

January 10, 1949.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION
OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

INAUGURAL MEETING

Present: His Worship, Mayor Ziff, Reeve Duncan,
Dep. Reeve Broadley, Councillors Irvine, Lonsbury,
Taylor, Allen, Shaw, Pullen.

1. Oath of Office His Worship, the Mayor, and each member of Council made the statutory declaration of office before T. F. Forestell, K.C., Crown Attorney.
2. Invocation At the invitation of His Worship Rev. W. Butcher asked the Divine Blessing and guidance on the deliberations of this Council.
Motion 9001 Broadley - Duncan
T H A T this Council express appreciation to Crown Attorney T. F. Forestell for his services in swearing in 1949 Council. We also express our appreciation to Rev. W. Butcher for his kindness in giving the invocation.
Carried.
3. Inaugural Address His Worship the Mayor delivered his inaugural address, copy of which forms a part of these minutes.
Motion 9002 Duncan - Broadley
T H A T this Council extend to His Worship, the Mayor, a vote of thanks for his inaugural address and for the leadership which he is giving the Municipal Council.
4. Minutes Minutes of regular meeting December 20, 1948 adopted as printed.
5. Committee, etc. Appointments His Worship presented his recommendations of Committee, etc., appointments for the year 1949
 - Finance Irvine - Duncan
Motion 9003 T H A T Deputy Reeve Broadley be the Chairman and Councillor Allen a Member of the Finance Committee for the year 1949. Carried.
 - Water Allen - Irvine
Motion 9004 T H A T Councillor Taylor be the Chairman and Councillor Lonsbury a Member of the Water Committee for the year 1949. Carried.
 - Fire & Light Pullen - Lonsbury
Motion 9005 T H A T Councillor Irvine be the Chairman and Reeve Duncan a Member of the Fire and Light Committee for the year 1949. Carried.
 - Relief Duncan - Allen
Motion 9006 T H A T Councillor Pullen be the Chairman and Councillor Taylor a Member of the Relief Committee for the year 1949. Carried.
 - Charity Irvine - Taylor
Motion 9007 T H A T Councillor Shaw be the Chairman and Councillor Pullen a Member of the Charity Committee for the year 1949. Carried.
 - Property Lonsbury - Pullen
Motion 9008 T H A T Reeve Duncan be the Chairman and Councillor Allen a Member of the Property Committee for the year 1949. Carried.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

At this inaugural meeting of the Council of the Town of Fort Erie for the year 1949, I am pleased to welcome back to active participation in municipal affairs a veteran councillor, Reeve William Duncan. I am also happy to welcome the first entry into the municipal service of Fort Erie of Councillor Tom Shaw who has previously shown a keen interest in our civic welfare. On behalf of myself and the other members of the Council who have been returned by acclamation, I would like to say that we feel that we must justify our acclamations by doing our respective jobs to the very best of our ability, and this we are determined to do.

Although this is the inaugural meeting of the Council for 1949, we have already met in caucus to discuss the main policies for this year, and we have unanimously agreed to carry on a number of important policies formulated by the Council for 1948. Thus we have agreed on the necessity of doing all in our power to encourage the building of homes, whether by private contractors for individuals, or by private contractors under the integrated housing scheme, or by prospective home owners themselves. In addition, we hope that large plants in Fort Erie will seriously consider the possibility of co-operating with the Town Council in a scheme whereby such plants would help to finance the construction of homes for their workers.

Again, we are agreed on the necessity of extending the postal delivery area in Fort Erie, and every effort will be made to persuade the postal authorities of the advisability of doing so. We are also agreed on the necessity of a combined plan of zoning and civic beautification for the entire Town, and one of our first steps to that end will be to set up a special committee of the Council to bring in recommendations for the setting up of a permanent Planning Board. This Board will consist not merely of members of the Council, but of representatives of the whole community. Meanwhile we intend to move promptly to zone the Niagara Boulevard and the lands on both sides of the Queen Elizabeth Way.

The Council also intends to press for the incorporation of Main Street in the Queen Elizabeth Approach when the final work is done on this project in the spring of this year, and will continue to fight strenuously for the construction of the Central Avenue Bridge over the railway gap which

now cuts Fort Erie in two. And we are all agreed that one of our prime objectives must be the encouragement of industry in every way possible.

In addition to the policies set forth above, this Council has already agreed on certain new policies for 1949. One of these is the holding of regular meetings every week instead of every fortnight. Another is the carrying out of a major change in the present system of administration by splitting the streets department and the waterworks department into separate departments. This change has been made necessary by the steady growth of the waterworks department which now supplies water not only to Fort Erie, but also to Crescent Beach, Waverly Beach, Erie Beach, and that part of Bertie Township adjacent to Fort Erie along the Garrison Road. In addition, this spring we will also be supplying the area of Crescent Park. Our waterworks system is an important source of revenue to this community, and it is most important that it be carried on with the highest degree of efficiency in order that we obtain the maximum amount of revenue. We are convinced that setting up a separate waterworks department is an important step in getting that efficiency.

Lastly, we have unanimously agreed on the advisability of setting up a pension scheme for Town employees and the police. Whether such a plan is set up this year or not will depend in large measure on the size of the increases we must give to Town employees and the police, on the size of the increase in the grant requested by the Board of Education, and on the increase in the size of the County levy. Financially, Fort Erie made considerable progress in 1948. Our population reached an all time high. Substantial industrial progress was made through the increase in size of local plants such as Horton Steel and Pratt & Lamberts, and the successful recovery of Fleet Manufacturing Limited from postwar difficulties. We now have the beginning of a substantial automotive industry in the successful establishment of Twin Coach at Fleet Manufacturing Limited, and there is every indication that this Company is here to stay. In addition there has been a substantial increase in the number of homes under construction. The savings effected by the Council in 1948 through more economic administration and through the introduction of parking meters enabled it to end the year with a small surplus despite expenditures not contemplated by the budget

such as the purchase of a radio for the police car. The savings so effected together with the anticipated increase in revenue from new construction completed in 1948, would ordinarily enable us to hold taxes in 1949 to their present level. But we know that our employees will ask for increases due to the rising cost of living, and that some increase must be granted. We know that the Board of Education is in the same position as ourselves. And at the Warden's Banquet in 1948, the outgoing Warden warned that the County levy would go up in 1949 because of the necessity of building a new home for the aged. If the total increase of these demands is greater than the total increase in revenue built up in 1948, then we will be very hard put indeed to hold the tax rate to its present level.

I hope that Town employees, the police, and the Board of Education will make allowances for the inescapable fact that our only large source of revenue is the taxation of land and buildings, and that if taxation is forced much higher it may seriously handicap the construction of new homes, the establishment of new businesses, and the introduction of new industries which alone can provide the revenue we need to give adequate pay to our employees. This is a problem which Fort Erie shares with all other municipalities in Ontario, and I feel it is the duty of the Provincial government to seriously consider the possibility of larger grants to municipalities this year.

I would like to close by saying that I enjoyed my duties as Mayor in 1948, largely because of the wonderful support and co-operation I received from the Council in that year. I know this year's council is equally sincere, hardworking and capable and that we will work in the closest co-operation for the good of our community. As for myself, I do not claim that I always did or said the right thing in 1948. But I believe I can say that I worked hard to carry out the heavy responsibilities of my office efficiently, honestly, and fearlessly, and I intend to do the same this year. I hope that any individuals I may have offended will appreciate that I have done nothing, and said nothing through malice, and I hope they will be willing to co-operate with my Council and myself in the heavy task of piloting the ship of state of our Town through the year 1949.