

2 newcomers win in Walkertown

They join two incumbents on council, which begins staggered-term format

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WALKERTOWN

Voters elected two newcomers and two incumbents to four seats on the town council in Tuesday's election. They will serve under a new format for their terms.

Wayne Hester was the top voter-getter with 330 votes, according to unofficial results. He was elected to a second term.

Marilyn Martin (left) garnered 225 votes to finish fourth in the council race; she will serve a 2-year term. Randy Mendenhall finished second in the voting, with 329 votes, and will serve four years.

Randy Mendenhall, who ran for his first public office, was second with 329 votes. Incumbent Sarah Welch got 266, and Marilyn Martin, who also ran for her first public office, got 225.

Jeff Larrimore, who ran for his first public office, got 217 votes. Incumbent council member Brenda Mabe was defeated in her bid for a second consecutive term on the council. She got 167 votes.

Mayor Doc Davis ran unopposed and was re-elected with 332 votes. He will serve a four-year term.

Turnout for the election was light. By 2 p.m. about 100 people had voted at the Walkertown library and East Forsyth High School. Voter turnout for Forsyth County was 17 percent, according to Forsyth County Board of Elections.

The Cash Elementary School precinct was used for the Walkertown and Kernersville races. Chief judge Carolyn Peddycord said that, by about 3 p.m., 164 people had voted.

"There were more from Kernersville than Walkertown," she said, adding that the turnout was typical for an off-year election.

The council recently decided to change the length of the terms and stagger them. Hester and Mendenhall will serve four-year terms that will expire in 2011, and Welch and Martin will serve two-year terms that will expire in 2009. After 2009, those seats will be four years also.

Martin said she has attended council meetings for two years as a resident, and now will attend them for two years as a council member. She said she wants to see Walkertown move forward slowly.

"I can't cure all the problems, but I want to help," she said.

The council likely will decide to hire a town manager and how to use \$100,000 that Spencer Waggoner left the town in his will. He died in 2005, and his will directed the town to use his bequest for recreation.

Mendenhall said he plans to see what the town's priorities are and work from there. He said he is looking forward to working with the other council members.

"We should be able to work together very well," Mendenhall said.

Welch was elected to her third term on the council. She said that there are several projects such as the historical committee that have been started that she wants to see move forward.

She said she would like to see good developers come into the community and wants to see Walkertown develop slowly and with planned growth.

"We've got a good board to work with," Welch said.

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