

Emily Reilly is named Santa Cruz mayor for second time

mayors
By SHANNA McCORD
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Emily Reilly sat down in the mayor's seat Tuesday night, took a deep breath, and said, "Don't you just love this town?" to the standing-room only crowd who had gathered to watch three candidates be sworn in with new terms on the City Council. They were also there to hear outgoing Councilman Tim Fitzmaurice say goodbye.

Reilly was elected mayor Tues-

day for the second time since her council tenure began in 2000.

The mayor runs council meetings and serves as the lead spokesperson on city issues. The position rotates among council members each year based on who won the most votes in the prior election.

Reilly was the top vote-getter during her re-election bid in 2004, and was unanimously chosen by her council colleagues at Tuesday's ceremonial meeting to serve as mayor until November 2007.

She replaces Mayor Cynthia Mathews, who was re-elected to a fourth term on the council in November along with Mike Rotkin, who won an unprecedented sixth term.

Newcomer to the council Lynn Robinson, who placed third in November's election, was also sworn in Tuesday.

Reilly, the owner of Emily's Bakery on the corner of Mission and Laurel streets, is known for supporting transportation issues,

the upcoming artist colony on River Street known as the Tannery Arts Center and restricting UC Santa Cruz growth without mitigating impacts on city infrastructure.

"We need to balance the excitement of upcoming economic opportunities...with environmental protection and neighborhood integrity," Reilly said. "We also need to focus on our relationship with the university."

Councilman Ryan Coonerty

was named vice-mayor.

Fitzmaurice, who served two

back-to-back terms, had to step down due to term limits.

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