

# PENINSULA NEWS

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## E. Palo Alto council picks Vines as mayor

By Michael Shapiro  
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After operating for seven weeks without a mayor, the East Palo Alto City Council selected Bill Vines as mayor Tuesday night.

Vines, who was the top vote-getter in April, became mayor after less than five months on the council.

"I guess they had confidence in what I was doing and wanted to continue that," Vines said.

"Two people have confidence that I can do a reasonable job, and I suppose the other people will at some point have that confidence," he said after the meeting. "At least that's my hope."

Former Mayor John Bostic, who was ousted from the mayoral post in July after pleading no contest to misdemeanor election fraud charges, was elected vice mayor.

It was an anti-climactic ending to a stormy saga that began July 18 when the council ousted Bostic and

former Vice Mayor Warnell Coats before a packed council chambers.

About 80 people attended Tuesday's meeting, but it was not marked by the angry exchanges that accompanied the ousters.

Council members did not discuss the votes, and the whole process was over in five minutes, as both Vines and Bostic were elected by 3-2 margins.

Council members Barbara Mouton, Bostic and Vines voted for Vines; council members Pat John-

son and Coats voted against him.

Vines' appointment opened the vice mayor's seat because he had been chosen vice mayor in July after the council ousted Bostic and Coats.

The council split along the same lines, voting 3-2 for Bostic for vice mayor.

Ironically, it was Bostic's vote that put Vines in the center seat, and Vines' vote that made Bostic the vice mayor.

When the council chose a mayor

after the April elections, Vines was the only member to vote against Bostic.

Vines said he could not vote for Bostic because at the time Bostic faced possible felony election fraud charges related to his campaign for county supervisor. Had he been convicted of a felony, he would have been forced to leave the council.

In July, Vines said that Bostic should not represent East Palo Alto as mayor because the city should

"put its best foot forward."

The council should not select someone who could "impede progress. We just don't deserve that hanging over our heads," Vines said in July.

Vines said Tuesday night that he was "never against Bostic for what he was involved in," but was concerned about doing something inappropriate by elevating Bostic to the council's top post.

"I think he's paid his penance," Vines said.