

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF YORK

CITY OF SACO

I. CALL TO ORDER – On Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. a Council Meeting was held in the City Hall Conference Room.

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS – Mayor Donald Pilon conducted a roll call of the members and determined that the Councilors present constituted a quorum. Councilors present: David Precourt, Leslie Smith Jr., Kevin Roche, Arthur Tardif and Nathan Johnston. Councilor Cote was excused this evening. City Administrator Kevin Sutherland was also present this evening.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. GENERAL

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VI. REMARKS BY MAYOR DONALD PILON

Mayor Pilon reviewed highlights of his 2 year term and thanked the citizens of Saco for their support.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED BY CITY CLERK, MICHELE HUGHES

City Clerk Michele Hughes administered the Oath of Office to:

- Mayor – Roland Michaud – (2 Year term)
- City Council – (2 Year Term):
 - Ward 1 – David Precourt
 - Ward 2 – Roger Gay
 - Ward 3 – William Doyle
 - Ward 4 – Kevin Roche
 - Ward 5 – Alan Minthorn
 - Ward 6 – Eric B. Cote
 - Ward 7 – Nathan Johnston
- School Board (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 7 – 3 Year term & Wards 2, 4 & 6 - 2 Year term):
 - Ward 1 – Garrett Abrahamson
 - Ward 2 – Lynn Leary
 - Ward 3 – Edna Ben-Ami
 - Ward 4 – Kevin Lafortune
 - Ward 5 – Michel Ohayon
 - Ward 6 – Theodore Sirois
 - Ward 7 – Elizabeth Johnston

B. PRESENTATIONS BY MAYOR ROLAND MICHAUD

Mayor Michaud presented awards to the following people:

- William Kany for his many years of volunteerism and dedicated service to the City of Saco;
- Anne Wilkinson for her dedication in starting up the String Quartet program at Thornton Academy;
- Donald Pilon for his service and dedication as Mayor of the City of Saco

C. REMARKS BY MAYOR ROLAND MICHAUD

First, I thank Thornton Academy for its partnership and collaboration with the City and acknowledge Headmaster Rene Menard, Chef Kevin Boland and the entire TA team and offer a heartfelt thank you for hosting us this evening.

I am delighted to welcome Saco Mayor Emeritus, William Johnson; former, Mayor Mark Johnston; and honored guests from our neighboring community, Biddeford, including Mayor Alan Casavant; Biddeford city councilors and a special guest from our sister city Mrs. Rose Spulick and her husband Robert;

I also want to welcome:

Ms. Bonnie Pothier representing Senator Angus King

State Senator Linda Valentino

State Representative Justin Chenette

And York county Sheriff Bill King

Let me extend a warm welcome to our city staff, the people who work day in day out to maintain our community. The pride they take in their work is evident and I want them to know it is noticed and appreciated.

Welcome and thank you to members of the Saco Middle School Orchestra directed by Sarah Hoag and the Thornton Academy String Quartet directed by Anne Wilkinson. I truly appreciate their willingness to share their time and talents with us.

Lastly, a special welcome to my long time friends and supporters, Ken and Kathy Latchaw as well as my son Chris, and most importantly to my trusted campaign manager and life long advisor, my wonderful wife Hilda.

As many of you know, I have had the privilege of serving our community in a variety of ways. I am honored that you have once again entrusted me to serve as Mayor for the next two years. I look forward to working with our new City Administrator, Kevin Sutherland, and our exceptional city staff to move Saco forward in its continuing tradition of being an affordable, vibrant and welcoming community.

While I was on the campaign trail I was most often asked:

“What is your vision for Saco?”

I believe that vision is not only what we see, but more importantly, how we feel. When you, your family, friends or visitors look at Saco, I want each of you to not only see a thriving, vibrant and active, community I want you to feel that you are in and part of a city that is a great place to: live, work, have a business, raise a family, play and ultimately enjoy a long and happy retirement. My vision is a community that recognizes its responsibility to provide its children with an education that prepares them to compete in an international economy and that respects its teaching professionals. It is a community that honors its past and invest in its future. I see Saco as a place that we are all proud to call home.

So how do we get there?

First we need to enhance the vibrancy and livability of our community. We can do this by:

- Improving the partnership we have with our downtown business organization, Saco Main Street, formerly known as Saco Spirit. This collaboration is vital as Saco Main Street directly connects with the downtown community to understand and help meet the needs of new and existing businesses. For example, they are completing an inventory of commercial buildings in the downtown and preparing a business needs assessment. This information will help both Saco Main Street and the City identify how we can work together to better meet those needs.

- Saco Main Street will also be implementing “Start-UP Saco: a program championed by my predecessor Mayor Pilon, which will kick off in January with the goal of encouraging new businesses to locate in our downtown as well as in other parts of our community.
- We also need to make Saco the most age friendly community in the state. We need to develop an approach that will allow individuals to age in place. By partnering with community volunteers and non-profit agencies we can begin the process of making this a reality.

Secondly we need to expand our commercial tax base by providing an environment that encourages our existing businesses to grow and to attract new businesses.

To that end:

- We will continue working with our sister City, Biddeford, The Biddeford-Saco Chamber of Commerce and other organizations and stakeholders in our region.
- We will conduct neighborhood meetings with our businesses on a regular basis, beginning in the downtown, followed by the business parks, and then moving throughout the community. We want an environment that is business friendly, not only in words, but more importantly, in deeds.
- We will work with our legislative delegation, the Maine Department Of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority and neighboring communities to address the growing traffic challenges that affect our businesses and residents.
- We will continue working with the City of Biddeford to ensure the long delayed dredging of the Saco River becomes a reality.
- We will work to encourage an expansion of sustainable local agricultural enterprises not only to grow our local economy but to recognize their value in helping address the impacts of climate change.
- We will work to once again be known as the Greenest city in Maine.

Lastly we must never forget that one of our most important responsibilities is to educate our children.

- In partnership with the school board we need to develop a thoughtful solution for the replacement of Young School and for upgrading all of our schools in a cost effective manner.
- We need to continue fostering the exceptional relationship that exists between the public and private schools in our community, recognizing that the goal must always be what is best for our students.
- We need to embrace the opportunities that diversity brings to our great city as we move towards the 22nd century.

The true measure of our success will not be what happens tomorrow or the next day, it will be what our children and grandchildren inherit. By working together, we can leave them a community just a little bit better than the one we found.

With that I want to thank you for taking the time to join us this evening. Now its time to sit back relax and enjoy the wonderful music provided by the Saco Middle School Orchestra. At its conclusion you are invited to adjourn to the atrium for some refreshments along with music provided by the Thornton Academy String Quartet.

Thank you.

D. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Music was provided by the Saco Middle School Orchestra – Sarah Hoag, Director.

E. ADJOURNMENT TO THE ATRIUM

Music was provided by the Thornton Academy String Quartet – Anne Wilkinson, Director

Mayor Michaud with the unanimous consent of the Council adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Attest: _____
Michele L. Hughes, City Clerk