

# Unity is theme at Watsonville Council installation

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WATSONVILLE — If there were any hatchets raised during the recent municipal election, they were buried Tuesday night as a new mayor and three City Councilmen were sworn into office amid talk of peace and harmony.

Telling a packed audience at City Hall that she "hopes the council acts in unison for the betterment of the city," Betty Murphy took over the reins as mayor from her political ally, Ann Soldo, who retired after a four-year term.

The theme of unity was reiterated by everyone, as Tony Campos became the first Latino to be seated on the council, veteran Vido Deretich was sworn in for a third term and

newcomer Dennis Osmer carried on a family tradition by winning political office. Osmer's father, Frank, was a councilman for eight years.

It was a festive occasion, with a few light-hearted moments. Members of the Royal Order of the Muskrats, a fraternal organization recognized by their distinctive muskrat hats and Bermuda shorts, were on hand to cheer their brother, Osmer.

"It's very heartening to see our furry friends from the muskrats," noted Mayor Murphy.

Murphy thanked her husband, tax collector Bill Murphy, for all the work and support he gave her during the campaign. Bill has been a councilman and mayor himself.

And she had special praise for

Soldo, who's support helped lift her into office in a landslide victory last week over Rex Clark and Robert Chacanaca.

Murphy presented Soldo with a gem-studded pin of the city, a blue and gold plaque bearing the city seal and her gavel, which Soldo promised to use at home. Earlier in the evening, Soldo had given Murphy a purple orchid corsage.

"I was thinking as Ann was presenting you with the corsage that maybe it was a good thing I didn't get elected, because it would have clashed with my red tie," quipped Clark.

Clark added he has been a friend of Murphy's for many years, and looked forward to working with her as mayor, despite their long-standing political rivalry.

Deretich, who was top vote-getter among the three council candidates was sworn in as vice-mayor, prompting Campos to crack, "Are we going by age on this?"

Deretich smiled, then said, "I want to thank all the people who put me back here again so I can aggravate the rest of you."

Osmer said he was grateful to his wife and his employer for giving him all the time he needed to campaign.

Campos credited his wife, Becky, and two campaign managers, Bridie Franich and Luis de la Cruz, for putting him into office.

In her good-bye remarks, Soldo went down the list of people who helped her during her years on the council and as mayor. And she enumerated the meetings she attended, noting there "were many times I had to miss parties and other family events."

She congratulated Murphy, saying, "I know you're going to be a wonderful leader."

Outgoing Councilman Roy Ingersoll, who served one term after being a police officer for more than 30 years, said he would submit a report in the future about his tenure. Calling the council meetings a "torture chamber," he added, "Who knows? In two years I may come back."