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challenges has "an outstanding combination of maturity, experience and institutional memory ... complemented by new, fresh and thoughtful ideas and vision," she said.

Its members are "hard-working, caring and knowledgeable and, very importantly, honorable" and they are "dedicated to ... working together to serve the best interests of all of you," the mayor said.

"We are all prepared and excited about doing the job you elected us to do," she vowed.

Bates also expressed confidence in Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock and his administration.

Brock, she said, is the council's "best ambassador," an executive whose "competence and manner make us look good to the community and to the staff."

City hall employees "are unsurpassed in skill and dedication," she said, "tops in their various fields of expertise and hugely responsible for the cost-

effective quality of life we all enjoy."

She invited residents "to be in touch with me by letter, telephone or e-mail."

"Your suggestions and input are an important link to the strong citizen involvement that has made Farmington Hills the inclusive community it is today."

She thanked her predecessor, former Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who was term-limited, for the leadership he provided with wit, charm and grace.

Mayor Bates then vowed to continue the work of past and present councils and administrations and "lead this community boldly into the excitement and challenges of the new millennium."

She also extended to Vagnozzi and his family "our deepest sympathy ... for their great loss" and called for a moment of silence during the council meeting. Lois Vagnozzi, the ex-mayor's wife, died earlier Monday after a lengthy illness.

BY RICHARD PEARL
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Councilwoman Vicki Barnett, describing Farmington Hills as the "small town that doesn't know it's large," vowed Monday night to help citizens keep it that way.

Barnett, the only incumbent to seek re-election Nov. 2, joined council newcomers Barry Brickner and Christopher McRae a week later in addressing supporters after the trio and new Mayor Nancy Bates were sworn in at city hall.

A segment of the champion Farmington Harrison High School Band had played the national anthem a little earlier, and Barnett noted the performance's symbolism.

"What we see and hear here tonight," she said, "typifies what we are as a community: A small town that doesn't know it's large."

With 80,000-plus residents, Farmington Hills is the largest city in Oakland County, but its citizens think of themselves as a small town and like it that way, she said.

The community support for



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BREWER

Oath: City Clerk Kathy Dornan swears in Barry Brickner (left), Vicki Barnett and Chris McRae.

be a bad idea and she plans to look into it.

Brickner, the former planning commission member who finished second to Barnett in the voting, vowed to "keep the respect of the city" during his tenure.

He said the late Lois Vagnozzi, wife of former mayor Aldo, had been "an inspiration" to him during his campaign, telling Brickner's wife at one point "I know he'll win."

"I'm glad she lived to see it," Brickner said. Mrs. Vagnozzi died earlier Monday.

McRae, vowing to "keep my remarks brief" that night and hoping to continue in the future, said he plans to "hold this office with respect."



Opening: Farmington Harrison's marching band played The Star-Spangled Banner to open the meeting.



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