

Norton Returns to Capitola Council, Begun New Mayor

Mayors

MCP 12-9-08

by Linda Fridy

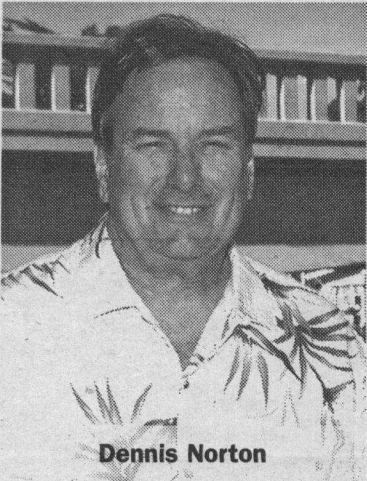
Examples of the terms "civic pride" and "fond farewell" were on display on Dec. 4 as Capitola seated its election winners and said goodbye to former mayor

tative. Norton, the highest vote-getter in November, indicated that he would ask Termini to take his spot on the planning commission, saying, "Mike and I are going to switch Thursday nights."

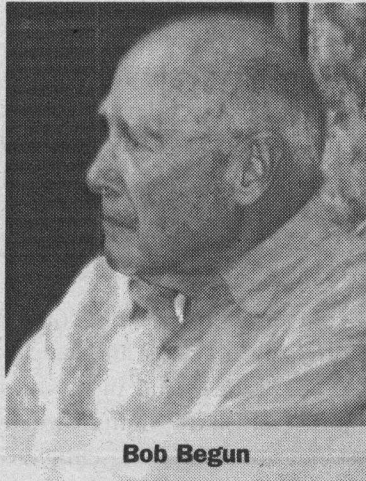
Termini's final comment for the night was "I'll be back."

school and reserve the remainder of the property for future expansion.

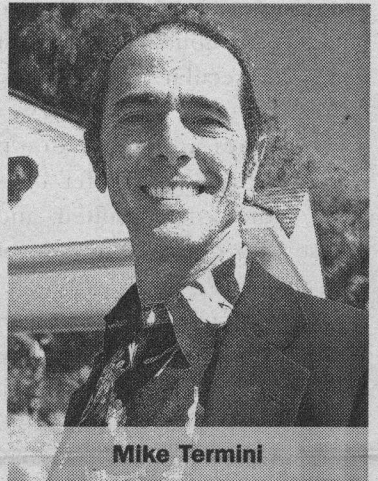
Even though the city will be allowed to keep most of its current programs, Begun hoped a new school district board majority would turn the entirety of the property to the city. His



Dennis Norton



Bob Begun



Mike Termini

and four-year veteran Mike Termini.

The two seats on the council were won by incumbent Kirby Nicol and former member Dennis Norton.

The audience and council thanked retiring treasurer Tony Gualtieri and defeated council member Mike Termini for their service, giving both men standing ovations along with photos, plaques and proclamations.

As outgoing mayor Nicol noted, "They aren't going far," and both men quickly made that clear.

Gualtieri, along with his wife, Kathryn, who is leaving the architectural review committee, offered to form and lead a committee to oversee the size, location and funding for a new library.

The council also voted to have Termini finish his term as chair of the Library Joint Powers Board as the city's represen-

An Evening of Speeches

Shortly after Norton was sworn in along with new treasurer Jacques Bertrand and Nicol, he pledged to his fellow members, "I will work as a team player on this council."

He made good on that promise moments later when Sam Storey followed tradition and nominated vice chair Bob Begun to serve as mayor for the next year.

Norton has been critical of Begun's efforts in the recent Soquel School District elections, where Begun helped recruit and fund a slate of four to attempt to unseat incumbents.

During the past decade, the city and school district have been locked in conflict over the future use of Jade Street Park. Currently the city leases the land from the district, and has expressed interest to purchase the property. However, the district wants to build a pre-

plans were dashed when three of the four incumbents were reelected.

Yet after a moment's pause, Norton seconded the motion for Begun to be mayor and the council unanimously voted him in.

Storey was quickly selected as vice mayor.

Most of the speeches during the evening focused on the challenges ahead in California to fill a more than \$20 billion budget gap.

The city — and all public agencies — faces tough economics and choices, several people noted.

"More important than money is what this town is and having an identity," said Gualtieri.

Nicol echoed that sentiment, when after noting that he had lived in many places in the world, added. "I came here by choice because I think it's the greatest place I've ever seen." ■