

City council ready to attack on Wingspread

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"Attack," "rip," "tear" and "shred" — these strong words were used by members of the Capitola City Council Thursday night to describe what they would like to do to the county's plans for Wingspread Beach, a controversial hotel, residential and arts-center development proposed for the Porter Sesnon property just south of Capitola's city limits.

The council will repeat its opposition to the current development plans at a special Board of Supervisors hearing Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at Aptos High School.

The council scheduled a work session for next Thursday at 7 p.m. to develop a battle plan. It will be in the City Hall conference room.

"We want to attack it (Wingspread)," Councilman Dennis Beltram said. "We want to shred it and rip it apart."

The council has long opposed Wingspread, preferring that the land become part of the state parks system.

The City Council rejected a draft drawn up by Planning Director Steve Russell to be delivered to the Board of Supervisors that reiterated some of the conditions to be placed on Wingspread if the county approves the development.

One condition was that Capitola receive \$10,000 for installa-

tion and maintenance of a stoplight in the city to control the increased traffic on McGregor Drive.

"This says give us \$10,000 and we're happy," Mayor Mick Routh said. "That's baloney. We're absolutely opposed to this."

Beltram said, "I think we should direct our planning director to get nasty. That's what we've got to do."

The traffic implications for the city, the council said, would be enormous. Also, there would be the "negative visual impact" of the project.

Even the Capitola Police Department and the Capitola Fire Protection District could be adversely affected by the development because both would probably need more people to deal with the influx to the area, Beltram said.

A Capitola resident and former council member, Ron Graves, said last night: "Why not ask for \$2 million instead of \$10,000? That would be closer to what (Wingspread) is going to cost this community."

Councilman Bob Bucher noted that the council must persuade Supervisor Robley Levy, the swing vote in the Wingspread debate, to vote against the project.

"Well, let's draw up a list of 15 or 20 legitimate gripes for her," Beltram said. "We're her constituents. Maybe that will sway her."