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Bel - Broog (collector)

Stu Meeks returns to council chambers

By Chris Malette

The Intelligencer

In a council chamber that is well accustomed to the rant and roar of Coun. Stu Meeks, a pin could be heard Monday as the recalcitrant roustabout of two decades on council expressed heartfelt thanks to his colleagues for allowing him time to grieve the passing of his wife.

Meeks had been absent from council since May, when his wife Dagmar died less than 48 hours after Meeks returned home from a city council meeting to find her with severe facial and head injuries. She had fallen at home while Meeks was out and later died in a Kingston hospital.

Council was faced Monday with the delicate procedural task of extending its permission to Meeks for

having missed meetings dating back to mid-May as he came to terms with his wife's death.

"I want to thank you all for carrying the load for me while I was away," said Meeks, who said he has "had a great deal of difficulty coming to terms with having lost someone I love, and in losing absolute faith in the health care system that I have worked in for so many years."

Meeks said he has "always met

everything head-on," but has been derailed by the loss of his wife.

He promised he'd soon "be back in stride..."

Mayor Ross McDougall said he spoke for council when he told Meeks council's expression of support was "the very, very least we could do ... for someone who has given so very many years of service to the community. Welcome back."

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MEEKS, STU