

Civil Service

City Council Slashes Proposed Employee Pay Increase From Budget

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

Last night's review of the 1967-68 budget by the Santa Cruz City Council held only one big surprise: City employes were not granted the 5 per cent across-the-board pay hike the budget called for.

The increase had been recommended by both Personnel

axe as the council whittled away a request for two additional men.

The new men would have allowed a reduction in hours worked by all firemen, with the hour drop slated to become effective on April 1 of next year.

The firemen had already been granted a shorter work week on January 1 of this year, and the civil service commission had recommended the subsequent reduction.

The council refused the second drop, however, along with a request for pay equal to that of policemen. Santa Cruz police officers earn 2 1/2 per cent more than the firemen.

As talk of salaries continued, Walters cited reports he had read of the high expense of replacing trained personnel. He suggested a system of bonus longevity payments to long time city employes who, in effect, save the city money by their continued service.

Goodrich liked the plan, and Minford was asked to study the cost of such a project.

Other department expenses examined at last night's review were accepted as presented in the preliminary budget with only minor changes.

It was clear, however, that the council was in a penny pinching mood. Mayor Samuel Leask III even suggested that city printers use both sides of sheets of paper whenever possible.

The next budget review will get under way at 7 p.m. on Thursday. It is not known whether the entire budget can be completed at that session.

MERGER BACKED

Redlands (AP)—Delegates to the Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference of the Methodist church have voted in favor of a merger of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches.

Disaster Area It's Called Now

The architecture and general appearance of the new county government center came in for still another buffeting at last night's Santa Cruz City Council meeting.

As the council discussed civil defense expenses, City Manager Dave Koester mentioned that the basement of the five-story office building had been constructed as a disaster area.

Whereupon Mayor Samuel Leask III snorted: "The whole thing's a disaster area!"

Director Gerald Minford and the civil service commission, and city administrators had expected its approval.

Councilman Ray Goodrich, a perennial economizer, began the hatchet job on the pay raise. He asked Minford how a 5 per cent increase was justified when the cost of living index indicated only a 3.6 per cent raise.

Councilman Norman Walters joined Goodrich in asking for justification.

Minford replied that the city was competing in the job market and said that severe problems would result if the city fell behind in that competition.

Walters retorted that Santa Cruz already pays its employes at the median rate of comparable cities and that there were just as many competent employes below the median as above.

Goodrich added that there were other things than money to consider in job market competition. He said the opportunity to live in such a desirable area as Santa Cruz should count for something.

"A lot of us could make more money working over the hill," he concluded.

Council decided to grant a 2.5 per cent increase on July 1, to be followed by a similar hike in six months, making a total 3.75 per cent increase over the course of the year. The cut will save the city approximately \$34,000.

The fire department also felt the keen edge of the economy

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