

VILLAGE OF CACHE CREEK, BRITISH COLUMBIA
INAUGURAL MEETING HELD THE 7th OF NOVEMBER, 2022 VOLUME 37, PAGE 132

Present: Councillors Wendy Coomber, Sue Peters and Annette Pittman

Mayor-Elect: John Ranta

Councillors-Elect: David Dubois, Kelly Debert, Carmen Ranta

Staff:

Chief Administrative Officer Damian Couture

Press & Media:

Jessica Clement: The HUB Online Network

Public:

Several members of the public were present

1. **ORDER:**

Councillor Peters called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **COMMENTS FROM OUTGOING COUNCIL**

Councillor Coomber stated that it has been her honour and pleasure to serve the people of Cache Creek for the last 6 years as a Councillor.

Councillor Peters stated that the term was interesting with many ups and downs from a lack of senior staff, to COVID-19, to raging inflation, to wildfires, to floods. We also learned a lot about our community and its residents and how invested and involved they are. We worked well with our neighbours, with the Bonaparte, Ashcroft and Skeetchestn bands as well as the Villages of Ashcroft and Clinton; relationships she hopes to see grow over the next four years. She thanked Damian and Cristina for their patience, guidance, and knowledge. She stated that they are a key asset to the council and the community. She thanked the public works staff for their input and hard work in keeping the Village operational. Councillor Peters further thanked the residents of Cache Creek for being ever present in times of strife, helping their neighbours and for being involved. She asks that they continue to reach out whenever they have questions to council and to staff and let them know their questions and concerns. She welcomed the new mayor and council members and stated that she looks forward to working with them.

3. **PRESENTATION**

Councillor Peters stated that outgoing council members who have served for longer than 5 years qualify to receive a gift from the Village. Both Councillor Dafoe and Councillor Coomber qualify for those gifts but have both asked that in lieu of those gifts the money be donated to the Cache Creek Community Fund. Councillor Peters thanked them for their donations. Councillor Peters stated that Councillor Dafoe is attending virtually as she is not well.

On behalf of the Village Councillor Peters presented a plaque to Councillor Pittman and thanked her for all her hard work. Councillor Pittman thanked Councillor Peters.

On behalf of the Village Councillor Peters presented a plaque to Councillor Coomber and thanked her for her work. Councillor Coomber thanked Councillor Peters.

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Councillor Peters thanked Councillor Dafoe again for her hard work and stated that her plaque will be given to her when she is available.

4. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Councillor Peters requested new Council to stand behind their chairs and requested leaving Council to rise and give their seats to the incoming members.

Chief Administrative Officer Couture asked each member of Council to hold their Oaths in their left hands, raise their right hands and read their Oaths of Office. All members of Council completed and signed their Oath of Office.

5. **INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

Mayor Ranta thanked the past Council and all of the staff for 4 years of work. Over the last few years he has seen a lot happen in the Village. He again wished to thank the outgoing Council and staff for everything they have done. He congratulated each of the new Council members; it is a significant accomplishment to win an election in a Village like Cache Creek, as it is quite a political community. It is significant that these members emerged victorious. Mayor Ranta also wished to congratulate those who ran and were not successful. He stated that it takes courage to run for office, it is always sad for everyone when people put their name forward and do not get elected. He again thanked all who were willing to put their names forward and run for office.

Mayor Ranta stated that all of Council got together on November 4th at a meeting that was orchestrated by the Thompson Nicola Regional District in Kamloops. All five members of Council and CAO Couture attended the full day session. He stated there were a number of speakers who discussed the fact that each member runs as an individual and gets elected as an individual, but the important thing is that they must then build a team and work together. Mayor Ranta believes this Council can do that. He stated that we have a great Council and he is looking forward to working with all of them over the next four years. He stated he wishes to concentrate on building the teamwork needed to be successful.

