

Council keeps mum following closed session

Demand for Radin's ouster not heeded

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When the Watsonville City Council emerged from a closed session yesterday that dealt with the firing of Planning Director Bud Carney, Mayor Betty Murphy's only comment was, "No action."

That wasn't what two candidates for City Council wanted; before the closed session, candidates Dan Dodge and Cruz Gomez urged the present council to ask for the resignation of City Manager John Radin, who fired Carney Thursday.

If Radin is in any jeopardy, nobody on the City Council is saying so. The 45-minute closed session included several other items not related to the Carney-Radin situation.

Before the council began a public session on the planning department situation, Dodge and Gomez said Radin should be replaced. Another candidate, Robert Chacanaca, said "there

Lopez was released from the hospital Monday and transferred to jail. He was taken to court in a wheelchair.

needs to be some explanation" of the firing. He also said it came at a difficult time, just before the election.

Gomez, a candidate in District 1, the West Side, blamed Radin for what she called "upheaval" among city workers and said Carney's position was a critical one.

"He (Carney) did try to deal with the community as a whole," Gomez said, which she said Radin hasn't done.

Dodge, a candidate in District 2, the Downtown, said the new City Council that takes office in November "is not going to accept the same old ways."

Chacanaca, who ran for mayor in 1987 and called for Radin's ouster then, did not ask for it yesterday.

Yesterday's special meeting of the City Council was called by Councilman Dennis Osmer for two reasons: To establish priori-

See COUNCIL page 2 ►

COUNCIL

► From page 1

ties for the Planning Department, and for the personnel session.

The firing of Carney and the elimination of Assistant Planning Director Doug Spinelli's job a week ago leaves the Planning Department with three planners, one of whom is leaving at the end of this week to return to school.

Radin said the city's housing rehabilitation program, which Spinelli oversaw, is running smoothly with a two-member staff, separate from the regular planning staff. Radin said the two had been performing 90 percent of the work. Radin had recommended cutting Spinelli's post because some of the funding for it from the federal government ran out.

Radin said there will be a "definite slowdown," in the planning process, but said it won't be drastic and that he is taking steps to fill the vacancies on the

staff.

Radin said he's talked to three retired planners about the possibility of being interim planning director and has already hired a woman to fill the assistant planner's position that's been vacant since June. She starts in two weeks.

Associate Planner Maureen Owens and Radin said the slowdowns will be mainly in large projects, where various environmental reviews make for a slow process to begin with.

"I don't see a great deal of land coming up for development," Radin said. There are only 30 acres of land in the city concerning which an application for development has not been filed, Radin said.

Osmer said the Planning Department has been working at a "tremendous level" and asked for a one-month moratorium on new development applications. He got no support from the three other council members present, Murphy, Joe Marsano and Vido Dretich.