

Pursuant to Section 20 of the City Charter, a special meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 for the purpose of swearing in the Mayor and City Councilors-elect. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by the City Clerk, Patricia A. Little. The City Clerk announced that George S. Hansel was present to take the oath of office as Mayor of the City of Keene. Kendall W. Lane administered the oath of office to the Mayor-elect. The Mayor directed the City Clerk to call the roll of the Councilors-elect: Steven L. Hooper, Michael J. Remy, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Gladys Johnsen, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Kate M. Bosley, and Thomas F. Powers City Attorney, Thomas P. Mullins administer the oath to the Councilors-elect. Mayor Hansel welcomed each new Councilor with a lapel pin of the City of Keene.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll of the 2020-2021 City Council. Stephen L. Hooper, Michael J. Remy, Janis O. Manwaring, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Gladys Johnsen, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Kate M. Bosley and Thomas F. Powers were present. Michael Giacomo was absent.

The Mayor recognized Melanie Zalman McDonald, the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for greetings. He then recognized Pastor Albie Powers for the invocation. The pledge of allegiance was led by Shrihan Budakoti, and Ruby Mishra of the Keene India Association.

#### INAUGURATION SPEECH

Mayor Hansel welcomed Keene's former Mayor, Kendall Lane, the City Manager Elizabeth Dragon, Patty Little, the City Clerk, City Attorney Tom Mullins, as well as attending Department Heads and staff, City Councilors, and importantly the voters in Keene. Thank you for the honor of serving as your Mayor.

This election was one of the most contested in recent memory. The passion and enthusiasm exhibited by all of those who ran for Council seats, and for Mayor, highlighted that our City is rich in both leadership and individuals willing to work incredibly hard to make Keene a better place to live. Mayor Hansel thanked Councilor Greenwald, his family and supporters, for helping to frame the important issues for our city. He noted he looked forward to working closely with Mitch as a friend and colleague over the next two years, and beyond.

The Mayor also took a moment to acknowledge and thank his friends, neighbors, and family, who have supported him so far. Your job is not done and I'm thankful every day to have such talented and giving people around me.

Today begins the next City Council session. Today also marks the beginning of a new decade and a new chapter for the Elm City. Looking around the Council Chambers, there are 6 new Councilors. These additions are certain to bring new ideas and energy to the table.

The Mayor pointed out that we have the highest number of women on the Council in decades. This is something to celebrate, and we should be mindful that there is even more work to do to ensure that the representatives in this chamber are a close reflection of the community at large.

As our City grows and becomes more diverse, we need to work extra hard to invite representatives of that diversity to the table. The Mayor continued that he would like to offer a new year's challenge to the new City Council and the staff. The people of Keene voted for change: we must deliver it.

Over the next few months, as we settle into the business of local government, let us not be satisfied with the status quo. Let us look boldly towards the next decade and make Keene the best small city in America: a place where everyone feels welcome, where large and small businesses can thrive, and where a responsive City government takes care of its citizens' needs efficiently.

The success or failure of this Council will rely on everyone working together. One mayor, one councilor cannot accomplish very much. Ultimately, it takes consensus to move something forward in this chamber. The Mayor instructed the Council to work together, get to know each other, listen to their constituents, and let him know how he can help.

Mayor Hansel continued after the election, he received several hand-written letters from people in the community. Some of whom he knew, a few he did not. One letter reminded him of something that he thinks is important for all of us to hear. The letter advised him to always build relationships on trust and mutual respect. It advised him to enable the many smart and dedicated people in Keene who are ready to give back to the community they love. As elected officials, we do not lead this City in a vacuum. That is advice I will keep in the front of my mind as your Mayor.

We must also be forthright and honest in confronting the challenges ahead. Several of our neighborhoods, especially those on the southeast side of the City, are struggling. Looking ahead, we should be proactive in ensuring that every neighborhood in the City provides the highest quality of life possible. We need to ensure that every home in Keene is a good investment, and every street is one that you would be proud to grow up on. It will not take much to get there. A few strategic investments, some elbow grease, tackling one house at a time and we will get there.

Despite some inherent challenges, I am convinced that Keene is the City of opportunity in the State of New Hampshire. We boast access to four institutions of higher learning; a diverse group of internationally relevant, high-tech manufacturers that consistently lead their peers in both innovation and social responsibility. We have a budding arts scene anchored by institutions such as MOCO Arts and the Colonial Theater. We also have a proven commitment to environmental sustainability, self-reliance, and innovation. We are a community that does not back down when confronted with big ideas. Instead, we encourage and embrace them. We get together and make big things happen.

Over the coming years, we will show the world what we can do. Look for us to be proactive in addressing workforce housing, homelessness, and environmental sustainability, attracting businesses, maintaining and expanding our vibrant and active downtown core, and creating a welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds.

There is no excuse for inaction. The leadership of this community must come together, utilize and enhance each other's strengths, and fill in for any weaknesses. This includes bringing together leaders at the State level, the County, surrounding towns, regional institutions of higher learning, and the business community. Effective leadership is in place at all of these institutions. It is a matter of communication and coordination. It is a matter of focusing on results, and not worrying about who gets the credit.

Here in the Monadnock Region, we're often forgotten about, and we rarely receive the attention we need or deserve. That trend ends now. Starting with a legislative delegation meeting in the next couple of weeks, we are going to be much more proactive in advocating for ourselves and our needs. We'll support those doing good work on our behalf and we'll build on our reputation as an innovative community that leads the rest of New Hampshire.

This attitude and posture will attract other change makers. We will attract the innovative and socially conscious businesses, young people and families that we need to help our economy and our community thrive for the next few decades.

The people of Keene voted for change. My challenge to the city's leaders is to work together with me to help deliver it. The Mayor closed his remarks with "Let's get to work."

#### RESOLUTION R-2020-01: RELATING TO THE RULES OF ORDER

Resolution R-2020-01 was read first time by title only. A motion by Councilor Bosley to move for adoption of the Resolution was duly seconded by Councilor Powers. A motion by Councilor Clark to amend the Resolution by striking the phrase "rise is in his or her place," in Section 11 entitled "Right of Floor." The motion to amend failed with 9 votes in opposition. Councilors Williams, Jones, Johnsen, Clark and Ormerod voted in favor. Referring to the motion to adopt, on roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Councilor Giacomo was absent.


#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The 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, Michel Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Bettina A. Chadbourne, and Robert C. Williams. To the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee: Kate M. Bosley, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Philip M. Jones, Gladys Johnsen and Catherine I. Workman. To the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee: Thomas F. Powers, Stephen L. Hooper, Terry M. Clark, Michael J. Remy and Raleigh C. Ormerod. The appointments were filed into the record.

01-01-2020

The Reverend Elsa Worth gave the benediction. As being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:41 PM.

A true record, attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Castle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

City Clerk