

# ✓ Clark wants to be Watsonville mayor

3-7-87  
By JAMIE MARKS

Govt. + Politics

Sentinel Staff Writer

WATSONVILLE — City Councilman Rex Clark is in and Councilman Roy Ingersoll is out in the race for mayor.

At a press conference at City Hall Thursday, Clark, an 18-year council veteran, announced he will toss his hat into the ring for the mayoral seat being vacated by outgoing Mayor Ann Soldo.

At the same time, Ingersoll said he decided not to file his nomination papers for mayor, and instead would support Clark in his endeavour.

This was the third time Ingersoll has changed his mind about the May 12 election. First he announced he would not seek re-election to the council, then two days later he reversed himself and entered the mayoral race, and now he has withdrawn his name once again.

Ending further speculation about another possible candidate, Clark read a statement from Councilman Joe Marsano, saying, "I will not be a candidate for mayor in this election. ...Therefore I want to announce my complete support and endorsement of Councilman Rex Clark's candidacy."

Thursday's developments mean the race for mayor will be a hotly contested one between Clark and Councilwoman Betty Murphy, with two long-shot candidates also in the running, Robert Chacanaca and Mel Ott.

Clark lost to Soldo in the 1983 election for mayor, and was turned out of office in 1979, the same year Soldo, Murphy and Vido Deretch

won council seats. He subsequently won re-election to the council.

Soldo has said she will support Murphy in the race.

Clark said he's "raring to go" this time around. He said he's studied past election results, "And with all due respect to Mrs. Murphy, she's not the candidate Ann Soldo is."

One of the key issues in the 1979 campaign was growth, and Clark, who is a Realtor, was generally perceived as a friend of developers.

But Clark maintains, "The record would show I've been tough on developers." He said he's never been a developer and isn't selling real estate now.

Clark said he wants to have Watsonville "regain and enhance our position as one of the best cities in California."

He said Watsonville suffered from the long strike against the food-processors, but when asked why the council didn't take a strong stand in the dispute, said, "It was a labor dispute, and I think the council did the right thing."

Clark added that early on in the strike, he had urged the council to attempt to bring the two sides together and "even use our subpoena power to do so."

Candidates have until March 10 to file their nomination papers.

So far six candidates have indicated they're in the running for the three council seats up for grabs. They are incumbent Vido Deretch, who's qualified for the ballot, and challengers Juan Morales, Tony Campos, Dennis Osmer, Glen Cluster and Leo Estrada.