

City Council to honor Graniterock

City manager up for appointment

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WATSONVILLE — Mayor Dennis Osmer will honor Watsonville-based Granite Rock Co. for being selected as one of the "100 best companies to work for in America" at Tuesday evening's city council meeting. The appointment of Interim City Manager Carlos Palacios to the position of city manager and the awarding of a \$449,204 contract to Hydro Tech Inc., for the final phase of repair work on the city's earthquake damaged sewer are also slated for the meeting.

According to city staff, the majority of earthquake repairs have

been completed. All that remains are the replacement of four pipes, the repair of eight pipes and the rehabilitation of 30 others.

Most of the project will be paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which is contributing \$365,303. The balance of \$83,901 will be funded with money drawn from the Waste Water Enterprise Fund.

In addition to the sewer repairs, the council is expected to call for bids for the replacement of a water main along Cutter Drive. Public Works and Utilities Director Eric Frost estimates the cost at \$280,000, to be funded with Waste Water Enterprise Funds.

Characterizing Palacios as having demonstrated "extraordinary abilities and administrative qualifications in the field of government and municipal administration" while performing the duties of interim city manager, the city council has agreed to formally appoint him to the position of city manager for the next three years.

Palacios will receive an annual salary of \$105,195, a monthly auto allowance of \$200, 11 days per year paid administrative leave, 20 days vacation, 13 paid holidays and 10 hours of paid sick leave per month.

Additionally, Palacios will receive a paid insurance package including life insurance, health insurance and long and short-term disability insurance.

Other agenda items are as follows:

- A resolution requesting proposals for provision of customer service, retail merchandising and cashing instruction for Watsonville residents as part of the city's retail job training program.

- A resolution approving the hiring of Berryman and Henigar to provide plan review services throughout the coming year in an amount not to exceed \$80,000. Barryman and Henigar is a San Diego-based consulting firm with offices throughout the state. Services to the

city will be provided by engineers in the firm's Pleasanton office.

- The purchase of a Caterpillar D4 dozer in the amount of \$44,339 for use at the city landfill.

- Approval of a five-year lease agreement with Sonic Cable Television to lease a portion of 505 Buena Vista Drive to be used as a satellite dish site.

- Final adoption of an ordinance adding the Clifford/Arthur Annexation Area to council districts four, represented by City Councilman Todd McFarren, and six, represented by City Councilman Tony Campos. The area was annexed on July 23, 1996.

- A recommendation to adopt an action plan to offset the loss of landscaping and lighting maintenance assessment funds. The city intends to begin charging fees to youth and adult sports groups for the use of city parks, and appoint a citizens' committee to develop a strategy plan for placing the reinstatement of the levy on an upcoming ballot.

Watsonville Mayor Dennis Osmer said the plan to charge the Little League for the use of the parks is still just a staff recommendation and "if people have a problem with it they need to come to the meeting tomorrow and talk to us about it. It is not a done deal and I hope they will come up with alternatives to the fee increase."

The city council will meet in council chambers, 250 Main Street, at 4 p.m. Tuesday.