

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH  
MINUTES OF INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KENILWORTH  
HYBRID MEETING WITH COUNCIL IN PERSON AND VIA WEB CONFERENCING**

**Members Present:**

**Mayor: Andrew Lennox  
Councillors: Sherry Burke  
Lisa Hern  
Steve McCabe  
Penny Renken**

**Staff Present:**

**Chief Administrative Officer: Brooke Lambert  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk: Karren Wallace  
Deputy Clerk: Catherine Conrad  
Human Resources Manager: Amy Tollefson  
Chief Building Official: Darren Jones  
Director of Operations: Matthew Aston  
Director of Finance: Farhad Hossain**

**CALLING TO ORDER**

Brooke Lambert, Chief Administrative Officer, called the meeting to order and conducted the roll call.

**O 'Canada**

- Debbie Farrelly

**DECLARATION OF OFFICE BY MAYOR**

- Clerk, Karren Wallace administered the Declaration of Office to Mayor Lennox

**PRESENTATION OF CHAIN OF OFFICE**

- Deputy Clerk, Catherine Conrad presented the chain of office and gavel to Mayor Lennox

**DECLARATION OF OFFICE BY THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

- Clerk, Karren Wallace administered the Declaration of Office to the members of Council.

**INTRODUCTION OF 2022 – 2026 COUNCIL**

- Chief Administrative Officer, Brooke Lambert, introduced the 2022 – 2026 Council

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS MAYOR LENNOX**

I am honoured to stand before you again today to renew our conversation about our collective future, and to mark a milestone in the progress of our Township. I'd like to welcome back to the table my colleagues from the last term, Councillors Sherry

Burke, Lisa Hern and Steve McCabe. Joining us this time, with her energy and enthusiasm, is Penny Renken. Welcome Penny. To you fellow members of Council, I say congratulations and thank you for offering your time and caring nature to serve our Township, and its communities. The voters of Wellington North have assembled a strong team and I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

I'd also like to recognize the families of our Councillors, a number of which I see here today. Their sacrifice should not go unnoticed. I know at our house I am blessed to have Suzan, who tolerates my ever-changing schedule and who listens patiently as I sometimes have to talk through issues. To municipal staff, here and throughout the Township, thank you for your professional and dedicated work. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming years as you continue to serve our strong and proud community.

Over the previous terms we have worked toward delivering high quality public services with an eye to continuous improvement. We have stretched ourselves to move closer to maintaining our existing infrastructure, all the while striving to do it with stable predictable taxation supported on a strong financial foundation. We've also spent time, effort and resources preparing for future growth in our community. As I look back on the past years, I am amazed at what we have been able to accomplish together.

During the election campaign I had a couple people ask me a question that really made me pause and think about the answer. They asked me, "Why is all the discussion about growth and urban issues? There is virtually no discussion about issues outside of Mount Forest and Arthur." When I thought about it, I told them that while municipal operations run pretty smoothly across the township the conversation was being driven by the amount of change that growth and environmental circumstances were bringing to our main urban areas.

We are seeing changes in economic times with inflation at generational highs. We are seeing employers struggling to find workers like never before. We are seeing changes, quite recently, in Provincial policy that can drastically affect municipalities like ours. The pressure on community growth has become immense. Many of you have heard me relate community growth to the circumstances of a growing family. You have also heard me relate the increased pace of growth we are now facing as being similar to the same growing family suddenly finding out they are having triplets. I use this comparison because there are so many parallels. The plans for one more bedroom become the plans for three. The plans to use the car we have turns into the necessity to have a mini van that wasn't anticipated. The existing plans of how we pay the additional cost suddenly become obsolete and we have to be completely rethought and options we hadn't previously planned now must be considered. Most importantly, like the rapid growing family, circumstances will force us to adapt more quickly, be more flexible, and be willing to try new ideas if we are to successfully build our community for the future. It promises to be an exciting time.

Together we must accept the challenge, embrace the opportunity, invest our time and resources building a better and stronger Wellington North. The difficult we will do immediately, the impossible may us take a little longer.

