

Gallup city councilors, municipal judge sworn in

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While the new mayor of Gallup waits to be sworn in prior to May 1, other winners of the Regular Municipal Election have been sworn into office and ready to work.

Michael Schaaf and Janell Griego were present at the Gallup City Council Chambers March 30 to accept their new titles of District 2 Councilor and Municipal Judge respectively.

Schaaf spoke with the *Sun* April 1 about how he felt about being elected and sworn in.

“I’m happy I won and was sworn in. It’s a humbling experience, knowing I had that many people who supported me and voted for me,” he said. “I hope I don’t let them down and do a good job.”

While the city is dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Schaaf has shifted his attention to dealing with problems related to that issue.

“Right now with the virus, that’s the main focus,” he said. “Now it’s working with the city on those issues.”

The earliest Gallup City Council meeting Schaaf will be able to attend is slated for April 28.

Schaaf added he is going to retain his position on the Gallup-McKinley County Schools Board of Education. He said he was told prior to running for city councilor that there would be no conflict of interest if he holds both positions.

Also present was Fran Palochak, who handily won reelection for District 4 councilor.

Each person was sworn in by the current Municipal Judge, Grant Foutz, whose last day with the title was March 31. He was thanked for his services and dedication to the city.

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“Still one more day on the job, one more paycheck,” he said with a laugh.

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