Capitola Wharf Deal Gets Closer

A proposal whereby the city of Capitola would gain possession of the Capitola Wharf for \$114,000 was presented to the City Council Monday night.

The council took no action, but instead decided to hold a study session on the proposal soon and continued the public hearing on the wharf situation to Jan. 8.

The proposal, explained City Councilman Bob Garcia, is that the two lessees of the wharf turn over their interests to the city for \$114,000, the remaining outstanding payment on the lease.

In exchange, lessees Bob Mason and Vincent Brown would get 5,000 square feet of space on the wharf for a commercial use. As payment for this

space, Mason and Brown would turn over a yet undetermined percentage of their profits from their commercial enterprise to the city.

"This would be with the understanding that it's up to the city to determine what commercial use, if any, is appropriate," Garcia said.

"The consensus of both the council and the public seemed to be that the wharf should be restored and used mainly as it always has been - a fishing wharf," Garcia said of Monday's council meeting.

The councilman explained that the wharf proposal was worked out in a session about 10 days ago between Mason and Councilmen Jerry Clarke and Ron Graves.

After the proposal was presented in rough form to the council Monday, it was agreed that Clarke and Garcia would meet with City Attorney Richard Manning and Mason to put it in a more finalized form, Garcia reported.

Once the more finalized proposal is prepared, the council will hold a study session to which the public will be welcome, Garcia said. The session will be sometime between now and the Jan. 8 council meeting, he said.

Capitola began moving to get possession of the wharf when the county began a procedure to turn over title of the submerged lands and tidelands around the wharf to the city.