



Perris News

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John Motte Retires from the Perris City Council

An emotional John Motte ended his nine-year tenure on the Perris City Council Tuesday night, accepting the congratulations from his peers on the dais who said replacing the farmer and businessman's expertise on a wide variety of issues will be difficult. Motte, 63, is leaving the council to pursue business interests.

During his tenure, council colleagues said Motte worked hard to restore the City's financial stability, bring more parks and recreation programs to Perris and provide expertise on numerous issues and challenges facing the City. Those included attracting more businesses to Perris, improving public safety and developing long-range plans to promote further development.

"It's been a great nine years," Motte said, his voice breaking. "I love you guys. This is a great organization. I think the City Council has been top quality."

Mayor Daryl Busch also became emotional as he presented Motte with a plaque listing his major accomplishments. Busch, who has presented hundreds of awards in his tenure on the council, admitted seeing an old friend leave was difficult.

"In this job you get to make a lot of presentations," Busch told Motte and his wife, Anne. "Some are tougher than others."

Motte also received a lamp bearing the City's logo.

Motte's replacement will be sworn in on Dec. 8, but results of the Nov. 4 election to fill his spot remain incomplete. The latest vote tallies indicate retired firefighter Joanne Evans leading businessman Christopher Sandoval by about 65 votes with more than 1,200 provisional ballots awaiting certification. Final results likely won't be known until Dec. 2.

Whoever takes his place, Motte's council colleagues said his departure leaves a major void. Mayor Pro-Tem Al Landers said he worked with Motte on a committee charged with obtaining more parks for Perris residents. Motte's expertise and ability to work with various people proved instrumental in getting land for Morgan Park and Sky Dive Park, Landers said.

"He always put people first," Landers said. "With his business background, he understood economics and he represented the City wonderfully. He will be a tough act to follow."

Motte grew up in the Perris Valley and farmed as a kid and young man. He helped restore the historic Southern Hotel on D Street and is working with his daughter to develop a museum focusing on the history of the Perris Valley to the hotel. He served on the board of trustees of Mount San Jacinto College before being elected to the Perris City Council in 1999.

Motte said he wants to maintain a role in helping Perris further develop its parks and recreation programs. He predicted that despite the tough economic times, Perris will flourish in the future.

"It's been a joy," he said of his council stint. "It's been a lot of fun and a pleasure. We have a great city and it's going to continue to get better."



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch reads a proclamation honoring John Motte's service to the City. Motte's wife, Anne (left) looks on.



Outgoing City Councilman John Motte shares a laugh with colleague Rita Rogers.

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