

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH
COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL**

JANUARY 7TH, 2008

7:00 p.m. The meeting convened with His Worship, Mayor Cliff Barwick, presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Mayor C. Barwick
Alderman B. Aarts
 L. Baldwin-Sands
 G. Campbell
 H. Chapman
 T. Johnston
 T. Shackelton
 D. Warden

Officials

W. Graves, City Clerk
R. Barber, Fire Chief
R. Beachey, Deputy City Clerk
M. Carroll, Valleyview Administrator
B. Clement, Manager of Engineering
G. Dart, Director, Human Resources
S. Datars Bere, Director, Ontario Works
W. Day, Director of Finance & City Treasurer
J. Dewancker, Director, Environmental Services
P. Keenan, Director of Planning
K. McVittie, Director, Parks & Recreation
R. Wheeler, Economic Development Manager
Chief W. Lynch, St. Thomas Police Services
Deputy Chief D. Pinnell, St. Thomas Police Services

Others

Captain Jeff Johnston,
Salvation Army

CALL TO ORDER

The members having assembled, the City Clerk announced the Call to Order.

Mayor Cliff Barwick entered the Chamber accompanied by Captain Jeff Johnston, The Salvation Army. They took their seats on the dais.

SINGING OF O CANADA

Miss Megan Barber led the assembly in the singing of "O Canada" after which she performed two other selections.

Miss Barber dedicated the singing of her song "O Danny Boy" to Father Pat Costello who had recently passed away and she dedicated the singing of her song "What a Wonderful World" to Johnny Stevens who had also recently passed away.

A motion of appreciation was dealt with as follows.

Motion by Alderman Aarts - Johnston:

THAT: We express our sincere appreciation to Miss Megan Barber for singing "O Canada" and two other selections.

Carried.

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND THE CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL

Captain Jeff Johnston presented the following Charge to the Council.

"In 1883, just two years after St. Thomas became a City, The Salvation Army officially started to serve its residents. For the past 125 years we have shared the love of Jesus Christ, met human needs and been a transforming influence in the community. I count it a privilege to be a citizen of this City and fulfill my God-given calling serving here.

Mr. Mayor, Members of the City Council, Distinguished Guests and Fellow Citizens of St. Thomas:

It is my honour to have this opportunity to launch the first meeting of the 128th Council of the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas with this charge and prayer to the Council.

CITY CLERK _____ CONFIRMED _____ MAYOR _____

The 1st meeting of the 128th Council - 2

As leaders this year of this City you will face many challenges and weigh many opportunities. I offer no experience to you in your positions because I have none. But I do know the following to be true and if you follow this you will find real success and joy in your leadership this year:

1. You will need wisdom to lead. God promises us that, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all with finding fault, and it will be given to him.”* (James 1:5) Pray for wisdom. *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”* (James 3:13)
2. When leading do not be so bold as to consider that you are infallible. Remember, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”* (Proverbs 14:12) *“Trust in the LORD with all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6)
3. We live in a postmodern world. The people of this City are struggling with issues of Trust, Tolerance, and Truth. In this day you can't separate the message from the messenger. The people you serve won't care so much what you have to say until they see and trust who you are. Practice openness and integrity in your leadership and people will follow you.

May God guide you and bless you as you serve.

Join me in prayer:

God our gracious Father, you alone have the keys to wisdom and understanding, joy and happiness, life and prosperity. Give this Council wisdom to lead and hearts of integrity and love to serve this City. May we all unite in purpose to make this City a model for living in the current age. Amen."

A motion of appreciation was dealt with as follows.

Motion by Alderman Warden - Campbell:

THAT: We express our sincere appreciation to Captain Jeff Johnston for offering prayer and for delivering the Charge to the Council.

Carried.

MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

His Worship, Mayor Barwick, delivered his Annual Address as follows.

"2007 has been a year characterized by challenges and some disappointments – yet some substantial rewards.

This past year, your Council has been busy and involved in a number of decisions which will have long-term repercussions. This Council has not been timid about debating and making decisions on important issues. We have been a productive body.

