

INAUGURATION
City Council/School Board/Police Commission
January 7, 2014
Rochester Opera House
7:00 PM

COUNCILORS PRESENT
PRESENT

Councilor Collins
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Keans
Councilor Kittredge
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Larochelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Councilor Varney
Councilor Walker
Mayor Jean

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Julie Brown
Ms. Jen Bryant
Ms. Kathy Dunton
Mr. Daniel Harkinson
Mr. Paul Lynch
Ms. Susan O'Connor
Mr. Matthew Pappas
Dr. Anthony Pastelis
Ms. Audrey Stevens
Ms. Karen Stokes
Mr. Raymond Turner
Mr. Robert Watson

POLICE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Commissioner Bruce Lyndsay
Commissioner Lucien Levesque
Commissioner Derek Peters

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ms. Pat Carroll, School Board

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Lachapelle, Chaplin
City Manager Fitzpatrick
Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director
Karen Pollard, Deputy City Manager/Economic Development
Michael Hopkins, School Superintendent
Danford Wensley, City Legal Counsel
Jerome Grossman, School and Police Legal Counsel
Samantha Rodgerson, City Manager's Executive Assistant
Fred Leonard, State Representative
Ben Laine, Rochester Middle School
Libby Walters, Rochester Middle School

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor-Elect Thomas Jean called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor-Elect Thomas Jean led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Prayer

Ronald Lachapelle, Chaplin of the Rochester Fire Department and Rochester Police Commission, led the assembly in prayer.

4. Poem Recital

Mayor Jean introduced Libby Walters, Rochester Middle School, to the assembly. Miss Walters recited a poem in honor of the Inauguration.

5. Song – Ben Laine, Rochester Middle School

Mayor Jean introduced Ben Laine, Rochester Middle School, to the assembly. Mr. Laine played the piano and sang a song in honor of the inauguration.

6. Roll Call

- **Council-Elect**
- **School Board Members Elect**
- **Police Commissioners-Elect**

Kelly Walters, City Clerk, took a roll call. All City Councilors-Elect, Mayor-Elect, School Board Members-Elect, and Police Commissioners-Elect were present except for Ms. Pat Carroll, School Board Member-Elect, who had been excused.

7. Mayor-Elect takes Oath of Office

Attorney Wensley administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Thomas J. Jean.

8. Councilors-Elect take Oath of Office

Attorney Wensley administered the Oath of Office to all Councilors-Elect.

9. School Board Members-Elect take Oath of Office

Attorney Grossman administered the Oath of Office to all School Board Members-Elect, with the exception of Ms. Pat Carroll, who had been excused.

10. Police Commissioners-Elect take Oath of Office

Attorney Grossman administered the Oath of Office to the Police Commissioners-Elect

11. Election of Deputy Mayor

Councilor Lachapelle **NOMINATED** Councilor Varney to be the Deputy Mayor for Calendar Years 2014-2015. Councilor Torr seconded the nomination. Councilor Hamann **NOMINATED** Councilor Walker to be the Deputy Mayor for Calendar Years 2014-2015. Councilor Kittredge seconded the motion. Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** that nominations cease. Councilor Torr seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote. Mayor Jean announced that Councilor Varney has been elected as the Deputy Mayor for Calendar Years 2014-2015, by a ballot vote of 8 to 5.

12. Inaugural Address

Inaugural Address read and submitted by Mayor Jean: *Good evening Honored Guests, Elected Officials, and My Fellow Citizens. I would like to begin this evening by congratulating the Elected Officials who have just taken their respective oaths of office. Tonight, we begin a new journey together leading this great city. We should all be appreciative that we have such dedicated individuals willing to answer the call to public service. In my experience, I have found serving the City of Rochester to be challenging, exciting, and incredibly rewarding. But what really makes it special, are the individuals seated on this stage. Working together, we will all share in the wonderful feeling of accomplishment.*

This evening I would like to personally recognize someone very special to me. Someone who's dedication and support makes it possible for me to serve as your mayor. Tonight I want to acknowledge my beloved wife, and our first lady, Jennifer. Without her sacrifice of countless nights watching our two beautiful children while I'm away at meetings or events, I would not be able to fulfill the duties this position demands. So this evening I say "thank you" Jenn for all that you do for me and our family. I love you very much!

Tonight, I am pleased to welcome Jake Collins, Donald Hamann, Robert Gates, and Derek "Mac" Kittredge to the City Council. Their experience

will add a new and fresh perspective to our deliberations. I look forward to working closely with all of them.

I would also like to welcome new School Board members Jenn Bryant, Ray Turner, Patricia Carroll, and Kathy Dunton. Thank you for your commitment to our most valuable assets, the children of Rochester.

Tonight we welcome three new police commissioners. Commissioners Derek Peters, Lucien Levesque, and Bruce Lindsay. I wish all of them the very best and I look forward to working with them in the coming term to ensure our community's policing needs are met.

Municipal government is often considered the purest form of government. Members of municipal government are individuals you will see often while grocery shopping, out dining, attending a church service, or perhaps at the athletic fields coaching sports. Tonight, seated on this stage, are extremely dedicated and committed individuals who are willing to stand up and make a difference in the future of our community. Our decisions will not always be easy, nor will they always be popular. Rather, it will take each and every one of us to put forth our best efforts and experience to help one another reach the best possible solution for whatever issue we deliberate. I personally have been blessed over the last four years, to have been surrounded by an extraordinary group of individuals on the city council, school board, and police commission, who share in my philosophy of doing whatever it takes to ensure our community is safe, our children are well educated, and working tirelessly to improve the city we love to call home. I am very excited to be embarking on another two years with our elected and re-elected officials.

