



**The Council of the Township of Norwich
Inaugural Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 15, 2022**

IN ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL ELECT:

Mayor Palmer
Councillor Scholten
Councillor Stubbs
Councillor Gear
Councillor Couwenberg

STAFF:

Kyle Kruger, CAO / Clerk
James Johnson, Director of Finance
Kimberley Armstrong, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

1.1 Call to Order by Clerk

The 1st session of the 2022 - 2026 Council of the Township of Norwich was held in the Council Chambers, Norwich, Ontario commencing at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by CAO / Clerk Kyle Kruger.

Mr. Kruger advised that the next step is for each member to take the Declaration of Office, once each declaration is taken, they are officially appointed. Further commenting that Council meetings will now be recorded and available on the Township website with the minutes.

1.2 Declaration of Elected Office

- **Mayor Elect – Jim Palmer**
- **Councillor Elect, Ward 1 – John Scholten**
- **Councillor Elect, Ward 2 – Alisha Stubbs**
- **Councillor Elect, Ward 3 – Shawn Gear**
- **Councillor Elect, Ward 4 – Adrian Couwenberg**

The Declaration of Elected Office was taken by Mayor Palmer and then Councillors Scholten, Stubbs, Gear, and Couwenberg. The Declarations having been taken by all members of Council, Mr. Kruger declared the 2022 - 2026 Council for the Township of Norwich duly constituted and asked Mayor Palmer to assume the Chair.

1.3 Welcome – Former Mayor Larry Martin

Former Mayor Larry Martin commended all election candidates who ran and congratulated the successful new Council members and commented on the dedication that goes into running a municipal election. Mr. Martin commented on the various fundraising activities that will be held through the municipality and the expectation that Council members will attend.

Mr. Martin spoke to the many decisions that Council will make over the next four years, many not unanimous and the expectation that the decisions are accepted and members move on to the next item. He spoke to Council's role in establishing policy and staff's role in administering that policy, saying that the relationship should not be adversarial. He further commented that it is staff's job to advise, but ultimately it is Council's decision and although they are voted in by their ward, they must all work together to make this a better township in which to live.

Mr. Martin congratulated the new Council, wishing them all the best over the next four years.

1.4 Inaugural Address – Mayor Jim Palmer

Mayor Palmer spoke to the importance of the Chain of Office and commented on how happy he is to be here today. He stated that while campaigning he discovered that people do not like change and also that there are many new citizens within the municipality.

Mayor Palmer advised that issues that will be before Council in the near future are: progressive flags, capital budget, policing and spoke to the new initiative with an OPP Special Officer dedicated to traffic issues. He commented on future planned development, the Emily Stowe Public School being near capacity and that perhaps discussions should be held with the school board regarding future plans.

1.5 Inaugural Address – Councillor John Scholten

Councillor Scholten advised that he enjoyed the Councils he worked with for the last eight years. He spoke to the 2 ½ years of COVID-19, the virtual meetings and his pleasure with returning to in-person meetings.

Councillor Scholten congratulated the new Council members and advised that although there will be challenges, he is looking forward to working together for the best of the Township. Councillor Scholten also commented that staff are excellent people to work with and he is looking forward to continuing.

1.6 Inaugural Address – Councillor Alisha Stubbs

Councillor Stubbs advised that she is filled with gratitude today. She is grateful to the former Council, the valuable conversations held during the election season and grateful to

be in a position to talk about tough decisions. She further commented on the need to be respectful, respected and the opportunity to stand up for human rights for all residents.

1.7 Inaugural Address – Councillor Shawn Gear

Councillor Gear thanked his family, friends and the community for all of their support. He also thanked staff for the behind the scenes work that is unrecognized. Councillor Gear advised that he plans to be available, approachable and accountable and looks forward to working together to achieve great things for Norwich Township.

1.8 Inaugural Address – Councillor Adrian Couwenberg

Councillor Couwenberg thanked his wife and family for all of their support. He commented that he has lived in the north of the Township for most of his life and Mr. Martin was his mayor and ward councillor for many years. He expressed appreciation for all the work he has done for the Township and wished him well in his retirement. Councillor Couwenberg advised that he believes Council needs to be accountable and look at the Township as a big business.

2. ADJOURNMENT – 11:24 p.m.

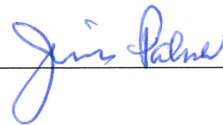
Resolution #1

Moved by John Scholten, seconded by Alisha Stubbs;

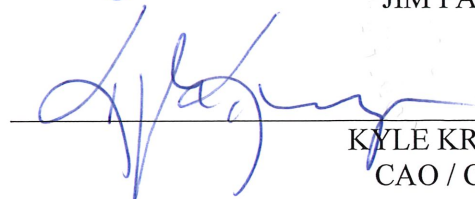
That this Council do now adjourn.

Carried

THESE MINUTES ADOPTED BY WAY OF RESOLUTION NO. 2 AS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON THE 13th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2022.



MAYOR
JIM PALMER



KYLE KRUGER
CAO / CLERK