## COUNCILLORS' INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

- Ward 1 – Councillor Renken

I live in Ward 1 and have done so for eleven years. Prior to that we farmed in Ward 2.

I belong to the Cultural Roundtable and I'm looking forward to continuing work on the goals of the Municipal Cultural Plan that we have already started. As I was campaigning, one of the things I was really advocating for was more affordable recreation, especially for those with special needs, and if at all possible, I would like to continue with that.

I know that in the next four years we are going to have some really difficult issues with housing, infrastructure, and economy but, I'm hoping to be able to absorb a lot of the expertise and knowledge of the Mayor, Councillors and the municipal staff for help. I'm looking forward to the challenge

- Ward 2 – Councillor Burke

Thank you to everyone that came tonight to join us. I'd like to congratulate the members of Council that were acclaimed, and recently won. I've always said it is a privilege to represent the residents of Ward 2 in Wellington North and that's what I have done for the past twelve years, and this next term. I appreciate their support. I want to thank the residents for trusting in my commitment, dedication, and community awareness for another term. These are going to be challenging times, as Mayor Lennox alluded to in his speech. I look forward to working with Council and staff and the residents of Wellington North together to face these challenges. This will include not only new initiatives, but those that continue to build and enrich our communities socially, culturally and economically.

In closing I'd also like to say thank you to my amazing friends and family for their patience and encouragement and continuous support; because sometimes when you're a councillor you have to miss certain things and you have to make a decision for the residents who put you into this seat. I couldn't do this job without them, so thank you very much.

- Ward 3 – Councillor Hern

Want an honour, and I'm honestly surprised that this is the third term I am starting. I have a lot of people to thank, the people of Wellington North, and my family, my husband, John, and my son Wyatt. Without their support I could not do this. A lot has changed since my first term and a lot of great things have happened, and unfortunately some not so great. I'm looking forward to the next four years and I'm up for the challenge. I look forward to making more great things happen.

- Ward 4 – Councillor McCabe

It's incredible how quickly eight years can pass and yet at same time I was first sworn in, approximately 2,900 days ago, it seems like yesterday. It's incredibly humbling and an honour to stand, here tonight and start my third term. Not only as a Ward 4 Councillor but as a representative of the great Township of Wellington North. Much has changed in the past two terms but one thing that will not change is my

commitment to you and the residents of Wellington North, no matter what town, hamlet or ward you live in. I've tried to earn your trust and respect and will continue to do so in these next four years and beyond. We have an amazing team when you look at all the employees within the Township. Here too there have been major challenges, but I look forward to continuing to work with our great staff. I am, and truthfully everyone in the Township, should be proud of our whole team. The future has never looked better.

We have a lot of heavy lifting to do, and we have to make a lot of hard decisions that won't suit everyone; but they need to be made. We need to work with the County, Province, and Federal governments to make sure that Wellington North is top of mind. We have numerous projects already known to us, which have huge dollar costs to complete. We need these partners to be at the table with us and I will not stop advocating for us. This is my commitment to the residents of Wellington North and I thank you very much for this privilege.

I want to take this time to welcome Penny to the Council table. I look forward to getting to know you and work with you. I also want to thank Dan Yake for the time he served our residents as well.

Thank you and here's to the next four years.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE-**

John Nater, MP, Perth-Wellington, dated November 10, 2022

- Congratulations to new Council

RESOLUTION: 2022 - 366

Moved by: Councillor Renken

Seconded by: Councillor Burke

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wellington North receive as information the congratulatory letter from John Nater, MP, Perth-Wellington, dated November 10, 2022.

CARRIED

#### **CONFIRMING BY-LAW NUMBER 121-22**

RESOLUTION: 2022-367

Moved: Councillor McCabe

Seconded: Councillor Hern

THAT By-law Number 121-22 being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wellington North at its Inaugural Meeting held on November 21, 2022 be read a First, Second and Third time and enacted.

CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION: 2022-368

Moved: Councillor Burke

Seconded: Councillor Renken

THAT the Inaugural Council meeting of November 21, 2022 be adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

CARRIED

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**MAYOR**

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**CLERK**