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The New \$140,000 Capitola City Hall

New Capitola Hall Dedicated

It's been a long haul for Capitola, since its first days of incorporation 28 years ago Saturday, to the restoration of its beach and commercial area, right up to the dedication of its new city hall complex.

But from the comments of past and present city officials, and the 150 or so Capitola fans who gathered in typical Capitola weather (mostly foggy with the sun peeking through), the struggle has been worth it.

Mayor Tom Mason opened the proceedings with nods of thanks to everyone from the original city clerk to the new building's architect and contractor. Local government officials were present, including Judge Donald May, Watsonville Mayor Bill Johnston, a representative from U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta's office, and councilmen from throughout Capitola's history.

The new city hall, begun nearly two years ago and completed late last year to the tune of \$410,000 includes council chambers, offices and police facilities.

As former Capitola Mayor Hill Nelson noted, the new structure is "a pride and joy to have" and represents "the ultimate in growth in Capitola, the finale of a long and tedious job."

According to the city's second mayor, keynote speaker Brad Macdonald, the job wasn't that long or tedious. Describing himself as one of two survivors from the original council, Mac-

donald launched into a capsulization of "how it all started."

The city was incorporated, said Macdonald, "because we were upset by the county then, and we still are now. We were born squalling and fighting, and that won us the nickname in the press of Scrapitola."

Recalling the original city offices in a donated house, Macdonald proudly said, "We just put together a city," despite an early attempt to disincorporate. The city's first budget, he reported, was \$19,000. Now that's risen to \$1.5 million, and may go higher de-

pending on legal maneuvers over the Capitola Mall area.

"We got help from the people," enthused Macdonald. "We were just as proud of that little old building that stood here as this council is of this new complex."

Macdonald remembered one irate resident dumping a sack of degenerating fish heads on his desk with the comment that the city government "stinks." But today, he continued, Capitola is looked upon as "a jewel city in the county. People thought it couldn't happen, but our pioneer spirit prevailed. Capitola proved it could work."

After cautioning the present council to keep the cost of government down, Macdonald turned the proceedings back over to Mayor Tom Mason, who reminded the throng of the special plaque dedicated to Peggy Hoyt, the original Queen of the city's Begonia Festival.

Then Mason read a plaque in the building written by city treasurer John Anderson, to the effect that the new city complex is "a symbol of service and good government." Mason smiled and said, "This looks pretty great to me." And there went another milestone in Capitola's abbreviated history.

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