

City, fire district to discuss merger

The Capitola City Council again plans to discuss a proposal to merge the Capitola Fire Department into the city government.

Councilmembers will try to reach an agreement with the directors of the Capitola Fire Protection District, an independent agency that provides fire protection for most of the city of Capitola and the unincorporated areas of Opal Cliffs and a small portion of Soquel that includes restaurant row on Main Street and homes on either side of Capitola Avenue between the freeway and Soquel Drive.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 in the city hall, but city councilmembers were openly skeptical last week that anything will come of the joint meeting.

The City Council thought it had an agreement a couple of years ago to merge the two entities but that fell apart when a couple of the fire district directors flip-flopped and reversed their positions.

Now, says fire director Wayne Fontes, they've flip-flopped again and a majority of the fire board wants to join the city.

The City Council also decided Thursday night to stop issuing street vending permits in Capi-

tola Village after this summer's tourist season is ended.

The council agreed to allow vending this summer but told City Attorney Richard Manning and City Manager Steve Burrell to bring back an ordinance next fall that will ban all forms of street vending in the village.

The ordinance change would be timed to go into effect with the winter vending season.

In other business, the council Thursday night:

✓ Continued, at the request of the park owners and the tenants, a rent increase hearing for Brookvale Terrace Mobile Home Park.

✓ Approved zoning changes for property along Capitola Road between 43rd Avenue and Wharf Road. Changes include making property on both sides of Capitola Road Residential-Commercial (CR) between 45th Avenue and Wharf Road, and Professional Office (PO) on the southwest corner of 45th Avenue and Capitola Road and on the north side of Capitola Road between 45th Avenue and 43rd Avenue.