

Annexation of Pajaro tops agenda

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STAFF WRITER

WATSONVILLE — A public hearing will be held at tomorrow night's City Council meeting on the possible annexation of Pajaro.

Councilman Dennis Osmer last week made the suggestion that the city look into annexing Pajaro, saying Watsonville and Pajaro are "one community." The idea of annexing Pajaro is not new, but the recent flood has reawakened it.

Watsonville sprang into action hours after the devastating flood earlier this month, offering shelter, food and a variety of social services. It set up a command post on the Watsonville side of Pajaro bridge.

Monterey County emergency relief workers took days to set up. Osmer said Pajaro could benefit from being part of Watsonville.

Pajaro for years has been called the "step child" of Monterey County.

Annexation is not impossible, but it would be fairly difficult, said Pat McCormick, executive director of the Local Agency Formation Commission, a governmental body

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that oversees such things as annexations. State law bars annexation across county lines. It would take an act of the state Legislature to change that law,

McCormick said.

The City Council will meet in an afternoon session, which starts at 4, then reconvene at 7:30 p.m. The Pajaro annexation will be discussed at the 7:30 p.m. session. The meeting will take place at City Hall, 250 Main St. For more information, call 728-6005.