Mayor Ranta stated that he heard many things from community members at their doors during the election. He mentioned specifically the park, the pool and tidiness in the community. He stated there is no doubt that people want to see improvements in the park and improvements in the appearance of the park. People stated that they wish to see the pool open again, and that is something he would like to achieve, subject to the will of Council. Mayor Ranta qualified that this is his inaugural address and is his personal vision, not necessarily the vision of all of Council. All decisions are subject to financial constraints the Village finds themselves under. He stated that he will do his best to get the pool open for the long weekend in May in 2023. He will need to have a majority of Council support that idea. He addressed the issue of tidiness as well. He stated that the downtown core has eroded a bit and it needs to be tidied up. The Village needs to ensure that there are not unsightly premises in the highway corridor as that is what is visible to visitors to the community, and he would like to have the community reflect the pride that the residents of Cache Creek all feel for the Village of Cache Creek. He stated that he feels long term residents are proud of the community and want the community to reflect the pride they feel and that needs to be addressed moving forward. Mayor Ranta also stated that many residents voiced concerns regarding the tax and utility rate increases over the last four years and he would like to see those issues addressed to at least stop the increases and if

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able to identify reductions in spending and efficiencies in the community to pay for opening the pool and reduce rates for taxes and utilities. Another issue that residents brought up to Mayor Ranta was sidewalk snow clearing. The Village used to clear the sidewalks, but they no longer do. Mayor Ranta stated that he spoke with Administrator Damian regarding this issue, and he stated that he took a certain amount of responsibility for that; that there should have been consultation and notification rather than just stopping the service. Mayor Ranta feels that there should be consultation and open discussion regarding all activities of Council so there are no surprises for the public so that everyone has an opportunity to comment on changes that are being contemplated. The home on Stage Road that burned down a few years ago was also an issue that people brought up with Mayor Ranta during the campaign. He hopes to be able to find a way to address that issue as well. One further issue that was identified was that several of the fluorescent lights on the sign at the gateway park have been burnt out for a couple of years and he feels that the Community should reflect the pride we feel in it by addressing things like that and getting everything working the way it was engineered to work.

Mayor Ranta reiterated that he looks forward to working with Council and that they will do what they can to address the issues that come forward and he encourages anybody who is watching online to not hesitate to contact him personally or any other Council members that they are comfortable with to bring issues forward. He is sure all the members of Council will be happy to bring forward issues brought to them by the public if the members of the public are not comfortable presenting at a council meeting. He wishes all members of the public to know that Council wants to hear from the public. He encourages people to not be shy and to be sure to come forward and speak with him and members of Council. Mayor Ranta hopes that moving forward they will “fly like a rocket and put Cache Creek back where it used to be at the junction of Highway 1 and 97, the major highway junction in the Province of British Columbia. It was built on the entrepreneurial efforts of people that built businesses in the community; we need to reignite that entrepreneurial spirit in the community so that we can again have traffic jams”. Mayor Ranta thanked everyone for their kind attention.

6. **STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Ranta made the following appointments for Standing Committees of Council:

Economic Development: Councillor Dubois (Chair) and Councillor Debert

Budget and Administrative Services: Mayor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Peters

Bylaw and Policy Review: Councillor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Peters

Public Works: Councillor Debert (Chair) and Councillor Dubois

Health Care and Protective Services: Councillor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Debert

Emergency Management: Councillor Peters (Chair) and Councillor Dubois

Parks and Recreation: Councillor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Debert

Landfill Advisory: Mayor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Ranta

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TNRD and Intergovernmental Liaison: Mayor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Peters
TNRD Board Rep: Mayor Ranta
TNRD Alternate Rep: Councillor Peters

Cache Creek Community Fund: Councillor Dubois (Chair) and Councillor Ranta

MOVED by Councillor Peters
SECONDED by Councillor Dubois
THAT these committee appointments be accepted as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Councillor Dubois
SECONDED by Councillor Ranta
THAT these committee appointments be accepted as amended; with the Emergency Management Committee being Councillor Peters (Chair) and Councillor Ranta and the Landfill Advisory Committee being Mayor Ranta (Chair) and Councillor Dubois.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Ranta affirmed that members of the public may ask questions regarding any subject they may have questions regarding, not only items listed on the current agenda.

7. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS:**

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOVED by Councillor Peters
SECONDED by Councillor Dubois
THAT Council adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Ranta, Mayor

Damian Couture,
Chief Administrative Officer

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true recording of the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of Council held the 7th day of November, 2022 E. & O.E.E.

Corporate Officer