

# Living Wage Ordinance passes amid week full of activity

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*Living wage*

With the opening of the Santa Cruz County Fair, FBI raids and the anniversary of Sept. 11, another significant event for the city did not get the recognition it would normally have garnered this week.

The City Council passed its first living wage ordinance Tuesday. After several months of discussion on the topic, the coun-

cil approved the measure 5-2, with Mayor Betty Bobeda and Judy Doering-Nielsen voting against.

Similar to measures passed in Santa Cruz City and Santa Cruz County, the main tenement of the bill is a requirement for all for-profit contractors doing city work to pay their employees a livable wage while they work on the project. All workers who undertake projects that are more than \$10,000 must pay

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their workers \$11.50 an hour with benefits, or \$12.55 without. The requirement only holds to workers who are specifically working on projects for the city, and only when they're actually working on that project.

City staff determined that the law would really affect only about six companies. Non-profit groups are exempted from the ordinance as well social service and communi-

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