

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT MAYORIAL INAUGURATION
CEREMONY MINUTES
CITY AUDITORIUM
60 Pleasant Street
JANUARY 3, 2022**

NHS Band Plays

Welcome; may I have your attention please. Thank You.

My name is not Richard Jones, who was supposed to MC this historic event today as he has every inauguration since. Unfortunately Rich is yet another person who has tested positive for the virus and could not be here. My name is Charlie Cullen and I will do the best I can to get through this ceremony to honor and celebrate our newly elected Mayor. As a tribute to Richie, who I trust is watching us at home; I decided to wear his trademark bowtie to honor him. Richie is truly a community treasure and I know we all wish him the best and a quick return. Despite our intimate gathering lets please give Richie a rousing ovation for him to enjoy! Thanks.

Before we get started I would ask that everyone please silence your cell phones, and of course keep your masks on.

START

At this time, I invite Bob Morse, one of our Fire Fighters, to set the tone for today's ceremony with his bag pipe, as City Councilor Sharif Zeid, and School Committee Member Brian Callahan escort Mayor-Elect Sean R. Reardon to the stage.

Acknowledge Dignitaries:

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of our current and former elected officials who have joined us today.

State Senator Bruce Tarr
Representative James Kelcourse

Representative Lenny Mirra
Amesbury's Mayor Kassandra Gove
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger
Former Sheriff Frank Cousins Jr.

And former Mayors of Newburyport;
Lisa Mead
Chris Sullivan
Mary Carrier
Mary Anne Clancy
John Moak
And of course our outgoing Mayor Donna Holaday

But I also want to make special mention of former Mayor Byron Matthews. Mayor Matthew's legacy is well documented and today is about Sean Reardon. But a fun fact Byron is that you were Mayor when you handed out diplomas to the Newburyport High School class of 1969. I was in that class, as was a few other dignitaries here today. But one of the most notable graduates that day was Cornelius Reardon, the proud Dad of our Mayor Elect. We are proud 69ers, and how fitting is it that Sean will become Newburyport's 69th Mayor.

Neil and Seans Mom Patti Page Reardon joins us today along with Sean's in-laws Ron and Shelia Trieff, and of course Sean's amazing family, wife Jessie, daughters Sadie and Ruby, and son Oliver!!

Also today we have Reverend Timothy Harrison from the Immaculate Conception Church with us today along with Reverend Laura Biddle from Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester NH who officiated the marriage of Jessie and Sean.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

At this time, I would ask that you join me in a moment of silence for all the local officials who have passed over the last four years.

Let us also remember 3 individuals very close to the Mayor Elect who passed away this past year who would have joyfully celebrated this day with the Reardon's. Sean's Aunt Gail Page; his cousin Ryan Childs; and close friend Jeff Stone.

PAUSE:

Thank you.....

INVOCATION:

At this time, I would like to invite Reverend Biddle to offer the invocation.

Thank you Reverend Biddle:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

We will now be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Sadie, Ruby, and Ollie. The Colors will be presented by the Newburyport Police Honor Guard.

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

I am so pleased to now introduce Ella Suchecki and Audrey Cooper, seniors at NHS, who will now sing our National Anthem.

GUEST SPEAKER – SENATOR BRUCE TARR

Need to grab resume to note highlights.

MUSICAL SELECTION:

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Chris O'Donnell who will perform America by Simon and Garfunkel

INTRODUCE CITY COUNCIL:

Earlier today we swore in 11 City Councilors; however, I would like to acknowledge the four NEW Councilors Connie Preston, Returning to the Council Ed Cameron; Mark Wright; and Jennie Donahue.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 7 returning councilors; Afroz Kahn, Heather Shand, Bruce Vogel, Byron Lane, Jim McCauley,, Christine Wallace, and

Sharif Zeid. Councillor Shand was elected President of the Council for the coming year. Please join me in congratulating these dedicated individuals.

MUSICAL SELECTION:

I would now like to introduce Doug and Nora Baker who will perform Rainbow by Kacey Musgrave

INTRODUCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Also earlier this morning, two new school committee members were sworn in; Sarah Hall, and Juliet Walker. Sarah and Juliet will join Brian Callahan, Bruce Menin and Sheila Spaulding for the coming term. The committee elected Sarah Hall as Vice Chair. Please join me in congratulating and thanking these individuals for their service to the city.

