

City Manager Explains Details In Proposed 1951-52 City Budget

Requests For \$175,000 Denied Due To Lack Of Current Funds

By Peter J. Heller

In submitting his \$956,387 budget for the 1951-52 fiscal year, City Manager Neal D. Smith also furnishes some explanatory details on various city department budgets. (See general budget story on page 1.)

Here are excerpts from his introduction to the new budget.

Civil Defense. The amount budgeted for this department is an estimate of what may be needed without knowing just what will be done in civil defense during the coming year. None of the division heads has submitted a request for funds for specific purposes.

General. The amount of \$2000 is budgeted for printing the book of ordinances upon completion of the codification now under way. Plates will be retained so the code can be brought up to date at intervals without much added expense.

The amount of next year's public liability premium will depend considerably upon our experience this year. If many suits for sidewalk injuries are received, even if damages awarded are small, increased rates are likely.

Advertising and Promotion. No appropriation for advertising and promotion through the junior chamber of commerce was made last year, but they have requested \$500 this year.

City Attorney. The city attorney has requested creation of the position of assistant city attorney at a part time salary of \$100 per month. He has also requested the \$15 per month increase be made applicable to his salary.

Electrical department. A ground now exists on the fire alarm circuit on Beach street. The circuit is still operative, but there is no way to detect a second ground which might occur and which would take the circuit out of service. This affects the circuit in the high value district as well as at the beach. Since the archway across Beach street has not been removed, it is necessary to replace the underground circuit on Beach street at a cost of about \$425 which is included in the budget.

Provision is made for the addition of 50 more residential street lights during the year. Funds are also provided for replacement of the existing 1000- and 2500-lumen lights on Seabright avenue with 6000-lumen lights. The extra cost will be \$22 per month.

Also included in the budget are capital outlay items for two radio units for the police department replacing old type units now in service, as well as quick call units for police and street departments to equip the rest of the police cars and two street department pickup trucks. Not included for lack of funds were two portable units for the police department and civil defense, replacement of electrolights on Beach street, and modern light standards at Front and Laurel streets.

However, the budget provides for two modern lighting standards with improved luminaires each at Soquel avenue and Ocean street and at Pacific avenue and Laurel street, and three new standards on the Soquel avenue bridge. A black top floor with one wall and roof will be built at the rear corner of the auditorium to provide shelter for working on car radios.

Police Department. This department plans a change in operations whereby a sergeant will be on duty at the desk at all times, where he will be in control of all field units by radio, rather than being out in a car. This will require four-plus sergeants to provide three-shift coverage and days off. The fifth sergeant will be in charge of traffic and fill in on the desk when necessary. This will place the experience and authority of the sergeants where they will be of the greatest value and should increase the efficiency of the department. No increase in total personnel is required.

Fire Department. Two additional firemen are provided for. During vacation time, which extends over about six months, and when men are sick, the main station is reduced to insufficient personnel to properly man the equipment necessary to send into the high value district.

Largest item under capital outlay is for a 2500-watt portable generator with flood lights and extension cords to be carried on the aerial truck.

Garage. Cars budgeted include two dump trucks as replacements, a ¾ ton pickup, and two sedans, one as replacement, one police car to be used as pool car. Buildings include a kerosene storage shed and an equipment shed at sand pit.

Street department. It is better to put money into permanent improvements by providing materials than it is to put the same labor cost into patch work through the lack of materials. The establishment of a rock plant on the Cowell ranch (budgeted this current year) will provide more material for a given amount of money, but a rock plant producing cheap base rock will not produce streets without plant mix surfacing to go on top of the base. Materials provided for, plus \$20,000 budgeted from gas tax funds will resurface approximately seven miles of existing permanent base streets and new streets, and patch and oil about 60 miles of unimproved streets. Provision is also made to replace about 30 short sections of storm drains, much of the material for which is on hand.

The wall between Washington street and West Cliff drive is giving away and must be replaced or reinforced before it is too late. The cost, roughly estimated at \$8000, is not provided for in the budget.

Recreation. More emphasis is being placed on providing leadership and less emphasis on providing supplies and facilities for the children. A part-time assistant supervisor for girls' activities is requested on a year-around basis to bring the girls' activities more on a par with those being provided for boys. Baseball will be given added attention through use of Harvey E. West stadium.

