

## **Parksville Mayor Mayne Inaugural Council Address**

*The following is the inaugural address provided by Mayor Ed Mayne at the City of Parksville Council meeting on November 5.*

On behalf of Council, welcome to this wonderful evening. To begin, there are some acknowledgements that cannot go without saying. I wish to thank the staff at City Hall for an amazing job at making us feel welcome and helping us to get on our feet, ready to start moving forward.

And of course, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the previous Council. Unless you have done this job, you can't understand the amount of time you spend in doing it or the angst you go through when making a decision. Then there is the time away from your family and the hours spent reading reports and background information. Whether you are in agreement or not with the decisions made, we have to say a large thank you to the previous Council who put themselves out there to help our community and we acknowledge their efforts.

I am fortunate to work with fine people on this new Council. I believe this Council could be the strongest group of individuals in many years. And talk about eager, I have had to practically tie them down to keep them from getting started before being sworn in this evening. What this Council lacks in experience, they more than make up for in unbridled enthusiasm. This Council will never be accused of not doing anything. We have a full four years of work ahead of us and we all want to start our journey first thing tomorrow morning. Please join us on this journey; one that will make Parksville the envy of Vancouver Island and beyond. A journey which will make us all proud to be residents of Parksville.

We have just come through a very bumpy time where our population has been divided and as a result, the voters of Parksville have spoken in a way not heard before. It is now up to this Council to work as a team and bring our community together. No matter which side of the discussion you've been on, the reality is that 222 Corfield is still the elephant in the room and has been the cause of this division. Fortunately, it is quickly coming to a close. In order to now move forward with those issues which will contribute positively to our community, we have to put 222 Corfield behind us.

We are now at a crossroads, where we can all work together to make this town all it can be, or we can spend our time writing letters to the editor and spending another four years getting nothing done, or we can take the bull by the horns and make those hard decisions. We know which way we plan to go. We will immediately begin to work on being transparent and opening communications with Parksville residents.

Beginning with Coffee with the Mayor, you are invited to come and talk about anything you wish. It doesn't even have to be about politics or the City. I love talking about sports and many other things. Really, I just like to talk. Council has asked if on occasion, they can join the discussions which will expand communications even more. Coffee with the Mayor will be held weekly then as the questions start to slow, the schedule will be the first and third Thursday from 2 to 4 pm.

Staff have been requested to begin planning the Mayor's Roundtable, targeting January 19, based on availability of the Parksville Community Centre. If this works the way we anticipate, we look forward to extracting our business or strategic plan for the upcoming years using your input where possible. If you receive an invitation, please make every effort to provide your views. It is important to have a say on where the City is going in the future.

I have also asked staff to look at holding a few Council meetings in the community, in church halls, school auditoriums; any facility which will hold a crowd. We would like you to witness your government in action and to understand why and how decisions are made. It has always been said, municipal government is the level of government with the most direct effect on you and your family.

This Council wishes to bring in an era of respect. We will treat everyone with the utmost of respect and in return we expect to be treated the same way. Your Council will work very hard to do what is best for the community. Just because you don't agree with them does not give anyone the right to personally attack them. They are doing this job because of their love of the community.

You will see a whole new attitude at the Council table. During our meetings, both sides of a debate will listen fairly and quietly to each other and allow each to give their opinions even when they are vehemently opposed to what is being said. Everyone will be heard. Council's decisions will always be based upon looking out for the next generation not the next election. My goal is to ensure politics are removed from every decision made. Our decisions will be made for the right reasons, not political ones.

There will be some very hot topics coming up and the philosophical differences will come to the surface during discussions. The community is split on staying the same or growing; between attracting young families or remaining a retirement community. Should we create employment or become a bedroom community for jobs in Nanaimo and Port Alberni? There are no wrong answers; just different shades of right. We will listen to everyone from all sides of the discussion before making a decision.

We have so much to gain in Parksville and I believe we can achieve most of what we are looking for. It will take time and persistence and with an open mind. There are times when you will be angry and other times when you will think we are brilliant. But wait, both those opinions will change many times over the next four years.

On behalf of the Council of Parksville, thank you for your support in the recent election and if you didn't vote for us, please work with us to make Parksville a better place for you and your families. We need to work together to make us Parksville proud. Thank you.

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**For more information:**

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*Note: Text may not be exactly as delivered.*