

Capitola OKs big budget

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CAPITOLA — The city's largest-ever \$6.7 million budget was formally approved by the City Council Thursday night.

The budget represents a 72-percent increase over this year's \$3.9 million budget. It features numerous ambitious projects.

More than \$1 million will be spent in an attempt to solve the long-standing parking problem in Capitola Village. It includes the city's controversial plan to go into the mobile home park business, as well as the purchase of a permanent shuttle bus parking lot and installation of computerized parking banks downtown to raise revenue for the mobile home park purchase.

The budget also includes nearly \$600,000 for the construction of a community center/gymnasium at New Brighton Middle School and \$250,000 to implement a five-year road maintenance program — a program that will eventually repave or slurry seal every residential street in the city.

All of the projects are scheduled to be completed without any tax burden on residents. The council earlier formed a Public Facilities Corporation, which will allow the city to buy bonds to pay for the shuttle bus lot purchase and construction of the community center/gymnasium.

The council's generosity with the budget even came through in their allocation of federal revenue sharing funds. Ten of the 11 community organizations requesting funds were at least partially funded.

The \$49,356 in revenue sharing funds allocated is 40 percent more than the \$29,438 doled out last year to eight of 13 groups. It is also well over the \$35,000 recommended to be allocated by City Manager Steve Burrell in the preliminary budget.

Groups receiving funding with the amount allocated include: Food and Nutrition, \$24,056; California Grey Bears, \$5,000; Youth Services,

\$4,000; Capitola Chamber of Commerce, \$3,500; Senior Citizens' Legal Services, \$2,400; Cultural Council, \$2,200 (of which \$1,200 is requested to be given to the Santa Cruz County Symphony Association); Capitola Community Channel 8, \$1,700 and Retired Senior Volunteer Program, \$1,500.

The one drawback with doling out more revenue sharing funds than proposed is a possible delay in plans to construct another community center at Jade Street Park.

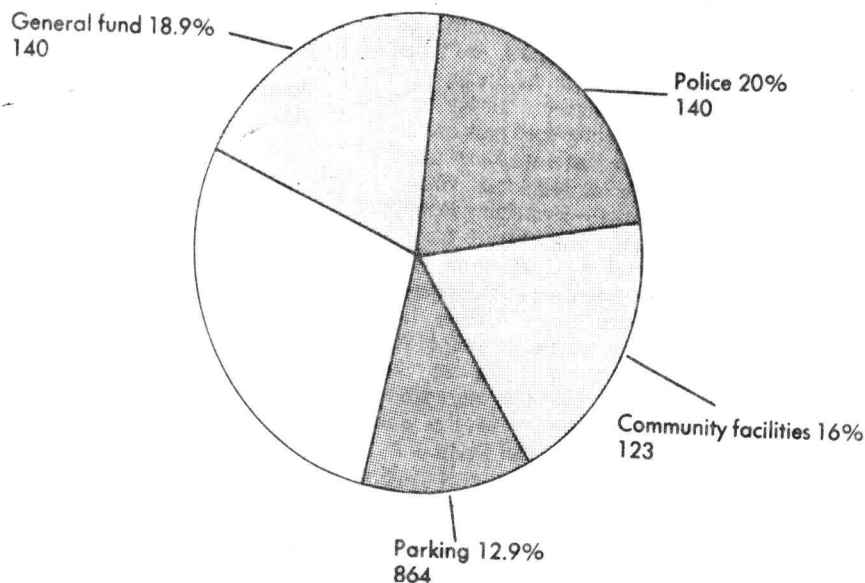
Burrell had earmarked \$35,000 in revenue sharing funds to go into the start-up fund for the center. A combination of increased allocations and a decrease in anticipated revenue sharing funds, however, lowered the community center allocation to \$9,694.

Just such a possibility had been feared by Mayor Michael Routh and Councilman Bob Bucher during revenue sharing study sessions earlier. They argued with Councilwoman Stephanie Harlan, who favored allocating as much money as possible to community groups. Routh and Bucher warned that whatever they gave to groups would come out of the community center fund.

City of Capitola

Budget approval

1984-1985 (In thousands)



Burrell conceded afterward that the drastic drop in funding for the Jade Street Park community center "could possibly impact it (the project)."

He added, however, that the \$36,000 earmarked would have only acted as "seed money" toward the construction fund. At present, the city has only about \$75,000 in that fund — well short of enough to actually begin construction.

Specifically, the budget sets aside \$364,400 for the purchase of Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park, which will eventually be partially converted into a parking lot for downtown visitors. Another \$180,000 will go toward development of the permanent shuttle bus lot on McGregor Drive and more than \$100,000 will be spent on the purchase and installation of computerized parking banks downtown.

The single, largest expenditure in the budget is \$1.4 million for the Police Department. It is only 3 percent higher than this past year.

Of the 15 general-fund expenditure categories, three will be down from this past year. Most of the others are only up moderately due to cost of living increases.