

Termini elected mayor, Harlan vice mayor in Capitola

Mayors
City votes to hire consultant
to recruit police chief

By JONDI GUMZ

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CAPITOLA — Vice mayor Michael Termini was unanimously elected mayor and Councilwoman Stephanie Harlan vice mayor Thursday night.

Mayor Dennis Norton read a long list of accomplishments, including a new hotel, Fairfield Inn on 41st, the landing of Target for the Capitola Mall, renovation of the Bay Avenue senior apartment complex, the first Styrofoam ban in the state, ending costly mobile home park litigation, and many others.

"This is no small list," he said, noting the work was accomplished despite unprecedented flooding in Capitola Village.

About 50 people, many of them city workers, came for a ceremony to recognize two retiring city employees. Maintenance superintendent Ed Morrison, who has worked for the city 37 years, and city clerk Pam Greeninger, who has worked for the city 32 years, are retiring.

Both Greeninger and Morrison received resolutions commending their dedication to Capitola and the audience gave them a round of applause.

"This is a changing of the guard," Norton said.

Property owners along 41st Avenue raised questions at a public hearing on



TERMINI



HARLAN

a consultant's plan to make over the retail corridor where the Capitola Mall is located.

The City Council commissioned the report because sales tax revenue for the area has dropped 42 percent in the past decade, mostly due to the recession.

Chuck Davis, representing mall owner Macerich, pointed out financial challenges involved in the ideas of building a new street with retail stores to replace the parking lots in front of the mall or putting pla-

zas on the roof.

"It is our duty to put that on the record," he said.

Tom Nelson, a commercial real estate agent with Colliers, said some of his clients own property in the area but were unaware of the workshops conducted in the past year.

"Is it in stone, or is there a chance for input later on?" Nelson asked.

"There will be opportunities, it's not in stone," answered Susan Westman, the city's community development director. "The council is not adopting the plan, just accepting it."

Dr. Brian Schabel, an orthodontist who moved his office into a former bank building on 41st Avenue, pointed out the

benefits of a medical office in the retail corridor.

"We bring hundreds of families into the community who wouldn't be there at times when retail may be very slow," he said.

Norton, who had questioned the value of medical offices and banks in the corridor, acknowledged Schabel's point.

The council agreed 5-0 to accept the consultant's plan although Harlan called it crazy.

"Probably most of it isn't going to happen," she said.

The 41st Avenue area was studied as part of a revision of the general plan, which is still under way.

A new date was set for the public hearing on the closing of Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park in order to meet notification requirements.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m. Jan. 12.

The council voted 3-2 to hire Bob Murray and Associates to recruit a police chief.

The cost is \$19,500 which includes \$4,000 for background checks.

"You can't put an ad on Craigslist," said Councilman Kirby Nicol.

Harlan said the consultant had done the job before and found Chief Rick Ehle.

Councilman Sam Storey contended the task could be handled by staff with the help of volunteers to save the city money.

Norton was the tie-breaker, voting with Nicol and Harlan.

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