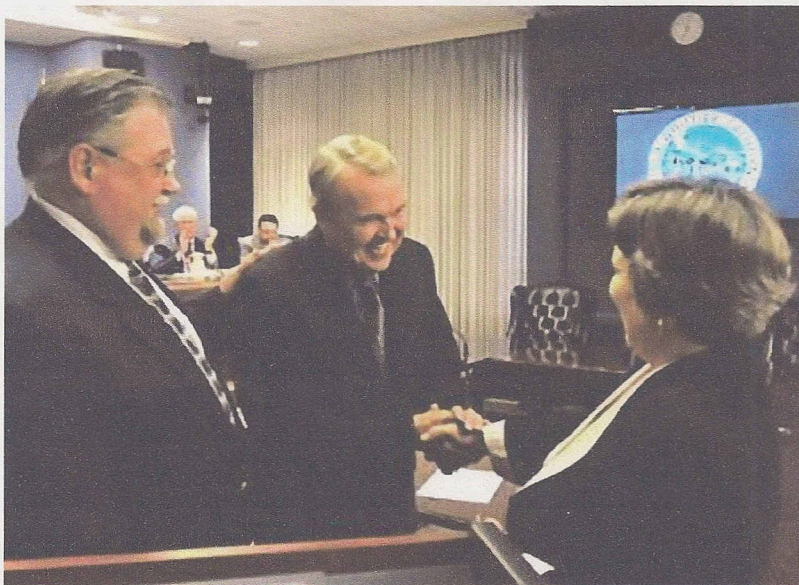


Nordbak selected Whittier mayor - again

By Mike Sprague Staff Writer

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Councilman Greg Nordbak, left and Councilman Bob Henderson are congratulated by City Clerk Kathryn Marshall after she sworn them in as Mayor of Whittier and councilman, Whittier City Hall, Tuesday, April 20, 2010. (Correspondent photo by Mike Mullen/SWCity)

WHITTIER - Greg Nordbak on Tuesday became the first council member in the city's 112 years to serve three terms as mayor.

Nordbak, 58, and Councilman Bob Henderson were sworn in to new four-year terms Tuesday night. Councilwoman Cathy Warner was named mayor pro tem.

"I'm honored," Nordbak said. "It comes with longevity and the support of the majority of the people behind you."

He previously served as mayor from 1996-98 and 2005-06.

Henderson said he believes Nordbak will do a good job as the city's leader.

"He's been mayor twice before and he's very conscientious when he's mayor," he said.

Nordbak said this could be his most challenging year as mayor because of the city's budget problems.

"We have a budget that is struggling," he said, referring to an expected \$2.8 million deficit in the fiscal 2010-11 budget. "The good news is that we have reserves."

Nordbak said he favors balancing the budget with a combination of cuts and use of its reserves.

"Reserves are used so we don't become dysfunctional," he said.

"You have to balance how much you cut in employees and services," Nordbak said. "To pay off the entire deficit with reserves also is irresponsible. But to use a portion is fair."

Another issue likely to face Nordbak and his fellow council members is oil drilling in the Whittier Hills.

"We need to make sure we stay the course and to make sure the project is open and there is a two-way street as far as communication," he said.

He also favors considering sharing some oil revenue with the city's three school districts - Whittier City, East Whittier City and Whittier Union.

"Should the oil (drilling) go forward, I'd like this council to figure out a way we could have some sort of percentage or sharing with our three local school districts," Nordbak said.

"Our school districts are at the mercy of everybody," he said. "They sit at the corner with hat in hand and have to beg and that's not how it should be for our teachers and our children. I don't know if it's legal or can be done."

Nordbak said he also plans to institute a business of the month recognition from the city.

He and his wife, Donna, have two children. He has been general manager of the Midway City Sanitary District for two years.

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