

MINUTES of the Inaugural Meeting held by the Second Council of the City of Chilliwack in the Council Chambers, City Hall, on Monday, December 2, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor-Elect Hames
 Councillor-Elect Andersen
 Councillor-Elect Cross
 Councillor-Elect Folkman
 Councillor-Elect Gaetz
 Councillor-Elect Kostrzewa
 Councillor-Elect Stam

In addition, the following members of staff were present:

E.J. Tisdale, Chief Administrative Officer
 D.W. Hampson, City Clerk
 P.D. Monteith, Director of Development
 C.S. Crosman, Director of Finance
 G.A. Wickham, Director of Engineering and Operations
 J.L. Spencer, Director of Parks & Recreation
 R.L. Carnegie, Director of Corporate Services
 D.E. Brew, Recording Secretary

Mayor Hames was Chair and called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Hames welcomed those present for the Inaugural Meeting of the Second Council of the City of Chilliwack, and requested that everyone stand for the singing of the National Anthem.

Stephanie Swinnard, Soloist, sang O'Canada.

The Invocation was given by Major Angus Haggarty.

Chief Election Officer's Report:

Mr. Hampson, Deputy Chief Election Officer, presented the results of the Municipal and Cultus Lake Park Elections held November 16, 2002.

Mayor – Three Year Term

Clint Hames	Elected
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Councillors – Three Year Term

Mark Andersen	Elected
Bernie Cross	Elected
Mel Folkman	Elected
Sharon Gaetz	Elected
Dorothy Kostrzewa	Elected
Chuck Stam	Elected

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002Chief Election Officer's Report: (continued)Cultus Lake Park Commissioners – City of Chilliwack – 3 Year Term

John Cameron	Elected
Jake Dyck	Elected
Margaret Enns	Elected
Rob Meredith	Elected
Grant Sanborn	Elected

Cultus Lake Park Commissioners – Cultus Lake Park – 3 Year Term

Steven Bede	Elected
Ken Morton	Elected

Voter Turnout 10,500
 Percentage against possible turnout 26%

Statutory Declarations and Oaths of Office

The Honourable Tom Crabtree, Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia, administered the Oaths of Office and Allegiance to the Queen for the Mayor-Elect, Councillors-Elect and Cultus Lake Park Commissioners-Elect.

Following the administration of Oaths, Mayor Hames and Councillors Andersen, Cross, Folkman, Gaetz, Kostrzewa and Stam assumed their places in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Hames assumed the Chair and thanked The Honourable Judge Crabtree for administering the Oaths and expressed his appreciation to everyone in attendance.

Mayor's 2003 City Council Appointments:CEPCO

Mayor Clint Hames (Ex-Officio)	
Councillor Chuck Stam	
Ted Tisdale (Ex-Officio)	
John Jansen	Dr. Skip Bassford
Shirley van Esch	Hank Pilotte
Dave Sliman	Andrew Franklin
Leonard Wiens	Walter Dyck
Sto:lo Nation Rep.- TBA	Trevin Rogers
Eldon Unger	Doug Kester
Dr. Sandra Schnarr	Harry Mertin
Keith Hodsall	Bill Davies
Harry Geddes	Jeff Fortin

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002Mayor's 2003 City Council Appointments: (continued)Chilliwack Agricultural Commission

Mayor Clint Hames (Ex-Officio)	
Councillor Bernie Cross	
Councillor Chuck Stam	
Ted Tisdale (Ex-Officio)	
Walter Dyck	John Aarts
Dr. Skip Bassford	Paula Cranmer-Underhill
Gilbert Dueck	Jim Dykstra
Walter Esau	Doug Janzen
Tim Ludwig	Gordon Mathies
Gary Moran	Brian Pouwels
Dr. Norma Senn	Dr. Valerie Stevens
Kim Sutherland	Janice Uebelhardt
Elmer Wiebe	

Tourism Chilliwack

Mayor Clint Hames (Ex Officio)	
Councillor Bernie Cross	
Councillor Mark Andersen	
Ted Tisdale (Ex-Officio)	
Jerry Spencer (Ex-Officio)	
Leonard Wiens	Jean Anderson
Marc Laynes	Brian Maule
Brian Minter	Brad Read
Dan Sawatzky	Detlef Skrobanek
Janice Uebelhardt	Kevin Wood
Jim Young	

Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Mayor Clint Hames
 Councillor Sharon Gaetz
 Councillor Chuck Stam
 Councillor Mel Folkman (Alternate)

Fraser Valley Regional District - TAC

Mayor Clint Hames
 Ted Tisdale

Fraser Valley Regional Library

Councillor Sharon Gaetz
 Mayor Clint Hames (Alternate)

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002Mayor's 2003 City Council Appointments: (continued)Leisure Services Advisory Committee

Councillor Sharon Gaetz –Chair	
Councillor Mark Andersen – Vice-Chair	
James Ryan	Len VanNieuwenhuizen
Brenda Kinch	Bob Ramsbottom
Ron Duke	Darcy Gorchynski
Rachel Meek	Stuart Muxlow

Heritage Park Advisory Committee

Mayor Clint Hames, Chair	
Councillor Bernie Cross – Vice-Chair	
Rod Hudson	
President, Chilliwack Agricultural Society	Larry Stinson
President, Chilliwack Horse Council	Bob Esau
President, Atchelitz Threshermen's Society	Bill Wimpney

Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Management Committee

Councillor Mark Andersen	
Ken Bramble	Christina Dearden
Denis Knopp	Ron Goldfinch
Debra Soutar	Ken Herron
Janet Hutchinson	Herm Kovits
Bob Moore	Marie Goulden
Melissa Cooper	Phil Baudin
Eileen Lemna	

Public Relations Committee

Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa - Chair
 Councillor Mel Folkman – Vice Chair
 Ron Denman
 Ana Macedo

Committee to Approve Public Events

Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa – Chair	
Councillor Mel Folkman – Vice Chair	
Kevin Wood	S/Sgt. Stu Fetterly
Ana Macedo	Cliff Bergman
Rod Hudson	

Transportation Advisory Committee

Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa – Chair	
Councillor Bernie Cross – Vice Chair	
Cpl. Bruce Abbott	Pat Dunn
Gil Caffyn	Barry Eastman
Victor Froese	Mike Weightman

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002Mayor's 2003 City Council Appointments: (continued)Emergency Executive Committee

Mayor Clint Hames
 Councillor Sharon Gaetz
 Councillor Mel Folkman

Development Process Advisory Committee

Councillor Chuck Stam – Chair	
Councillor Mel Folkman – Vice Chair	
Doug Clough	Neil Clark
Peter Dyck	Harry Newlove
Jon Jordan	Richard Zingel
Jim Hipwell	Eldon Unger
Glenn Kaipio	Kristen Mundstock
Alex MacDonald	Bob Audet

Design Review Panel

Councillor Mel Folkman – Chair	
Doug Luteyn	Jason Evans
Rob Powers	Shirley van Esch
Peter Dyck	

Local Court of Revision

Councillor Bernie Cross
 Councillor Sharon Gaetz
 Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa

Vedder River Management Committee

Garry Wickham

Citizen's Advisory Committee Fraser Parole District

Councillor Mark Andersen

Board of Variance

Provincial Appointee - TBA	
Clarence Bodener	Paul Penner
Brian Clease	William Pearson

Public Safety Advisory Committee

Councillor Sharon Gaetz – Chair
 Councillor Chuck Stam – Vice Chair
 Inspector Bud Mercer
 Assistant Chief Josephson
 (Appointments / Terms of Reference pending)

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002Mayor's 2003 City Council Appointments: (continued)Mayor's Committee on Health Issues

Councillor Mel Folkman - Chair	
Councillor Bernie Cross – Vice-Chair	
John Jansen	Rollie Keith
Etta Richmond	Ena Vermerris
Don Patten	Kevin Busswood
Sylvia Pranger	Dr. Gordon Enns
Mary-Ann Jones-Siebert	

Appointments to Community Group Boards:DOROTHY KOSTRZEWA

Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce
 Chilliwack Community Arts Council
 Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
 Gwynne-Vaughan Park Society
 Promontory Heights Elementary Community School

MEL FOLKMAN

Chilliwack Community Services
 Chilliwack Social Research & Planning Council
 Fraser Valley Regional District Air Quality Advisory Committee
 Downtown Business Improvement Association Board
 Council Liaison – Alcohol and Drug Services
 Chilliwack Film Commission

