Comments

Mayor Hobbs opened the floor for the Town Manager and Town Clerk to say a few words. Mr. Champion stated that he looks forward to working with Council over the next four years. There is a lot of information in the briefing binders, and he encouraged everyone to become familiar with the topics. In particular, Mr. Champion emphasized the importance of the collective agreement, and strongly advised the Councillors to become well briefed on its contents. This will provide the operating framework for the next couple of years. Mr. Champion also stated that we are under a spending freeze until the policy is lifted by Council. He concluded by saying the next four years will be a challenge for everyone, and he congratulated the Mayor and Councillors on their election. Mr. Drover advised the Councillors to review the briefing binders in details that contain a great amount of information. He went on to say that there are many matters before Council that will require attention in the very near future. No doubt there are many ideas for change, but the focus at this point should be on resolving these matters as soon as possible. Change is welcomed, but it must be measured and structured. Mr. Drover also stated that he looks forward to working with the Councillors, and congratulated them on the election that he believed went well. He also expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to be the Town's Returning Officer, saying that Election Day was a great experience. In conclusion, Mr. Drover indicated that his door is always open for questions.

His Worship thanked everyone for their comments, and reminded the Councillors that the next meeting is set for Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm. There being no further business before Council, Mayor Hobbs adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Mayor Bob Hobbs

Randy Drover, Town Clerk