

# THE SUN-GAZETTE

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## City of Tulare names new mayor, vice mayor

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By: Derek Fleming



**TULARE** – The Nov. 5 election saw the City of Tulare council incumbents retain their seats and opened an opportunity for reorganization that saw the election of a new mayor and vice mayor.

On Dec. 17, the council selected Patrick Isherwood as mayor to replace Terry Sayre and Stephen Harrell as vice mayor to take the vacancy created by Isherwood's selection. Isherwood was previously serving as vice mayor.

Isherwood was first elected to the city council in 2020. He also serves as the director of asset management for Self-Help enterprises, a non-profit organization that provides housing assistance. His experiences with Self-Help will provide experience as Tulare begins construction of the emergency homeless shelter, which broke ground on Dec. 13, 2024. The 200-bed facility will also provide a range of services to help people escape from homelessness, as previously reported by The Sun-Gazette.

"Patrick is the new mayor and that is an outstanding choice for mayor," Vice Mayor Harrell said in a telephone interview with The Sun-Gazette. "Terry is a hard act to follow, she was an excellent mayor."

Harrell is a second-generation Tulare native who started his service to the city after spending four years in the U.S. Air Force. He joined the Tulare Police Department as the department's first Emergency Medical Technician where he served for 25 years. In 2017, he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Tulare Local Health Care District Board of Directors, where he was elected to a four-year term in 2018. He joined the city council in 2020.

"It is an honor to just serve on the council," Harrell said. "It is more of an honor to be selected as vice mayor and serve the public and the people of Tulare."

Tulare has several significant projects in the works that the council will need to guide through the process. Harrell said that some of the projects he is looking forward to working on include the International Agricenter, the Paige Avenue overpass, the Tulare Canine Bane Dog Park and continuing to find ways to fund other projects in town. Building a new fire station is also a priority as the city continues to rapidly grow.

He added that the council works well together and he doesn't anticipate any significant changes over the next term.

"We have a good time up there," Harrell said. "We take care of business for the people of the city. We also have an opportunity to laugh and poke on each other just a little bit. I enjoy it, it is a good time. You see some that are somewhat contentious at times, but certainly not here. We have a very good working relationship."

Harrell said that he is hopeful the council can continue to encourage residents to be involved in the decision-making process.