

Addition to historic home given green light

Council also allows residents to decide on tax increase

By **RAMONA TURNER**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Peter Hubback can go ahead with plans to add a second story to his summer cottage-style home on Riverview Drive.

This came after the City Council on Thursday heard an appeal to the Planning Commission's approval of the second story addition with deck after Councilman

Tony Gualtieri heeded an architectural historian's qualms about the proposed structure's visibility from the nearby Riverview path and because of worries the top portion would not look like the older, original structure.

Hubback went on a 30-minute tirade. His voice shook at times as he vented his frustra-

tion over naving his project appealed even though he had successfully jumped through the city's hoops, gaining unanimous approval of the planning commission and two architectural historians.

"Most of my family died there. I plan to die there," he said. "I'm either going to restore it or tear it down. If you lose any more homes in the historic district ... you're going to lose the historical district."

The issue of whether to allow people to remodel or demolish and rebuild homes in the district has been a long running one, as the city grapples with trying to keep a sense of history while ensuring the safety of families who live there. The homes seeking to be remodeled were built in the early 1900s as summer beach cottages, not full-time residences, and they are slowly starting to crumble.

In other news, the council:

■ Voted to allow residents to cast their ballots regarding the transient-occupancy tax. The County Visitor's Center is seeking to increase the tax 1.5 percent to 11 percent in Capitola, with 1 percent going to the nonprofit agencies

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coffers and 0.5 percent going to the city's general fund. The estimated \$47,400 going to the visitor's center would be used to increase tourist promotion of the city.

■ Approved the Police Department's request to draft an ordinance requiring markers and aerosol paint be kept under lock and key at local stores. The move is an effort to fight the war against graffiti. The issue will come to a second reading July 25.

Contact Ramona Turner at rturner@santa-cruz.com.