

Pursuant to Section 20 of the City Charter, a special meeting of the Keene City Council was held Friday, January 1, 2018, for the purpose of swearing in the Mayor and City Councilors-elect. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by the Deputy City Clerk, William S. Dow. The Deputy City Clerk announced that Kendall W. Lane was present to take the oath of office as Mayor of the City of Keene. The Honorable Howard B. Lane, Jr. administered the oath of office to the Mayor-elect. The Mayor directed the Deputy City Clerk to call a roll of the Councilors-elect. Janis O. Manwaring, Terry M. Clark, Randy L. Filiault, Margaret M. Rice, George S. Hansel, Gary P. Lamoureux, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Philip M. Jones and Mitchell H. Greenwald. Councilor-elect Barlomiej K. Sapeta was absent. The Mayor administered the oath of office to the Councilors-elect. The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll of the full City Council. Carl B. Jacobs, Janis O. Manwaring, Thomas F. Powers, Terry M. Clark, Randy L. Filiault, Margaret M. Rice, Robert B. Sutherland, George S. Hansel, Gary P. Lamoureux, Bettina A. Chadbourne, David C. Richards, Philip M. Jones and Mitchell H. Greenwald were present. Councilor-elect Barlomiej K. Sapeta was absent. The Reverend Michael F. Hall gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jaden Greenwald, Benjamin Greenwald, Leo Ballaro, Eliza Ballaro and Lola Ballaro.

INAUGURATION SPEECH

Mayor Lane began by welcoming all in attendance and thanking them for coming to this opening meeting that marks the beginning of the 2018-2019 session of the Keene City Council. He went on to mention this was beginning his fourth term as Mayor. He thanked the voters of Keene for giving him this high honor. He continued that he was only the 2nd mayor in the history of Keene to be elected for four terms and it is a great privilege to be recognized by the community in this way.

The Mayor recognized his wife, Molly whose tolerance, patience and wisdom has guided him through his time as Mayor.

The Mayor extended appreciation to Med Kopczynski who stepped in as City Manager during the recruitment process and served, not just as an interim City Manager, but as a creative, innovative leader for the staff and City Council.

He went on to recognize the new City Manager, Elizabeth Dragon, who comes to us from Franklin, New Hampshire, and we look forward to working with her for many years to come.

The Mayor then went on to thank those members of the staff present, and particularly Patty Little, City Clerk, William Dow as the fill-in for Ms. Little, Tom Mullins, City Attorney. He noted it is through their expert assistance and direction that the City runs smoothly and the policies of the City Council are accomplished.

He went on to congratulate all those who have been sworn in today and will be serving the City. He acknowledged in particular the new City Councilor Margaret M. Rice, who will be joining us from Ward 4.

Today, we look forward to the next 2 years as we continue to work to help the City thrive.

We are working to develop a new *Land Use Code* to make this City more welcoming to small businesses and future redevelopment. While large developers have the resources to comply with our requirements, small projects meet major hurdles. A process that is simpler and easier to follow will assist those who want to do business or make improvements here in Keene.

Our Downtown faces challenges that we need to address as we move forward. We are seeing welcome redevelopment taking place on the east side of Downtown with the *Washington Place* and *MoCo Arts* being developed. We are also seeing welcome redevelopment on the west side of Downtown with the renovation and expansion of the library. But it has been 30 years since we last examined the Downtown and much has changed. Demands of pedestrians and bicyclists, increased traffic, and needs for parking face us. More people living close to Downtown require amenities and open space to accommodate them. The arts play an important role in our economy and place an increasing demand on our Downtown. We must move forward to plan for the future of a Downtown that is not just a retail center but is a cultural center for the region.

We continue our efforts to adjust for a changing climate. As we face more and stronger storms, flooding and air quality issues, we must change our way of doing business. Alternative transportation and alternative energy sources will become part of our future.

Finally, we must continue to support and expand our economy. We want our local industries to be successful and to grow. We want areas of the City to be redeveloped to provide the housing and jobs for the future.

We have created our *Economic Development Zones* that have designated areas of the city that qualify for *79-E tax deferral* and we are moving forward to encourage development of the airport. These are our lifeblood for the future. They are not, however, without challenges. Our employment base is not strong. We need to make the City attractive for a younger workforce with housing and recreation that is attractive for them.

As we work to create a 21st century business environment, we also need to create a high-speed internet network that will support local businesses and allow people to conduct business on a remote basis.

The City Manager and the I have been visiting local employers, meeting with Keene State and Antioch and we will be meeting with Cheshire Career Center to work collaboratively to establish programs to encourage graduates to stay in Keene and fill the available jobs. This will not solve the problem, but it is part of the long term solution.

The role that our educational facilities play in our future is significant. They are a tremendous asset for the community as we go forward and their strength and success is critical to the future of our community.

We must continue our efforts to combat the substance addiction crisis that has affected our City. This impacts the crime rate, the economic vitality and the health and welfare of our fellow citizens. It is a public health epidemic that we must all work together to solve.

We recently held the municipal elections in which 19% of our citizens voted. Elections have significance. In this election all incumbent City Councilors running for re-election were returned. This tells us the citizens want stability, they want us to continue the direction we are going, and they want us to continue the culture of transparency and citizen involvement in what actions we take. We must continue our collaborative efforts to include our citizens in the decision making process as we tackle the challenges of the future.

Our goals are clear, to attract a 21st century workforce, to make Keene the best place to raise a family, to obtain employment, to shop, and to go to school.

To achieve this and to maintain our quality of life is the challenge. Over the next two years we need to work together, not just as a City Council, but as a community made up of many people who care deeply about his City with a unified goal and a common purpose to chart the course for the future of our region and our community.

RESOLUTION R-2018-01: RELATING TO THE KEENE CITY COUNCIL'S RULES OF ORDER

Resolution R-2018-01 was read for the first time by title only. Councilor Richards moved for adoption of the Resolution. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Resolution R-2018-01 was declared adopted. Councilor-elect Bartlomiej K. Sapeta was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Deputy City Clerk read the Mayor's appointments to the City Council's Standing Committees. To the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee: Janis O. Manwaring, Randy L. Filiault, Stephen L. Hooper, Gary P. Lamoureux and Robert B. Sutherland. To the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee: David C. Richards, Philip M. Jones, George S. Hansel, Bartlomiej K. Sapeta and Margaret M. Rice. To the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee: Mitchell H. Greenwald, Carl B. Jacobs, Thomas F. Powers, Terry M. Clark and Bettina A. Chadbourne. The appointments were filed into the record.

The Reverend Michael F. Hall gave the benediction. As being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

A true record, attest:

Deputy City Clerk