

Ryan Coonerty takes the reins as mayor of Santa Cruz

mayors
BY SHANNA MCCORD
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The mayor's gavel was passed to City Councilman Ryan Coonerty in a ceremony Tuesday that brought wall-to-wall supporters to the council chambers.

Several wore T-shirts with a picture of Coonerty's face and FOTM printed on the front. The back said Friends of the Mayor.

Coonerty, 33, won the most votes when he was elected to the council in 2004, which earned him the mayoral position for one year.

The mayor of Santa Cruz, elected by a vote of their council peers, holds no



COONERTY

greater power than other council members.

Coonerty, who graduated from Santa Cruz High School in 1992, is among the youngest to serve as mayor. He said one of his goals for 2008 is to streamline the twice monthly council meetings.

"I'm very proud to serve this city. It's an honor and a privilege," Coonerty said.

In his inauguration speech, Coonerty rattled off a stream of city statistics. He cited everything from the number of

11-28-07
'I'm very proud to serve this city. It's an honor and a privilege.'

MAYOR RYAN COONERTY

surfers playing hooky to the amount of wastewater produced in a day and number of police calls taken daily, including the average response time.

Former Mayor Emily Reilly, in her outgoing speech, praised the city's accomplishments during the past year, including the passage of a sales tax hike that mostly goes toward fixing city streets, steps taken toward tackling cli-

mate change and the beginning of building an artists colony at the former Salz Tannery on River Street.

Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews, who received the most votes in the 2006 council election, moved into the vice mayor slot.

Contact Shanna McCord at 429-2401
or smccord@santacruzsentinel.com.