

# SV's Caires resigns as city manager

## Third official to quit in 1991

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Sentinel staff writer

SCOTTS VALLEY — City Manager August Caires abruptly resigned his post Tuesday.

Caires, who did not say why he resigned his \$85,000-per-year job, is the third city official to leave the financially troubled city this year.

Last week, the city's director of public works, Bob Rockett, also resigned, saying the city's proposed 10 percent cutback in wages and services would force him to work harder for less money.

However, according to council member Gina Koshland, Rockett was being investigated at the time of his resignation.

"He was allowed to resign," said Koshland, who confirmed that when Rockett quit last Thursday, two police officers escorted him to his desk and stood by as he cleaned it out.

Koshland said she could not comment on the nature of the investigation.

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with full benefits from his \$76,000-per-year job.

Rockett said he knew nothing about being investigated, but confirmed that he was asked to leave by Caires.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm happy and I'm gone," said Rockett. "I've quit there four times and I don't think I'm going back. I'm tired. It's a strange place to work."

Besides Caires and Rockett, the city lost its mayor in January and will lose its long time finance director in July.

The former mayor, Mike Caffrey, quit his \$100-a-month post in January, citing the need to devote more time to his new business as a tax consultant. The city will hold a special election in June to elect Caffrey's replacement.

Finance director Joyce Bray will retire after 21 years with the city, and the city has already started looking for her replacement.

The resignations come at a time when the city has had to lay off employees for the first in 17 years because of falling revenues that threaten to drench the city's budget with red ink. The city has already exhausted its \$5 million of reserve funds.

Caires, who has been with the city for five years, handed in his resignation Tuesday. It will be effective April 5, but Caires will take vacation time in the meantime. Like Rockett, he will also receive four months of severance pay.

Caires could not be reached for comment Tuesday evening, and city sources said he had already left for two weeks' vacation.

In his letter of resignation, Caires thanked the city councils, both past and present.



**August Caires**

Has been with city five years

Rockett's contract with the city, according to Koshland, will give him four months severance pay

"Scotts Valley has challenging times ahead but I know the City Council can effectively meet these challenges," he said in his letter of resignation.

Caires, a former police officer, was selected from a field of more than 150 applicants as the city administrator in late 1985.

He replaced interim Scotts Valley City Administrator Dave Koester, who served briefly when the previous city administrator, Rockett, resigned that fall.

At the time of his selection, Caires was the city administrator of Shafter, near Bakersfield. Before that, he was city administrator of Farmerville, also near Bakersfield.

Caires was a police officer in Fremont, and was in law enforcement for eight years. He attended California State University, Hayward, graduating with a bachelors degree in 1971 and a masters degree in public administration in 1978.

Koshland said the situation reminded her of a Chinese curse that says "May you live in interesting times."

"All of this coming on the heels of our budget crunch..." said Koshland. "I feel like I'm blessed with a Chinese curse now," she said.

"It's a particularly difficult period for everyone," said Mayor Joe Miller. "In addition to the hard work, we consider him (Caires) a friend."

Miller said the two resignations were "purely coincidental."

The council will meet in closed session tonight to appoint an interim city manager and to discuss ongoing negotiations with city employees over more proposed cuts.

REFERENCE

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL  
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