

Fitzmaurice steps down

By **DAN WHITE**

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During his last meeting as mayor of Santa Cruz, Tim Fitzmaurice pulled the plug on a speaker who called police officers "cockroaches."

He eventually had the man removed from the chamber.

Fitzmaurice told the crowd at the afternoon council session that Tuesday was his last day as mayor, "and I'm sure many people here are happy to hear it."

Meeting regulars have criticized him for his approach, but he got a standing ovation after his final speech on Tuesday night.

Fitzmaurice, a UC Santa Cruz lecturer, said he worked hard to bring "predictability" to council meetings. Councilman Scott Kennedy, a former mayor himself, praised Fitzmaurice

before the meeting.

"I think people have different styles, and Tim is very strict" but effective, said Kennedy.

Activist Robert Norse said Tuesday he hopes the next mayor will be less rigid than Fitzmaurice.

Fitzmaurice said he was proud the council under his watch supported a project that would replace 47 aging Beach Flats apartments with 48 new affordable units, and is especially happy a nonprofit housing group received a \$3.5 million grant to put up 37 units of very low-income senior housing.

Last month he recommended the council make no statement condemning or supporting the military response to the Sept. 11 terrorism attacks, saying the community was divided.

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