

Parking plan gets go-ahead

If things go according to schedule, by mid-July it will cost visitors to Capitola who are lucky enough to find a parking place in the village, 50-cents an hour to park their car.

Capitola City Council members Thursday night gave the go-ahead for a computerized parking project which will operate seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Stephanie Harlan, new to the City Council, tried to stop the paid-parking, saying local business owners were upset with the project. She and Dennis Beltram voted against the project, which passed on a 3-2 vote. They also argued for a charge of 25-cents per hour and reduced hours of enforcement. They were successful in having the hours of operation trimmed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. to the approved 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but failed in their efforts to cut the hourly fee in half.

Money from the parking fees will be used for the city to purchase Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park. Part of the property will be used for parking places.

In other business:

✓ Councilmembers asked the planning staff for a recommendation at the May 24 meeting, on the proposed installation of artificial seaweed in the surf off Grand Avenue, which is said to help prevent erosion. According to Susan Tupper, assistant city planner, there is new, but "disturbing" information on the seaweed, which was used for similar purposes in Long Beach, but apparently with little or no success, and that claims made by the installer "are under much criticism."

The project is expected to cost more than \$160,000, if approved.

✓ Councilmembers returned to the Planning Commission what councilman Bob Bucher called "grossly incomplete" plans for an office building on 45th Avenue and Capitola Road. The plans were previously approved by the commission, but council members agreed the 7,900 square foot complex, as presented, did not have sufficient quality for that location.

"I want you to go back from scratch and start over," Bucher told applicant Robert Longacre, who promised to resubmit plans "just the way you want them."

✓ The plan to annex some 13.5 acres behind Capitola Mall moved forward, as councilmembers voted unanimously in favor of the annexation. The land is zoned for residential use by the county, and includes property bordered by Deanes Lane on the north, Clares Street on the south, Gross Road on the west and Capitola City boundaries on the east.

The Local Agency Formation Commission will take the request by the City of Capitola under consideration, and approval, if granted, could take several months.

REFEREN

APPROVED