

1984

# Council approves \$30.9 million 1983-84 budget

By STEVE SHENDER

The Watsonville City Council voted formal approval of the city's \$30.9 million 1983-84 budget Tuesday evening and told applicants for a share of the city's revenue sharing funds that the cupboard was bare.

City Manager John Radin announced at the outset of a public hearing on the budget and revenue sharing that \$100,000 in revenue sharing funds which the city is sure to get in the coming fiscal year had, in effect, already been spent. Radin said that the money would go, as it has for the past several years, to defray construction costs for the city's new police station. Therefore, he said, none of it would be available for community service organizations.

The city manager said that Watsonville could receive as much as \$300,000 more in revenue-sharing money once the 1983-84 federal budget is approved, provided Congress does not cut the federal program, which kicks back a portion of U.S. tax receipts to city, county and state governments. Radin said that if the city receives the additional money, another public hearing will be held before it is allocated.

Requesting a piece of the city's revenue sharing action Tuesday night were spokesmen for the California Grey Bears and Youth Services. Joan Roberts, of the Grey Bears, asked for \$2,500 to help finance the group's "brown bag" program which, she said, currently serves 411 elderly persons in Watsonville. Youth Services spokesmen asked for \$15,696.

Not present at the hearing Tuesday evening was Eleanore Eisenberg, a Legal Aid attorney who last year filed a complaint with the U.S. Treasury Department over the city's revenue sharing procedures. (Last year, as this year, Radin announced at the beginning of the hearing that all of the city's revenue sharing funds would be used for the police station and none would be available for community groups.) Ms. Eisenberg, who said today that she had not received notice of the hearing, said that Treasury officials had declined to act on her complaint. She said she was currently considering filing suit to force the city to redistribute its revenue sharing money.

Also asking for money, but from the city's general fund, was Maureen Boyle of the Santa Cruz County Cultural Council. Mrs. Boyle asked for \$5,000 — \$2,500 to support the Spectra program, which brings artists into area schools, and \$2,500 for the council's grants program, to help pay for free concerts and theatrical performances in Watsonville. Mrs. Boyle noted that the grants program had sup-

ported a variety of cultural events in town, such as performances by Shakespeare/Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz County Symphony, a classical guitarist and a vibraphonist. The program has also provided support for the Esperanza del Valle Mexican folk-dance group, she said.

Mrs. Boyle also told the council that any money the city gave to the Cultural Council would be matched dollar-for-dollar by the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities.

Her request for funds received support from Mayor Ann Soldo and Councilwoman Betty Murphy Tuesday night, but from no one else on the council. Councilmen Frank Osmer and Rex Clark said that action on Mrs. Boyle's request should be deferred until the state Legislature and Gov. Deukmejian resolve their differences over the state's 1983-84 budget, and the city knows for sure how much it can expect to receive from the state in motor-vehicle-fee, business-inventory and cigarette-tax "subventions" (returns) next year.

In other matters Tuesday evening, the council:

—Approved an ordinance imposing fees on developers in the Airport and Freedom industrial parks, to pay for installation of street lights on Airport Boulevard and for widening of the road.

—Voted approval of separate agreements with the Association of Watsonville Area Seniors and the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, for the continuation of a mostly state-funded hot-lunch program at the Watsonville Senior Center.

—Extended for six months a lease option agreement with a trio of San Jose developers who are seeking to renovate the Porter Building. The building, at Main and Maple streets, is owned by the city. The council gave developer John Norberg until Dec. 11 to find a tenant for the building and pick up his option. "If that doesn't happen," said Clark, who proposed the six-month extension as a compromise, "then we'll put the building on the market and get rid of it once and for all to the highest bidder."

—Approved a new, 12-month contract for city Redevelopment Director Russ Hoss, who will continue to work for the city as a half-time, private consultant at \$1,800 a month.

—Approved a contract with the county for use of County Rehabilitation Facility inmates for custodial work around town. The city has used Rehab inmates for some time, Radin and Police Chief Ray Belgard told the council, but without any formal agreement.