MUSICAL SELECTION:

Please now welcome Karen Kearly who will perform FEELING GOOD by Nina Simone. Karen will be accompanied by Bernadette Curan.

MAYORS OATH OF OFFICE:

At this time I would like to invite Jessie, Sadie, Ruby, and Ollie to the podium to assist Tricia Barker, the Assistant City Clerk, as Sean Robert Reardon takes the Oath of Office as the City's 69th Mayor.

SEAN REARDON TAKES OATH

PAST MAYOR'S GIFTS;

Before the Inaugural address, Sean will thank his predecessors with an individual gift

INAUGURAL ADDRESS:

Distinguished guests....

Senator Tarr, Representative Kelcourse, Mayor Gove, Honorable Former Mayors, City Councilors, School Committee Members, Superintendent Gallagher, Sheriff Coppinger, residents, friends, and family, thank you all for being here today.

To my beautiful wife Jessie and my three amazing children Sadie, Ruby and Oliver, thank you for taking this journey with me.

To the voters of Newburyport, I stand here today for you. During the campaign, I said time and time again that to be elected mayor was a dream of mine since I was a young Clipper. As we move forward as one people who individually and collectively love our city, I am humbled by the servant leadership I witness everyday- here at City Hall, in our schools, community groups, and neighborhoods. After months of hearing your stories and listening to your voices, my responsibility now as mayor is really an opportunity. An opportunity to bring your stories to the table, and hear all of the voices that deserve to be heard.

It is not the first time Newburyport has been in the business of consensus-building. Our storied history began as a beacon to ships needing a port to find their way, and became a place to dwell, to prosper, and to thrive. From the very beginning, Newburyporters from all walks of life had to learn to live and work together. With the passage of time, the city grew, in size and number, but the story is the same. Newburyporters have and always will be a community of doers. Citizens who see a problem and work to solve it, people who commit to service and teach our children the spirit of volunteerism, creating generations of service for years to come. It is this kind of consensus-building that has led to the fulfillment of many city projects, past, present, and into our future. A future where young people are inspired to support their local community. A future where an active citizenry come together to share new ideas, united in a vision for a more inclusive city, a more innovative city, a city with an invigorated step toward a better tomorrow.

In the promise to move toward a better tomorrow, I think often about the Newburyporters past and present who have had the greatest influence on my own life. I was fortunate enough to be raised in a family whose love for Newburyport never faltered and gave so much of their time and talent to make the city a better place, a safer port, a community of eager doers and helping neighbors in the business of lifting each other up.

I also feel fortunate to have been around strong leaders at a very young age, whose example quietly pushed me towards service to my community. The first Newburyporter I knew beyond my front door was my grandfather Warren Oliver Page, a proud 1940 graduate of Newburyport High School. Gramps was part of what Tom Brokaw called the "Greatest Generation," who went on to serve in the Coast Guard during World War II. Like many his age, he jumped at the chance to serve his country, defend our nation, stand firm and fight injustices far from our native shores. Answering the call of service did not come without sacrifice. Gramps left his beautiful young bride and high school sweetheart, Margaret Anne Daley at home caring for the first of their six children. My grandmother went on to a career in nursing at Anna Jaques hospital

where she became head of purchasing. My grandfather's career started in the fire department where he rose through the ranks quickly to become the city's first permanent fire chief. He was an earnest and strong presence in the fire house and the cornerstone of our family. The roots of my Irish heritage began with songs and stories told in my Gramps' gravelly voice, all with the same contagious themes of friendship, loyalty, and love. He was a true to life example of the "family comes first" mantra. Gramps expected that of his firefighters, and he led by that example. When my grandmother was stricken with polio, it became his life's work looking after his "Maggie" and the Chief looked out for his firefighters with the same kind of servant leadership. He knew that at the heart of any department in the city is the people, and you take care of people.