Our accomplishments have been due to a team approach, respect for other viewpoints and integrity in debate. I am proud to say this Council has maintained the decorum of the chamber in debate, knowing that arguments could easily have become personalized. What we have adhered to is not due to the effort of one person, elected or non-elected. This achievement is based upon working together not only as politicians but as Directors, Senior and Junior managers as well as the employees at the most junior level.

We have many issues, which have yet to be resolved, but they are in process. The CASO land shows some prospect of resolution, a result of a recent meeting in Ottawa and the willingness of CN/CP to continue a dialogue vis a vis the Railroad Museum and the discontinuance process.

Alma College still awaits the final decision of the O.M.B.

The Court House issue will be resolved if the province chooses to engage in a process which recognizes needs and heritage; the City has done all it can do to assist in this decision and we

CITY CLERK _____ CONFIRMED _____ MAYOR

stand united in our desire to see that facility used as a Court facility. We are aware of ongoing community efforts to save this historic building.

An immense project on our plate is the location and building of a police headquarters. It is anticipated that a decision with regard to location will be determined by the spring. I have every confidence in the building committee chaired by Alderman Dave Warden. Certainly we are preparing for the financial burdens this endeavor will place upon the municipality.

After a number of meetings held between our EDC, myself, the Government of Ontario and Japanese investors, we have secured Takumi Stamping which will eventually employ 300 workers as they supply Toyota. This is a significant addition to our industrial base. Our rapport with the Japanese investment community continues to be strong and productive.

Council, although deadlocked on the type of administrative change desired, still can alter the present management board structure to a smaller group if it so desires.

The Downtown area certainly has been the object of comment – mostly negative. Yet the following statements show a continued and growing support for the downtown. To date and since 2003 Council has approved grants totaling \$393,968 for a project value of \$7,797,794 through the C.I.P. Program.

As of this address 2 new coffee shops have opened as well as the head office (Eastern Canada) for Water Play Parks, design and equipment. While we must continue to do what we can to enforce building maintenance standards; these procedures are protracted and expensive and not always finalized with positive results. We have dedicated \$60,000 for a Streetscape study. More recently grant requests totalling more than 3 million dollars for downtown revitalization will be made through the Clerks Department.

In order to ascertain the best for our downtown I am asking Council to review the mandate of the D.D.B. and the relationship it has with City Council. Perhaps there may be other or additional ways to help our core businesses and promote them.

Council has established a conservation committee and this combined with a new garbage contract (2009) will help promote conservation and help to secure our environment.

Later in the year, the official plan will be presented which will guide and regulate growth in our City. Growth must be managed well so that large tax increases can be thwarted. This committee will be publicly reporting through the chair, Alderman Heather Jackson-Chapman.

In another address (next year) I will be asking Council to examine the representation model, i.e. wards, at large system, deputy mayor and a full time Mayor, these are issues we should all be thinking about as the City grows.

The Finance Chair and Treasurer will be leading us through another budget session this March. This process will not be an easy one because of the demands made on the city. Remember budgets are a continuing process and proper planning and execution over the term of Council and longer must be a consideration. Decisions here will not be easy.

Finally our City is in good shape. We are not afraid of the future, we are not afraid of the decisions that must be made. By not confronting our problems we compound them. This is a Council willing to tackle tough issues.

The auto sector presents challenges beyond our control, but as always, we must be aware of the consequences and act accordingly. Diversification from the auto sector is desirable, but not easily achieved, nor can the auto sector be ignored.

It has been, and continues to be an honour and privilege for me to serve as Mayor. I am unable to perform without Council and uninhibited administrative inputs. Our accomplishments have been astounding. Let us brace for the future so I can say the same next year.

Thank you."

The 1st meeting of the 128th Council - 4

After the Annual Address, the following resolution was presented.

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Chapman:

THAT: The Mayor's Annual Address be received and referred to Council for consideration and recommendation.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alderman Johnston - Baldwin-Sands:

THAT: We do now adjourn. (7:32 p.m.)

Carried.