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## Council

# Turns Down Salary Increase

By Jack Rannells

City employees and the proposed public works director took it on the chin last night.

City councilmen could not scratch up the wherewithal to grant \$122,000 in recommended salary increases—or even half that total.

About \$35,000 was approved to correct salary "inequities" for about one-fifth of the 290-man city force.

In spite of the two distasteful, economy steps, the council ended its three-day review of the \$4.1 million 1961-62 preliminary budget with a general fund reserve of only \$53,100—about two-thirds of the desired total.

They made it clear they will ask city voters to lift the \$1.50 per \$100 general fund tax limit before the next budget session rolls around.

"It is unfortunate that employees are the first to be pinched. The public better be ready to help with our development, too, Mayor John Daly said.

Councilman George Wilson suggested that as a matter of principle, other non-operating items such as contributions to the chamber of commerce, should be reduced in relation to the cut in salaries. This proposal will not come up for vote.

Councilman Harold Carriger made the motion to eliminate the recommended across-the-board increase.

"We are all aware that the unbudgeted (\$25,000 on the basis of a compromise half-step raise recommended by the city manager) is not sufficient," Carriger said.

"We also know there is only one place this can be increased. But at least, I think we ought to clear the inequities."

One-step (4.9 per cent) increases were approved for library and recreation and maintenance and construction series; the non-professional engineering staff; the inspection services staff; city manager; city attorney; librarian; meter foreman; equipment superintendent; parks, field services, planning, water and personnel directors; and assistant finance director.

The public works director proposal was tripped up in a 4-3 vote after two absent councilmen were hailed in for final discussion.

City Manager Peter Tedesco had requested the reorganization to provide better control and coordination of the water, engineering, field services, inspection and garage departments.

It should provide more efficient use of personnel, a "program" concept of operation, and better liaison with the administration.

Councilman Paul Forgey waged the winning battle against the change "this year." He argued the \$5500 additional cost cannot be justified "when we are this close to insolvency." He also said that he does not feel Weston Webber (slated for the post) can be spared from full-time chores as water director at present.

Councilmen Forgey, John McBain, Ted Foster and Mayor Daly voted against the proposal. They left the door open for Tedesco to show how the reorganization can be accomplished without added cost.

In reconsideration, councilmen added two items to the budget. One was \$4000 for roofing of civic auditorium. The other was \$1000 for a token start on development of Harvey West park. A \$15,000 item was added for the city's share of aerial mapping of the University of California site.

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