

Weed chosen as Santa Cruz mayor

By KATHY SALAMON
STAFF WRITER

Jane Weed, in the midst of a court battle to retain her seat on the Santa Cruz City Council, was chosen as the new mayor of Santa Cruz at a City Council meeting last night.

Councilman John Laird is the new vice mayor.

Weed's supporters, who packed City Hall, applauded and waved daisies as Weed received the four council votes she needed to become mayor.

A recent appellate court ruling held that Weed had not won the election in 1983 because of improperly cast votes at UC-Santa Cruz. The court ruled that a conservative opponent, Bill Fieberling, actually won the election. Weed can keep her seat on the council, however, until the case is heard by the state Supreme Court.

expected even before the recent appellate court decision.

Ghio also nominated Sears-Williams as a candidate for vice mayor, but Laird won the position in another 4-3 split vote.

In her acceptance speech as mayor, Weed said she sees her election as support of the programs and policies of the City Council.

"When I ran for the City Council, I swore I would not just sit on a council that was concerned only if the roads were smooth," she said.

Weed listed as priorities in her administration the support of the entertainment tax to help fund social programs in the city, work for the homeless, and planning in the beach area.

She also said she will work to establish day care for children of city employees.

Weed, who has been vice mayor for the past two years, said she could not serve as mayor in previous years because she had to take care of two small children. Now, with the mayor's salary increased from \$100 per month to \$800 per month, Weed said she will be able to afford day care for her children.

"When (former mayor) Bruce Van Allen left office, he said, 'Watch out for Jane Weed because she kicks ass,'" Weed recalled. "Well, I promise that I won't kick ass while I'm mayor — but here comes the Weed administration."

In his parting words as

mayor, Rotkin thanked the city staff, his family and the other council members.

He said although the council often had healthy disagreement, the members did not engage in petty fights.

"This would not be a particularly good place to live if everybody agreed with each other, whether it be right-wing agreement, left-wing agreement or middle of the road," he said.

Rotkin was presented with a plaque citing outstanding services to the city, and Levine further commended him.

"I couldn't agree more that you have been impartial and fair," Levine said to Rotkin. "I think the round of applause is well-deserved."

Weed said last night she will try to get the case reheard at the appellate court level before appealing to the Supreme Court. She said there were factual errors in the case heard at the appellate court that should be clarified.

For instance, she said, the court didn't know that it made no difference whether UCSC students cast their votes on campus or in any other city polling place since elections are city-wide.

Weed's appointment as mayor was not without opposition.

"It seems very inappropriate under the circumstances," Councilman Joseph Ghio said, "for this individual to hold the very highest position in the city."

Ghio nominated Councilman Arnold Levine to be mayor.

The 4-3 vote electing Weed split down traditional political lines with conservatives Ghio, Levine, and Councilwoman Katy Sears-Williams voting for Levine and progressives Weed, Laird, Mardi Wormhoudt and Mayor Michael Rotkin voting for Weed. This split was



Chip Scheuer

Mayor Weed, foreground, accepts congratulations from her son, Luke. In the background are council members Mike Rotkin and Arnold Levine.