

# A Chapter In Scotts Valley's History Closes

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A political chapter in the short history of the city of Scotts Valley quietly came to a close Thursday night in the wooden-beamed City Hall, which seems more like a hunting lodge than a meeting place for public officials.

The city hall, with its huge stone fireplace, had been largely built through the efforts of Mayor Friend Stone, whose days as a political official of the city were numbered Thursday night.

The City Council meeting Thursday night was the last one in which Mayor Stone was in a position to wield his political power, which has rooted itself in the city since it was incorporated 16 years ago.

Stone is retiring and after Tuesday's city election another public official will take control of the gavel.

But Stone — known to his friends as "Stoney" — was given a gavel of his own at the council meeting.

Harold Medo Sr., who was appointed to the Planning Commission by Stone, presented the keepsake gavel to the mayor, saying: "We who appreciate you know what you have done and we

want you to remember us — those of us who love you. You went in and done the job."

The gavel was made by Medo from a beautifully-grained piece of hardwood salvaged from the building site of the City Hall.

Stone was given a standing ovation by the other members of the City Council and by a handful of citizens who had come to the meeting.

Even though two City Council Candidates sat in the audience, there was little politicking at the meeting.

At its start, Vice Mayor Rey Retzlaff asked that the presentation of the gavel to the mayor remain "as close as we get to any political statements" during the meeting.

Stone, who underwent heart bypass surgery last year, was elected mayor in April of last year and has sat on the City Council for the last four years. But he was the city's first administrator, and president and general manager of the Water District in the early days of the city when a lack of water for residents

was a problem, just as it is now.

He has been known for his horsetrading abilities in getting good deals for the city.

He has also been president and governor-at-large of the California Pony Racing Association, and used to urge others into the sport, saying, "It's cheaper to keep a pony than it is to smoke a pack of cigarettes a day — or to feed an average dog." Even though the city has grown up considerably, pony riders can still be seen on major roads at different times of the day.

What will be the first thing he does upon retirement?

"First, I'm going to go fishing," said the mayor, wearing a smile and one of his Western-style striped ties.