CHUCK STAM

ICBC Traffic Safety Committee
 Chilliwack Safety Village Society
 Chilliwack YMCA (Alternate)

MARK ANDERSEN

Chilliwack YMCA
 Fraser Valley Regional District Air Quality Advisory Committee
 Chilliwack Film Commission
 Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Diversion Association

SHARON GAETZ

Lower Mainland Municipal Association

BERNIE CROSS

Chilliwack Seniors Resources Society
 Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee
 Chilliwack Youth Commission

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002

Appointments as Acting Mayor:

December 2002 to February 2003	Councillor Gaetz
March 2003 to May 2003	Councillor Stam
June 2003 to August 2003	Councillor Kostrzewa
September 2003 to November 2003	Councillor Folkman
December 2003 to February 2004	Councillor Cross
March 2004 to May 2004	Councillor Andersen
June 2004 to August 2004	Councillor Gaetz
September 2004 to November 2004	Councillor Stam
December 2004 to February 2005	Councillor Kostrzewa
March 2005 to May 2005	Councillor Folkman
June 2005 to August 2005	Councillor Cross
September 2005 to November 2005	Councillor Andersen

Folkman) That the Mayor’s 2003 City Council Appointments and Appointments to
Gaetz (Community Group Boards be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Setting of Council’s Meeting Schedule:

Cross) That the following be adopted as the schedule of meetings for the year
Andersen (2003:

Regular Council meetings: Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month; and, at 12:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month with the exception of Monday, June 2, 2003, when the meeting shall be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2003;

Council in Committee of the Whole: Committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month with the exception of Monday, June 2, 2003, when the meeting shall be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2003;

Provided that in the event any of the above-scheduled meetings fall on a day other than a normal working day, the meeting shall be held on the Tuesday immediately following.

Carried unanimously

Mayor’s Address:

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. It has been my distinct pleasure and honour to serve as your Mayor for the past three years. I thank you for your continued support and your trust witnessed by granting me another three years to serve as your Mayor. It has been and will continue to be my commitment to you to bring the most cost effective and efficient delivery of services to you, the residents of our great City.

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002Mayor's Address: (continued)

Over the years we have earned the reputation of being the leading edge in local government. This has been achieved by the innovation that we bring to our operations, by our desire to challenge the status quo and by the commitment and professionalism of our staff who, continue to reach well beyond even our high expectations to reach our goals.

I would like to take a moment just to thank the staff of the City of Chilliwack for their invaluable service they provide, not only to Council in the delivery of its mandate, but also for their professionalism and commitment to serve the residents of our City. It has been noted on several occasions by visitors of other municipalities the positive atmosphere in City Hall and more importantly the friendliness of our staff and their genuine desire to serve. To the staff of the City of Chilliwack and on behalf of Council I extend a very sincere and heartfelt thank you.

I like to reflect back over the past three years and when I do one word comes to mind – “WOW” - so many very positive things have happened. There were projects that again set Chilliwack apart from the others in local government.

I would like to highlight a few of the accomplishments of the past year and on occasion make direct reference to Council's past three-year mandate. I would then like to lay out for you, what I would like Council's mandate to be for the next three years, which I believe will be equally exciting to the community as the past three years.

However, before I address our future let me talk briefly about our past. From all reports and comments I have received the issue foremost in people's mind is the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre. That facility was opened on August 24th of this year and it far exceeded my expectations and I believe those of the community. We have had over 55,000 visits, well ahead of our projection. It is obvious this facility is being well used and enjoyed by our community.

Associated with that development, of course, are the amenities that are also provided – the skateboard park, family spray park, and the major sports field in conjunction with the grandstand and change room pavilion that have been constructed. We were fortunate to have the White Caps and Breakers officially open the Landing Sports Field in April. The field will host the Canadian Jr. Football Championships next Fall!

We have concluded an extensive public process to develop an overall conceptual plan for the Chilliwack Landing. This work was completed in May 2002 and it became an enabling, rather than a prescriptive, plan. In essence, it indicates the general usage for the site with the emphasis being placed on a mixture of civic, commercial, retail, residential development, augmented with the arts and cultural facilities and open space.

