

The Brantford Expositor

Bradford issues apology to worker;

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Illustrations: 1. photo of John Bradford

Coun. John Bradford says he is sorry for his actions in harassing a city hall employee at work, but he intends to serve out his term of office.

"I admit that I'm not perfect," Bradford began as he read haltingly, in an often-shaky voice choked with emotion, from a prepared text at the start of Monday's council meeting.

Pausing often to maintain composure, he acknowledged the findings of an integrity commissioner's report, which concluded that he violated the municipal code of conduct for councillors by using his position to harass an employee over a personal dispute involving members of his family.

"For that, I apologize to everyone who is embarrassed by my actions," he said. "As a councillor, I have to be held to a higher standard."

Bradford went on to apologize to the employee, to his own family, to his Ward 5 constituents and the community.

To his family, particularly those caught up in the dispute, he said: "You are not in public office and don't deserve the attention."

To his constituents: "I hope you understand this is an isolated incident."

Bradford claimed that when the integrity commissioner interviewed him, he had offered to apologize to the employee who filed the code of conduct complaint against him.

"I can't explain why this was not included in the report," he said, adding that he felt "terrible" about it.

Bradford also said he has received numerous supportive phone calls and emails from people saying they still trust his judgment and ability to represent them as a councillor.

"I look forward to serving out my term," he said.

With those words, he made it clear that he will not heed calls from some councillors and the public that he should

resign after being disgraced by the report, and being punished by a majority of council who moved last week to suspend his pay for 90 days.

Lawyer George Rust-D'Eye was hired as an outside integrity commissioner to investigate a complaint by an employee in the city clerk's office that Bradford

had been intimidating her with emails and statements over a personal dispute outside the office involving the councillor's daughter and husband, and the employee.

Bradford said on Monday that his daughter was fighting to keep her marriage together, and "I was trying to be Dad," but now realizes his actions were inappropriate.

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