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New Capitola mayor

Council names Graves, Routh; Fabrizio abstains

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CAPITOLA — The new City Council came to Thursday night's changing of the guard with a new mayor and vice mayor apparently already decided.

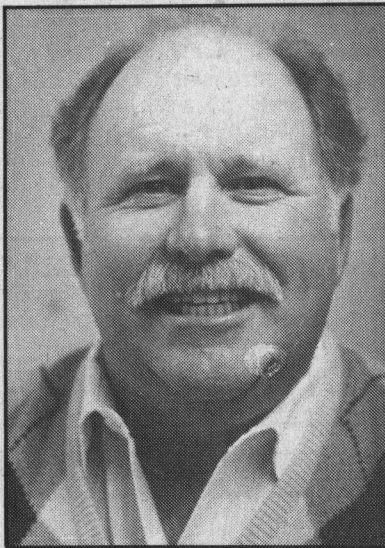
The 53-year-old Ron Graves, yesterday's vice mayor, will serve as Capitola's mayor for the next two years. A three-time mayor for the city, Graves has been on the council for 22 years. He works for Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Michael "Mick" Routh, an assistant high school principal elected to a sixth term on the council Tuesday, was named vice mayor, also for two years.

In the official election results available Thursday, Routh received 1,174 votes and Margaret Fabrizio, owner of a collection agency, 1,292, to win the two available seats.

John Elstad received 569 votes, Anthony Correia, 488, and Brad Neily, 264.

Only two newly-elected council members have ever become mayor in one term, Routh said. Jerry Clarke, who still serves on the council, and Tom Mason were both named vice mayor, and subsequently mayor, in their first term.



Ron Graves

The selection for the posts was clear to four of the five council members, since only one nomination was made for each position.

Councilman Bob Bucher moved that Graves and Routh be appointed to the two positions, and his motion received an immediate second.

Councilwoman Fabrizio, who was sworn in Thursday, abstained from voting, saying that the deci-

sion had been made without her comment.

"I can't rubber-stamp the decision since only four of the council members were consulted," Fabrizio said.

Traditionally the vice mayor, if re-elected, moves up to mayor. But Routh said it's not a tradition for the top vote-getter to be named vice mayor. He produced an analysis showing that in only 3 out of 10 elections in the past 20 years, the top vote-getter was named vice mayor. In three others, the top vote-getter was chosen as mayor.

The first council meeting for Fabrizio, it was also Stephanie Harlan's last.

Harlan was honored by her "co-workers" on the council for her dedication to the city.

"I'll never be able to replace Stephanie Harlan," Mayor Ron Graves said. "As mayor she has been to every ribbon-cutting and baby kissing."

And all the council members agreed with Routh when he said he has valued Harlan's friendship during her terms on the council.

Final poll results also determined the winner in the race for treasurer. Glenn Hanna received 975 votes to Judy Tedesco's 953.