We have officially opened the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve and the Rotary Interpretive Centre. For those who have visited the Reserve, you are aware of its beauty and general feeling of awe – it is, without question, impressive and overpowering. For those of you who have not visited the Reserve or Interpretive Centre, I would strongly urge you to do so. In addition to the unique building for the Interpretive Centre there are walking trails with interpretive elements, a viewing tower, and the site truly reflects the commitment and vision of the many individuals and groups to preserve this sensitive area. There are so many to name, but I would be remiss if I did not mention the Chilliwack Rotary Club, who first developed the vision and provided the initiative to make it a reality. This is developing into a major tourist attraction, which is being shared with and enjoyed by the many visitors to our City.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

We have continued with our Road Rehab Program and I'm sure many people will acknowledge the improvements made over the past three years to our road Network System. The past year we completed a Design Build Project to address and incorporate improvements to Hodgins and Corbould in support of the new Leisure Centre. We also made improvements on Yale Road in the downtown area as our continued commitment to improve and beautify our downtown in cooperation with the BIA. We have installed new traffic signals at Corbould and Hodgins and will be installing traffic signals at Mary and Hodgins to improve public safety and access to the Leisure Centre.

We have modified our Transit System to provide greater opportunities for school ridership in recognition of and response to the School Board's need to address provincial regulations in terms of their revised school bus service. We will continue to work with the School Board to provide as many opportunities as we can to the school children of our community to enhance their safety.

We have continued with the shoulder-paving program which provides safer routes for school children and benefits cyclists in navigating within our community. In 2002 the projects undertaken included Bell, McDonald, and Watson Roads. In cooperation and discussion with PAC Groups and the School Board we will also continue with an aggressive sidewalk construction program to provide a safe passage for students.

We have eliminated the water parcel tax that was imposed with the acquisition of Elk Creek Water Company. I would note that this was paid down earlier than anticipated and did provide a benefit to the water users within our community.

Staff are currently completing an in-depth and comprehensive review of the cost of all City services. I think it is important that Council and the residents of our community understand the true cost to provide the various services that the City delivers. It is on the basis of this review that Council will set its user fees. While it is too early to predict the outcome I believe it is fair to say the majority of fees will remain constant but there will be a rationalization of fees. Fees that have a commercial value may move to full recovery, but again that matter will be reviewed by Council in 2003 and will be discussed with our various advisory committees before a final decision and direction is taken in terms of implementing new fee structures.

We undertook a review and rewrite of the Zoning Bylaw to reflect changes in housing forms and to reduce the need for Development Variance Permits. We have also created new Development Permit guidelines for the Young, Luckakuck and Vedder corridors to promote and enhance urban design to ensure that the projects are reflective of community expectations. We have and are committed to continue to work with the BIA not only in the issuance of Development Permits as part of their façade and canopy replacement program, but to ensure that we continue to see the revitalization of our downtown core. The transition and transformation of our downtown in the past three years is nothing short of outstanding. It is representative of our community lifestyle and is representative of what you would expect of a downtown. It is vibrant and it is exciting. I would encourage you to visit our downtown often and enjoy its beauty and warmth.

We have now completed our streamside classification of all watercourses that drain into the Fraser River and this will help us in processing our development applications. We also produced "a leading edge" policy and design criteria manual to allow us to manage storm water runoff while protecting our watercourses. Again, we are conscious of and reactive to environmental issues. It is not my desire nor Council's to put the environment at risk.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

We have expanded our customer service initiatives by establishing a satellite office in the downtown area. This will provide assistance to CEPCO and also provide one stop business registration program and business licensing. We want to be responsive to our business community to assist and not hinder what they do best.

The RCMP, as our municipal police force, have incorporated new technologies to increase the efficiency in the delivery of police services to our community. A new ROADS computer system became operational in September of this year. This system gives Members on the road quick access and enhances their ability to recover stolen autos and initiate more arrest warrants. Chilliwack Citizens on Patrol or CCOPS was moved to our downtown location with CPAC.

This has enabled us to have all our volunteers working under one roof in a more coordinated and effective manner. I should stop here a moment and again express my appreciation and that of Council to the volunteers that work in our CPAC Office and through the CCOPS Program. You are providing an invaluable service to the residents our City and for that I do truly thank you. I would also be remiss if I did not recognize our Auxiliary Police as well as those working at the Victim Services Program. The service provided by these volunteers is second to none, and the community receives a tremendous benefit from those programs both socially and economically, and from those who unselfishly give selflessly of their time.

