

# Cityhood's advantages outlined

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The proposed incorporation of Aptos would give the area more government services than it's getting now, a spokesman for the incorporation drive told a gathering of business people yesterday.

Incorporation isn't a cure-all, but it would provide more police protection and other services and give the community local control, Tom Carmody told 20 people at a lunch meeting of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business at Deer Park Tavern.

Carmody is one of the leaders of the Aptos Incorporation Group, which will launch a campaign next month to get the 12,000 or so signatures required to put the incorporation question on the ballot. The Incorporation Group has been laying the groundwork for the petition drive for nearly a year.

Carmody's speech was one of the first in a series of about 15 presentations he and other incorporation proponents will be making to various groups over the next four weeks.

Carmody's statements yesterday didn't differ from what he's been saying since the incorporation effort began.

He emphasized the police protection issue, noting that the preliminary studies on incorporation call for having two patrol officers on duty at all times, double the present service from the Sheriff's Office.

The county Planning Department, Carmody said, can't devote the attention to Aptos that a city planning staff could.

He said Aptos doesn't seem to have an overall plan or "architectural look," adding that some small projects "seem to get through" without enough scrutiny.

A consultant has determined there are no "fatal flaws" that would make incorporation financially unfeasible, Carmody noted. The city would have a \$3.5 million budget in its first year, with no increase in taxes.

Myron Jacobs, a consulting engineer and former member of the county Planning Department staff, told Carmody that cities are required to have Coastal Plans and specific rules for development near the coast.

Jacobs asked whether any projects on the coast would be held up until a plan could be adopted (a process of about a year) or whether Aptos could use the county's plan in the interim.

Carmody wasn't sure, but said it's common for new cities to use existing county regulations until adopting their own.

The petition drive, originally set to begin April 30, has been pushed back to May 15, Carmody said.