After receiving a plaque from Liberal Police Chief Al Sill, outgoing city commissioner Larry Koochel, center, gets an official badge, patch and ID from Capt. Jon Antrim, left, at Tuesday's commission meeting. The Liberal Police Department honored Koochel by making him an honorary lifetime member of the LPD. Sill said this is the first time in the history of the department such a move has been made.

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times Dean Aragon and Ron Warren took their seats as part of the new Liberal City Commission Tuesday evening, but before the board was reorganized, it was time to say goodbye to the two outgoing commissioners they replaced.

Newly elected mayor Dave Harrison presented a plaque to outgoing mayor Tim Long's wife, Terri, for the absent commissioner. Before giving the plaque to Terri, Harrison talked about Long's service on the board.

"He's meant so much to this whole commission," Harrison said. "What an awesome mayor. Anybody that can get Koochel and me and Carlile in the same room and make us mind is really somebody special. I know Joe and Janet grew to love Tim just like I did, and we'll miss him very much."

Terri then read a statement from Long.

"It has been for me an honor and a privilege to have served the last four years as your city commissioner," she said. "Being mayor and having the opportunity to represent this community has been something I have taken great pride in doing. Terri and I truly love this community and have only wanted the best for it."

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