Perhaps the greatest strength we have that clearly sets us apart from other municipalities is our ability to form cost effective and value for money partnerships.

We continue to capitalize on partnerships with both other public partners as well as the private sector. We have entered into an agreement with the Y for the operation of the Cheam Centre. In my mind this is a win-win situation that allows for a very proactive delivery of leisure services on the south side of our community. The Y does provide an invaluable service and their continued presence also contributes to our quality of life as a community.

Our partnership with the Arts Council for the management of Heritage Park has proven an outstanding success. Heritage Park has far exceeded, not only our expectations, but I think those of the Arts Council, the community and the numerous users. In fact the Arts Council was so successful they gave us our share of the "profits" generated from that operation. While it may not be profits per se it is a clear indication that the fee required to operate that site is less than expected and we are optimistic that the City's obligation will continue to decrease in the future. Heritage Park is a real gem to the City of Chilliwack. My thanks to the Arts Council for their achievements in that regard and Rod Hudson for his leadership. We, of course, continue to partner with other groups like the Museum and Chilliwack Community Services to provide cultural and youth services to our community.

The City is not bashful about partnering with the private sector. We know from our experience there are great opportunities available for combining the strength of both the private and public sectors. Chilliwack is seen in both the Provincial and National scene as a leader in public private partnerships. I was pleased and proud to be invited to attend the Canadian Council on Public Private Partnership Conference in Toronto one week ago today to receive the National Gold Award in the category of infrastructure. This achievement was in recognition of our partnership with Van Maren Construction for the Five Corners Project – the Law Courts, Commercial Building and Civic Plaza. The project was the focal point of discussion on day two of the Conference. Three gold awards are given annually in the categories of infrastructure, financing and service.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

To help us remain on the leading edge of local government we are and will continue to participate in the International City Managers Association Performance Management System. This allows us to benchmark our operation in relation to other cities in the North America both Canadian and American. Early indications have shown that we are indeed ahead of the pack in most areas and those areas where we are not, we will enter into discussions with those leading communities to see how we can incorporate their successes within our operations to improve our overall efficiency.

We have completed a major website update which now includes Council Agenda, Minutes and a number of new online service applications. We have implemented an online public tendering system that allows companies to view and retrieve our RFEI and RFP documents and we have implemented a policy in response to the agreement on international trade to eliminate trade restrictions between provinces. Although this was mandated by the Provincial Government I believe it is necessary to ensure Canada's competitiveness in the global market place.

I am very pleased that we successfully concluded negotiations with our two unions CUPE and the Fire Fighters. In both cases the parties acted responsibly and through interest-based bargaining we were able to achieve a three-year contract with CUPE and a seven-year contract with our Firefighters Union. Wage increases are reflective of inflation and settlement trends within the public sector.

Our utility systems have functioned very well over the past three years and we have made some inroads this past year in expanding our services in a cost effective way. We have finally brought water to Greendale and have serviced Cattermole, our future industrial site. This expansion provides potable water and fire flow benefits to Greendale and Cattermole. This will provide the necessary fire flows for fire protection and we should not have another experience of losing Greendale Elementary to fire.

I am extremely proud to say that during our past mandate we have eliminated odours from our Treatment Plant which is more properly referred to as our Water Pollution Control Centre. We also will continue with our program of upgrades not only to ensure the efficient operation of the Centre, but also to provide added capacity to address growth within our City. We have installed a second belt filter press and primary and secondary clarifier projects are currently underway. We have upgraded Sewer Pump Station No. 2 with larger pumps and a larger emergency generator and we have made improvements to the outfall to increase our capacity in that area. This was an interesting project as it was our first opportunity to partner with our First Nation friends. In this case we had contracted with Skway First Nation to assume the project management responsibilities for the installation of a new and larger outfall line from the plant to the Fraser River. This, in my opinion, was a very successful partnership and to that point I thank the Skway for their leadership and initiative in working with the City for the delivery of this project.