As I began preparing my remarks this evening, I couldn't help but to pause and look back at the progress we've made over the last four years. Our city has experienced tremendous growth and development during this time. Additionally, we have made some significant organizational changes that have improved the level of service we provide to our constituents. Notably there have been tremendous improvements in Public Works, Planning and Development, and Code Enforcement. City Administration, under the leadership of Dan Fitzpatrick, has tackled issue after issue to remove barriers which may negatively impact our residents and business owners. I commend the work of the City Manager and his team on making some welcomed changes to City Hall.

I am also impressed with the level of infrastructure projects we have accomplished in the last four years. We have invested in major reconstruction projects on Salmon Falls Road and Brock Street, we built a bridge in the Granite State Business Park on time and under budget, we invested in our road paving program to keep our roads in good condition,

and we've looked to expand our water and sewer infrastructure to facilitate economic development. Tonight, I renew my pledge to ensure we continue this valuable investment in our city. We must make certain we continue to maintain our infrastructure and make improvements that improve the quality of life of our residents and the business community.

Late last fall, I was interviewed by a college student working on a project for her government course. The student asked "as mayor, what keeps you up at night?" I found that to be an interesting question since the position of mayor in a Council/Manager form of government is a bit different than that of a historic strong mayor, where the mayor is truly the chief executive and is heavily involved in the day to day operation of the city. However, the answer came to me very quickly. My answer was public safety. If you take a moment to think about it, without a strong public safety force, we really have nothing at all. I recall explaining to the student that back in March of 2012 I was watching the news coverage on WMUR of a police officer shot on duty. I recalled seeing everyone congregate at Catholic Medical Center and hearing that Mayor Ted Gatsas was there as well. The entire time, while praying for the officer's safe recovery, I was thankful this situation was not occurring in Rochester. Then, only a few weeks later, I had received a call stating one of Rochester's own officers had been involved in a shooting in Greenland. My heart sank. The entire night was filled with prayer, worry and concern. It felt as though a personal family member had been injured. The next day, I traveled to Portsmouth Regional Hospital to visit Officer Jeremiah Murphy. I was so impressed by the outpouring of support from the law enforcement community. Although, I did not get an opportunity to speak with Officer Murphy, I wanted him to know that there was a community of thirty thousand pulling for his speedy recovery. I went on to explain to the student that public safety is a critical component to the success of any community and certain investments must be made to ensure our residents and public safety officials are safe. Tonight, I want to assure all of you of my commitment to providing our public safety officials the tools and resources they need to keep themselves, and each and every one of us as safe as possible. I commend all of our Police, Fire, EMS, and Public Works employees for keeping our community safe.

Equally important is the education of our students. While this important task rests with the school board, I am very thankful for the City Council's support of the East Rochester School project. The current school, built in the late sixties, was by far the most in need of repair and reconstruction. I am thankful for the school board's hard work, through a tireless space study project, that they advanced the East Rochester School Project to the City Council. We should all be excited about a new school building which will be filled with the latest technologies and provide an environment conducive to learning. I look forward to working

with the Joint Building Committee as we bring the project to reality for 2015

Economic Development continues to be strong in Rochester. This is evident by the opening of Safran/Albany Engineered Composite's facility and the recent opening of the Advanced Technology & Academic Center campus of Great Bay Community College here in Rochester. This project has been the hallmark economic development project in our state, and at a time when our economy was stalled. In fact, as a result of Safran/Albany, we are beginning to see Rochester become the leader in advanced manufacturing technologies. I am excited at the prospect of high quality employment opportunities becoming available to our residents, and hopefully future graduates of Spaulding High School. We are uniquely positioned to take advantage of this new and exciting commercial development and use it as a catalyst for strategic growth and development.

With high quality development comes high quality needs. Whether quality housing, services, or increased retail and dining offerings, we must take this opportunity to step back and redefine the City of Rochester for 2014 and position us to remain sustainable for years to come. The City Council will be working on a complete revision of our zoning ordinance. This will be an excellent opportunity to bring development regulation in line with the realities of 2014, rather than the historic needs of the eighties when they were last revised. We must be open-minded to change and be prepared to position Rochester to excel into the future. This will benefit all of our stakeholders throughout the community. I am committed to ensuring our rezoning process is transparent and engages all stakeholders in the process.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the citizens of Rochester for placing their trust in me once again to serve as your mayor. I truly enjoy every moment of this job and find it to be among the most rewarding experiences of my life. What makes this job so enjoyable to me is having the opportunity to work together, as a team, with extraordinary people. The City of Rochester is so blessed to have committed elected officials, municipal employees, caring and compassionate educators, and a strong business community. In my opinion there is no issue that is insurmountable to the people on this stage, and the community in general. We are known for our resilience and our determination in doing what is right for Rochester. Speaking for myself, I approach every decision I make with what is best for Rochester today, and what will ensure my sons, Tyler and Brady, will inherit tomorrow. This evening, let all of us renew our commitment to this beautiful City and work together to strengthen the strong and historic roots which have brought us to this very day.

*May God bless you all, and may God **continue** to Bless the City of Rochester. Thank you.*

13. Other

14. Adjourn - Meet at the City Council Chambers on January 14, 2014, at 7:00 PM

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the Inauguration and meet at the City Council Chambers on January 14, 2014, at 7:00 PM. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Walters
City Clerk