My father, Neil Reardon, is also an incredible leader who I observed closely from a very young age and learned many valuable lessons on how to take care of people, none more important than the value of hard work. When I was born, my father was not yet the legendary teacher and coach he would one day become. He was a 25 year old education student at Salem State by day and a janitor at Anna Jaques Hospital cleaning operating rooms by night. He carried this strong work ethic throughout his career. When I was a kid, a typical day in the life of my dad was rising at 3am and delivering The Boston Globe throughout many city neighborhoods. He'd finish in time for school to begin, where he would teach a classroom full of faithful 4th graders and then end the work day coaching one of his many formidable teams. My siblings and I all wanted to spend as much time as we could with Dad, and would tag along with him whenever we could. We grew up in gymnasiums, courts, and playing fields, watching how he led people, and wanting to be just like dad. When leading people and teams of people, one of the most important lessons learned from Dad is how to put the right people in the right roles to optimize success. Aces in places is what Dad used to say, and my father was a true master at getting the most out of his players. Teams are human organizations and each player was different from the next, but played pivotal roles in executing the game plan. Each had to be coached and encouraged differently. We have so many wonderful people here in Newburyport working for our great city and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. For any goal to be met, any purpose fulfilled, any job well done, it begins and ends with people.

Knowing the people that most influenced me growing up, there was no question of my admiration for the mayors that came before me. Byron Matthews, Dick Sullivan, and Peter Matthews were larger than life to me in my earliest days on Congress Street and many an afternoon at my grandparents' house at 1 North Atkinson. Ed Molin was the epitome of consistent educational leadership and putting our city's students first. Lisa Mead was a skilled delegate who inspired so many citizens, Chris Sullivan stepped up to serve as mayor and his City Council campaign was the first one I worked on as a young high school student. Mary Carrier brought an infectious energy to City Hall. John Moak taught me how to run a grassroots campaign that focused on people and Mary Ann Clancy also answered her hometown's call to serve.

There comes a time in our country, city, and community, where the baton passes to the next generation. I want to thank Donna Holaday for her 12 years of selfless and distinguished service to Newburyport as our mayor. It is in that spirit of service that we stand before you today, and by we, I mean myself, and the other elected officials here today, asking you to get involved. I

encourage you to step off the sidelines. Join a city commission or board, volunteer at our schools or senior center. There is so much expertise and excellence in our exceptional city. Just imagine what this community of doers can do together.

When I think of the city where I grew up, I see a Newburyport steeped in tradition and promise, family and new beginnings. It is with this common thread that we start anew, loyal to what makes Newburyport that beacon- a thriving arts community, a bustling historic downtown, a hub of industry and innovation, a hometown that puts the education and safety of our children first, an epicenter that supports are local businesses, and a place where all people feel accepted, valued, and welcomed.

And so we move, Onward! Forward!, inspired by our history, strengthened by those who serve our community today, and confident in the bright future ahead of us. May God continue to bless our country, our troops who defend our freedom, and our great city of Newburyport, and the people who call it home.

Thank you so very much.

CHARLIE RETURNS TO INTRODUCE MUSICAL SELECTION:

Thank You MAYOR REARDON AND A HEARTY CONGRATULATION:

We truly have been blessed today with wonderful musical performances; and we have one more outstanding musician who will perform for us now. Please welcome my friend and local legend, Danny Harrington who will treat us to a beautiful medley of a few songs perfect for today's celebration.

Thank you Danny.

BENEDICTION AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Reverend Timothy Harrison will now offer the benediction and closing prayer.

CLOSING REMARKS:

I want to thank everyone who joined us today at City Hall, and all those who joined us on TV; including you Richie. Regrettably, Mayor Reardon has cancelled the reception originally planned for the Masonic Temple due to the overwhelming concerns of this pandemic; however, stay tuned, as there will hopefully be a celebration sometime in the spring if it is safe to do so.

There will be coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts provided by CHANGING TIDES out front for anyone needing a little sugar or caffeine.

RECESSIONAL:

On the back of your program are the words to Newburyport High Schools Alma mater. The Newburyport High School Band under the Direction of Steve Cohen will now play this and I hope you'll all join in as we once again wish our new Mayor our sincere congratulations and success as he leads our city forward.

Sean.....ONWARD FORWARD

APPLAUSE:

BAND PLAYS AS WE APPLAUD.