The above-mentioned projects and efficiencies are just a few of the many achievements the City has accomplished this past year. As a Council, during our past mandate, we have made substantial investments in our community. Not only was there the Law Courts Project, Heritage Park and the Leisure Centre which represents approximately a \$32 million investment, we have continued over the past three years to expend money on our infrastructure to ensure that it remains functional and responsive to community needs.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

To this end we have committed in excess of \$100 million in our capital program, which in addition to the three projects I mentioned we have made many intersection improvements. We have shared with the School Board in the development of a community school on Promontory. Many upgrades to our utilities system, both water and sewer. We made improvements and/or expansion to our parks and recreational facilities as well as within our transportation and drainage programs. Despite pressures from inflation and the need for additional policing we have managed to accomplish this program with a cumulative tax increase of under 10% for the three years. I believe that this is an achievement that the Council and the community can be proud of. We can still brag about having one of the lowest tax rates in the Province of British Columbia and it will be my commitment to you for the next three years to ensure that we still remain as one of the lowest.

This now leads me to our future – at least for the next three years. I now want to share with you my vision of Council's next mandate. My following thoughts and ideas will be explored further with Council in January and I hope then to lay out to the public by February or March our three-year mandate. At that time I would also like to advise the residents of our City what I anticipate as the tax increase necessary to support Council's objectives over the next three years. I anticipate another ambitious program to address the needs of a growing community. In doing so I hope to keep the tax increases at or below what we have experienced over the past three years.

We will continue to capture the advantages of partnering with both the public and private sectors to ensure we get the maximum return of your investment. The underlining principle from my perspective is to deliver to you the services that you require in a cost effective, efficient and economical fashion that is responsive to your needs and in the manner that is respectful to you as the investor in our City.

Although a couple of these projects have now been announced they will be completed in the next mandate of Council. The first in my mind and one of the more important is the Vedder Interchange. In partnership with the Provincial and Federal Governments and the private sector the City will be the benefactor of a vastly improved Vedder Interchange. This project is long over due. The construction will commence in the Spring of 2003 and I anticipate completion in the Fall of 2004. In conjunction with this project we are also asking for the private sector to come to us with solutions for the construction of the Evans Flyover and Ashwell Connector. The Vedder Interchange, as previously announced, is \$12.4 million, which the City will be responsible for \$4.1 million. This will be financed from DCC revenues. The City will take the lead role in the Vedder Interchange Project. I believe the senior levels of Government recognized our expertise and our experience in the "partnership" field, and were very agreeable to give the City the responsibility for the delivery of this project.

If the Evans Flyover proceeds the value of that project would be in excess of \$20 million including the Ashwell Connector. We again, will work with our First Nation partners, the Squiala, to seek approval to use their lands for the connector and work with them to realize the economic development opportunities of their lands associated with construction of the new road.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

We will start construction of our new Fire Hall and office space with the Fraser Valley Regional District in the Spring of 2003 with completion in December of 2003. This project represents a \$7.6 million investment in our downtown core, and again is a partnership with I.C.I. Developments Ltd. and Windley Investments Ltd. being the private partner. I believe this project is a further catalyst for the revitalization of our downtown.

Those are two of the more exciting projects that the community will really get an opportunity to see and enjoy, but there are also ongoing requirements in terms of our capital commitment to ensure that Chilliwack remains a viable and vibrant city. It is important to continue with our program of investment into our infrastructure. To that end I would like to outline again those programs that I will ask Council to consider early in the New Year and bring forward for public review that will lead to our annual, tri-annual and five year budgets as well as completing our 10-year comprehensive municipal plan. In the area of transportation and in addition to the Vedder Interchange and potentially the Evans Overpass, Council will consider improvements to Young Road at Hocking Avenue and Chilliwack Central Road intersections. I am also hopeful that we can reach an understanding with the Provincial Government to make the necessary improvements at the Lickman Interchange to include signalization. I would like to address over the next three years improvements to the Vedder Road and Chilliwack Lake Road intersection to enhance traffic flows and safety issues. It is also important that we continue with our Road Rehab Program and hopefully we will include in the Program over the next three years the paving of Vedder Road, Young Road, Yale Road and Higginson Road. It would be my hope that we continue our annual commitment to this Program at a value of \$1.7 to \$1.8 million per year.

Shoulder paving and the provision of bicycle lanes is also extremely important to the City and we will continue that Program over the next three years expending in the neighbourhood of \$400,000. Dyking and drainage remains a focal point and concern for our City. It is important that we continue our dialogue with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Provincial Government to allow some dredging and dyke improvements.

We will continue to work with the Province to secure funding under the Municipal Infrastructure Grants Program to provide for extension of sanitary sewers to Sardis Park and the Watson, Tyson, South Sumas Road areas. It is important to recognize that the septic fields in the Sardis area are aging and an opportunity must be provided to the residents to address that issue.

