

Perris News

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Newly Elected Council Member Sworn Into Office

Newly elected City Council member Joanne Evans, incumbent Rita Rogers and returning Mayor Daryl Busch were sworn into office this week and each vowed to continue the progress all said Perris has made in recent years.

Evans, a 40-year Perris resident, won a narrow election to replace John Motte, who left the Council to pursue business interests.

Rogers and Busch, who came to the City Council together in 1999, each were elected to another four-year term.

All said the City has done an admirable job in recent years to reduce crime, add more parks and recreation programs, restore budget stability, pave roads, attract businesses and is on its way to becoming a regional force throughout Riverside County and inland Southern California. But the trio agreed the job isn't finished and that Perris still must continue to improve its infrastructure and lure more commercial and industrial development to the City.

"I appreciate the support of all the voters," Busch said. "I want to continue to serve because we still have more things to accomplish."

Rogers agreed.

"It is a privilege and honor to serve you," Rogers said. "I thank you all for your love and support. I look forward to another four years."

Evans said she was overwhelmed as she took the City Council dais for the first time after she was sworn in by City Clerk Judy Haughney. The longtime firefighter and former Marine is a newcomer to elected office, having narrowly lost her first run for a City Council seat in 1976.

"I went into this adventure without knowing what was going to happen," Evans said. "I asked a lot of questions. They were all answered. It is going to be a privilege to work with you. I will do my best to serve my City to the utmost."

The Council also thanked Motte for his nine years of service. Councilman Mark Yarbrough, in comments made over a speaker from Reno, where he was attending to City business, called Motte a steady and stabilizing influence on the Council and said his concern for parks helped the City obtain more land for recreational services.

Mayor Pro-Tem Al Landers said of Motte: "I've never met anyone I respect than John Motte. We're going to miss him terribly."

City Manager Richard Belmudez said because of Motte's efforts, Perris is on its way to becoming a "Tree City USA." That designation means Perris is committed to planting and nurturing trees while using natural resources in an efficient and eco-friendly manner.

"It is a pleasure to work with our entire City Council as a whole," Belmudez said.

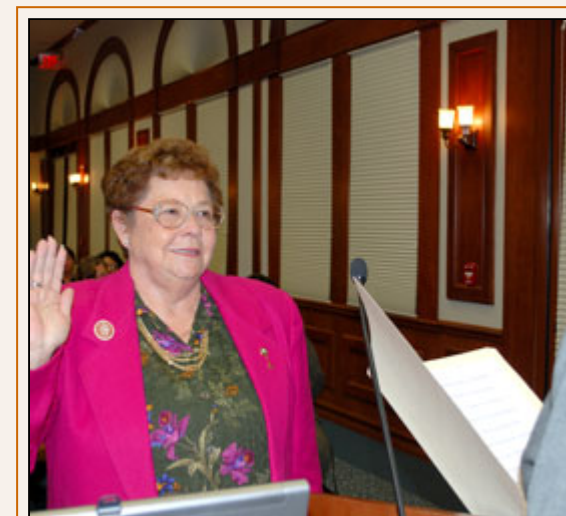
Belmudez credited Motte's passion with helping the City expand its parks and recreation programs.

For his part, Motte told Evans she would make a great council member, calling her election a "seamless transition" of responsibilities. He summed up his own tenure on the Council by calling Perris a "really nice town" and said he "appreciated the opportunity to serve."

"It's been great," Motte said.



Mayor Daryl Busch takes the oath of office administered by City Clerk Judy Haughney.



Newcomer Joanne Evans smiles as the City Clerk reads the oath of office.

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