

Cable TV rate hike proposed

A request by Sonic Cable TV to raise cable rates will be considered by the City Council tonight.

In a letter to the city manager, Sonic general manager Les Johnson asks for an increase in the residential service charge from \$8 a month to \$8.95 a month for the first cable connection in a home, and from \$1.50 to \$2 for each additional cable hookup.

Johnson also wants an increase in cable fees charged to mobile home parks, apartment buildings and commercial establishments, and for an increase in the connection charge from \$15 to \$20.

Sonic has not raised its rates since 1981, Johnson told the city manager, but since that time it has seen a large increase in its operating expenses. Three channels have been added to Sonic's program — Lifetime, Music TV and public broadcasting channel KETH — since 1982, Johnson said, and Sonic plans to add several additional channels.

City Manager John Radin is recommending the council approve the rate increase.

Also on the council's agenda is an agreement to sell the water system in Pajaro to the Pajaro Community Service District. The resolution "approves in concept" the sale, although no price has been agreed to by the city and district.

The agreement calls for each agency to secure two appraisals of the water system. If negotiations between the two do not produce a settlement on the purchase price by March 15, the district can pursue eminent domain proceedings to gain ownership of the water system, under the agreement to be considered by the council tonight.

The contract specifies that the city agrees not to challenge the eminent domain proceedings, during which the court will determine the fair sale price of the water system.

The community service district has designed a \$2 million plan to purchase the water system from the city and make major improvements in the system.

The council meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.