The City of Chilliwack will be hosting the 2003 BC Senior Games and I know, given our response to the BC Summer Games and BC Games for Athletes with a Disability and Festival of the Arts and like events, the City always rises to the challenge. The residents of our City are second to none in providing voluntary service and support to these events. Under the Chairmanship of Terry Bodman and his committee I know that they will do Chilliwack proud in hosting the Seniors' Games.

As you are aware from previous news coverage the City of Chilliwack has a problem with grow-ops as determined by a study done by Professor Yvon Dandurand with the University College of the Fraser Valley. In response to that issue and in discussions with Inspector Mercer, the Chilliwack RCMP Detachment has developed a unit to combat serious crime and other crime trends. The City is committed to bringing on four new members in 2003 which will allow Inspector Mercer, through the reorganization to direct ten members to work in serious crime investigation, gathering and integrating information to combat crime within our community.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

The Strike Force is currently concentrating on Marijuana grow operations and since October have averaged two search and seizures of several thousand plants per week. I want to send a message to the grow-ops "don't bring your business to town, we don't want it". Understand that we will take every opportunity to discourage your presence in the City of Chilliwack.

As well, I propose that we undertake the next step in the development of our Official Community Plan to provide more detail of neighbourhood plans for densification. This will include a change of parameters for the low, medium and high density land use designations and will provide neighbourhoods a better sense of understanding of how their neighbourhood will develop over a period of time. It will provide Council an opportunity to work closer with specific neighbourhoods to reflect the community's overall desire in terms of growth and densification as contained in the OCP.

We will continue our negotiations/dialogue with the Land Reserve Commission to put forward our community's vision for its future. The Valley focus will again be raised with the Land Commission and the importance of, and need for, a rational urban containment boundary will be aggressively pursued. It is important that the City be allowed to determine its future; one that reflects the desires of the community rather than one that is imposed.

Our Parks and Recreation Department will be undertaking a strategic planning process to develop specific goals for the Department and the community to coincide with our Comprehensive Municipal Plan. It is important that we now turn our attention to the south side of our community in terms of recreational/leisure services, facilities and opportunities. We must consider developing a new sports field complex on the south side. To continue with our expansion of the Rotary Trail System and ensure the continued operation of the Cheam Centre.

I would also like to briefly mention and make comment about the Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation, more commonly referred to as CEPCO. I believe the community has been well served by CEPCO. It was responsible for bringing in major employers into our community such as Soprema, Stream International and Langley Concrete. Economic development is a strange and at times not a well understood "endeavour". Much work is done behind the scenes to encourage and to entice, and maybe on occasion, brow beat companies to take a serious look at Chilliwack. A lot of time and effort goes into that process, but it does not always produce results. When I look at what CEPCO has accomplished in terms of what is happening elsewhere in the Province we are light years ahead over other municipalities. I know from discussions with Mr. Mertin, Chair of the Board for CEPCO, I am optimistic there will be other exciting announcements in the not too distant future. Announcements that will again add more jobs to our community and broaden our tax base. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Harry Mertin for the leadership he is providing to the CEPCO Board and to his Board Members for their excellent efforts in enhancing the economic opportunities in our City.

Another initiative that we undertook this past year was to establish a Quality Circle with our employees. This committee is comprised of representatives from both management and union and have been given a broad mandate from exploring working conditions to how we do our business and make suggestions to enhance our service to you, the residents of our community.

Mayor's Address: (continued)

This committee has managed to capsulate what it is that the City is about. They have developed, and Council has subsequently endorsed, a vision statement for the City of Chilliwack. It is on the wall, but I would like to read it to you.

“To ensure, through excellence in leading edge government, social, environmental and economic security for all citizens within the community.”

I think that statement fairly and accurately represents our commitment to you. Lisa Thompson, who is currently our Senior Plan Checker, has provided the leadership to the Quality Circle Committee, and I would like to thank her and all committee members for their excellent efforts. WELL DONE.

