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## Gorena takes oath after quorum appears

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It didn't happen at 7 p.m. Thursday as it was supposed to.

About 30 of John Gorena's family members, friends and supporters waited for more than 15 minutes, hoping that there would soon be a quorum so that the council meeting could take place and Gorena could take the oath of office as the new Place 4 councilman.

Greg Tierney arrived about 7:15, creating a quorum to make way for the special meeting to take place. He said later that a party of 25 had walked into his restaurant just before 7 p.m., that a waitress was out because of illness and that he had to see to his customers before being able to get away to be able to attend the council meeting.

"I was very pleased that I could make the meeting, so we could have a quorum," he said afterwards.

Immediately, upon Tierney's arrival, Mayor Dean Ueckert announced that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

The council then canvassed the votes in the June 13 runoff election and passed a resolution declaring the results. Other council members present were David Thornhill and Rudy Durham. Lathan Watts, who works out of town on Thursdays, was absent.

Ueckert then came down from his seat to stand with Gorena in front of the small crowd, to present a certificate of election to Gorena, who is replacing Ueckert in the Place 4 seat.

Municipal Court Judge Brian Holman then came forward to administer the oath of office to Gorena.

Gorena told the judge, "Being a Christian, I want to affirm rather than swear." He did so throughout the oath. After taking the oath, Gorena was invited by Ueckert to take his seat on the council. There was only one more item on the agenda: to adjourn.

Gorena is aware that some of the council members supported his opponent, TJ Gilmore, during the election. Gorena won the runoff election by only eight votes, 529 to 521.

"I hope we can all work well together," Gorena said. "I look forward to having a good relationship with all of the council members and the city staff."

Gorena will serve Ueckert's unexpired term for less than 11 months. If he seeks re-election as expected, he will be hitting the campaign trail again within the next eight months.

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