

# E. Palo Alto council member could face censure

■ Evans allegedly verbally attacked city employee at meetings

BY JESSICA BERNSTEIN-WAX

*Daily News Staff Writer*

The East Palo Alto City Council tonight will consider censuring one of its members for alleged verbal attacks on a city employee at public meetings.

It would be the second time Council Member Peter Evans faces such charges, after a different council voted to censure him in January 2007 over claims he made offensive and race-based remarks about city staffers. Coun-



**EVANS**

The complaint stems from critical remarks Evans made about Okelo at the March 17 and April 21

council members also passed Evans over for mayor that year even though he was next in line for the office — a move that infuriated many of his supporters.

In the most recent complaint against Evans, Community Services Director Meda Okelo accuses the popular council member of “harassment and the deliberate and wanton creation ... of a hostile work environment.”

council meetings.

While discussing improvements to Jack Farrell Park at the March meeting, Evans reportedly stated, “We should remove Meda Okelo from this project and put building people over this project that know what they’re doing.”

According to a staff report submitted by City Attorney Vince Ewing, Evans further questioned Okelo’s abilities at the later meeting and said, “You can’t let incompetence rest for 20 years. This man has been here for 20 years.”

Evans didn’t return a phone message seeking comment Monday. Okelo said he couldn’t comment on the complaint so long as it remains under consideration.