Provision is made for fencing the tiny tot playground at Covered Bridge picnic grounds.

Wharf Department. Due to limitations on funds, extremely heavy cuts have been made in the budget for the wharf. It is necessary to do considerable work on the foundation and floor of one building. Funds are also provided for the sewer line.

Provision is made to pave the area repaired this year, and to seal coat all the paving which will prevent surface water from reaching the wooden support members. It is also contemplated that the city will take over maintenance of the exterior of the buildings under the new leases to become effective September 1, 1951. It is assumed that there will be some increases in the rental rate of buildings under new leases.

Water Department. Since this budget was prepared on the basis that the \$15,000 per year transfer to the fire department, permitted by the charter, would not be made either this year or next, a reduction of \$30,000 was necessary. Among the items cut were \$6000 for fluoridation equipment, and \$3500 for fluoridation expense.

Work will continue toward com-

Moose Lodge Plans For Convention

Final plans for the Moose convention to be held here August 1 through August 4 were made at an executive board meeting recently at the St. George hotel. Here to discuss the convention with the local chamber of commerce were officers of the state association.

About 3000 persons are expected to be here for the five-day conference, according to Chairman Lou Dixon.

Arrangements for housing for these delegates are now being made by the Moose lodge and the chamber of commerce.

ESTATE IS SETTLED

A decree of final discharge was filed for Fred Hansen, administrator in the estate of Frances E. McMillen, deceased.

pletion of the cross-town feeder, and the coast transmission lines. Replacement of mains is scheduled for Mission street, South Parkway, Oxford way, Younglove avenue, High street and Mountain View avenue, together with new mains in subdivisions and other main extensions.

Library. The library board has recommended paying a salary to the operator of the "bookmobile" which has been operated as a community service during recent months by the VFW auxiliary of Post 888. About 400 books per month to about 100 persons are being distributed to shut-ins by the bookmobile.

Opening of additional county branch libraries at Davenport and at Holohan-Casserly have been recommended.

Surfacing of the library parking lot, costing about \$500, was not included in the budget.

The county board of supervisors has been requested by the librarian to provide \$33,500 as the county's share of the library expense. If this is granted, last year's tax rate of 24 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation can be maintained.

Employees' Retirement Fund. Higher wage schedules are resulting in increased cost of employees' retirement. It is obvious that a higher tax rate will soon be required to provide sufficient funds to carry the city's share of these costs.

Total amount of requests not included in the budget is \$175,277.

ROLLER SKATE

at the

Palladium

1606 Seabright, near Soquel

AFTERNOONS 2 to 5

EVENINGS 7:30 to 10:30

CLOSED WED.

PHONE 853

Ken Tweedy Speaks Tonight At Scotts Valley Farm Center

Kenneth Tweedy of the agricultural commissioner's office will speak on the use of various weed killers at a meeting of the Scotts Valley Farm Center tonight at 8 o'clock at the Scotts Valley school.

Tweedy will stress the getting rid of poison oak and blackberries. The public is invited to the meeting.

PETITION IS FILED

A petition to terminate joint tenancy has been filed in the Albert M. Blakesley estate. He died May 31, 1951. The petitioner is Ruby M. Blakesley and the property is a part of Subdivision No. 2, Aptos Beach and Country Club Properties, Aptos.

BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS

DRIVE-IN Theatre
2 MILES ON OLD WATSONVILLE HIGHWAY
PHONE 4682

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Cab Driver Gets Plane For A Tip

Vancouver, B. C., June 8 (AP).—Bob East is probably the only cab driver in the world to be given an airplane for a tip.

When East took his fare to Sea Island airport this week for a trip to Victoria, the passenger learned that East had always wanted a plane, so he bought him one.

East admitted today he's still in a tailsipin. "I haven't slept since," he said.

A week ago East took the man for a short ride and was given a \$100 bill. He said he didn't have any small bills and asked East to look him up later and give him the change. East did. So the man, pleased, hired East's cab for the next few days.

The big tipper? As yet, unidentified.

THEATRE
DEL MAR

THE
PLACE
TO
GO

SUNDAY

Even Funnier Than
"DEAR RUTH" and "DEAR WIFE!"

The Country's
Laughing Again

with
that
"Dear Brat"