I briefly touched on my expectations in terms of tax increase over the next three years. I want to share with you the rationale for tax increases. The realities we face and issues we have to address through tax increases is inflationary increases which is slightly over 2% per year. The cost of bringing on four additional RCMP in 2003 represents approximately \$350,000 or 1% tax increase, and we must build up our reserves which have decreased during the past three years in delivering the major projects to you such as the Law Courts, Heritage Park and the Leisure Centre. If we are responsible we must allow those reserve funds to again accumulate to a respectful level. It would be my goal that during the CMP, our ten-year strategic plan, to once again build our unrestricted reserves in the range of \$18 to \$20 million. We have \$40 million in restricted reserves. It is on that basis, when you consider those three factors and the initiative proposed for the next three years a single digit tax increase appears reasonable. As I stated previously I will promise you and make this commitment that during our review, Council will work very hard to keep tax increases to the very minimum just as we have in the past. It will be our goal to ensure that our property taxes remain below the average in terms of the per capita taxes within the Province. I believe, we as a community, are proud of the services and our quality of life that are delivered within the tax regime you allow. We are not going to deviate from that commitment.

Finally, I am pleased to announce tonight that we have now reached an agreement with the Chiefs Development Group on the Memorandum of Understanding for the development of Chilliwack Multiplex. The Chilliwack Chiefs Development Group is an excellent partner and they have worked with the City cooperatively and collaboratively to develop an agreement that best addresses the interests of both parties, and in particular it assures that the City gets a far superior facility/project than doing it on its own. I just want to highlight some of the main principles of the agreement. The Chiefs Development Group has committed to and given us a guaranteed price of \$20.3 million for the construction of this facility. They have also committed to an open book construction so the City can review its pricing at any time and even at the conclusion of construction. We now have the report from a Quantity Surveyor who has reviewed the plans of the Chiefs Development Group and confirms that the City is receiving value for its money. In fact the Quantity Surveyor estimate for the project is approximately \$400,000 more than the \$20.3 million as suggested by the Chiefs Development Group, however the Chiefs Development Group accepts that as their risk. During the operation the Chiefs Development Group will also share the profits with the City, which they are projecting to be \$150,000 per year. The City has committed that those profits will go to pay down the mortgage earlier to lessen the City's overall costs.

City of Chilliwack Inaugural Meeting of Council – December 2, 2002

Mayor’s Address: (continued)

The Chiefs Development Group will operate the facility for 25 years and will be responsible for the mortgage anticipated to be 20 years without the contributions from profit sharing. In our financial analysis, subject to final review by DBO Dunwoody and accepting the premise of profit sharing, the savings to the City on a straight line analysis is \$6.8 million over the 25 years or \$2.2 million net present value. Even without profit sharing the financial analysis still indicates a strong benefit to the City to the tune of \$6 million straight line or \$2.6 million net present value. I am very excited about this project and about our partners. The City of Chilliwack will be the benefactors of a first rate facility owned and operated by a first rate partner – the Chiefs Development Group. To the principles of the Chiefs Development Group – Mr. Moray Keith and Mr. Jim Bond, I say thank you very much. We look forward to working with you as we conclude our various agreements that will lead to the construction of this facility. To this end I would also like to announce that it is our intent to have the various agreements such as the Partnering Agreement, Development Agreement, Tax Agreement to name but a few completed and executed before Christmas so we can enter into the counter-petition process in early January. In conjunction we will hold open houses, to explain the agreements and financial aspects of the partnership to earn public support and confidence so that we can proceed with this project. I should also add that the Chiefs Development Group will be meeting with the various users in December to review their plans, receive input and subsequently finalize plans for public scrutiny. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITY.

I have had the opportunity to travel to various parts of this country to participate in discussions with my counterparts on a magnitude of issues effecting local government. When I come back I am extremely proud of what Chilliwack does in relation to other municipalities, not only in the delivery of our services, but your participation as the public. Yes, we have a very excellent team at City Hall with Council and Staff, but the team is even that much stronger with you as the public willingly and openly and candidly participating in the delivery of the services and facilities in which you are deserving.

Words cannot describe how humbling it is to serve as Mayor of this City. It is indeed an honour and I appreciate your confidence and trust that you place in me. To you, the public, to members of Council and to all Staff I say a simple, but very sincere, thank you. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and sincere wishes that all your dreams come true for 2003.

Thank you.”

Mayor Hames requested everyone to stand for the singing of “God Save the Queen”.

On a motion of Councillor Kostrzewa, and seconded by Councillor Stam, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk