

Chamber Submits Quarterly Report To City Council

The quarterly report of the chamber of commerce was read to the city council last night with apologies for its sketchiness in view of the scope and magnitude of chamber activities since the December flood.

Touching briefly on the organization's major community contributions during and after the immediate emergency, the document recounted that the chamber had, among other things:

Aided flood evacuees; selected the local advisory committee which approved nearly \$500,000 in three per cent federal loans to businessmen and home owners by the small business administration; advised Red Cross disaster officials; cooperated in setting up a federally-aided urban renewal program; assisted army engineers in a survey that estimated Santa Cruz flood losses at \$7,500,000.

In other fields, the chamber is preparing a master harbor plan, has supported the proposed "loop" route to the beach and is still trying to resolve the uncertain status of the closed Casa Del Rey hotel, the report stated.

Secretary-Manager Ralph Ring expressed the chamber's gratitude for the continued cooperation and support given by the council.

A request from 16 merchants in the vicinity of the Pacific avenue-Soquel avenue intersection for a "scramble system" traffic control that would permit pedestrians to cross the intersections in all directions simultaneously on a given signal was laid over so councilmen can study the reports and recommendations of Police Chief Al Huntsman and Inspection Director Walter Keller.

Huntsman offered two alternative plans for instituting the system. Keller estimated the cost of re-signaling the intersection at \$1200.

City Attorney Lester Burns was requested to bring condemnation proceedings leading to city acquisition of an unoccupied house and property at 220 Walnut avenue immediately to the rear of the telephone building.

City Manager Robert Klein, currently in Washington seeking federal flood control funds from congress, addressed a letter to the council urging the step.

Klein said the former owner died recently and the will is in probate, with the estate to go to the state. Under the circumstances, Klein said, condemnation was in order as the most practical means of obtaining the property for use as a Walnut avenue entrance to the civic auditorium parking lot.

Klein's letter said \$6900 in state matching funds was available to be applied against the eventual purchase price as an addition to civic center property.

Councilman George Penniman raised the possibility that a city parking authority — the off-

(The first public hearing on the proposed designation will be held next Wednesday evening in the council chamber before the city planning commission.)

And the council finally straightened out a complicated property and construction problem that has been holding up building of two homes at 533 and 543 High street, on the south side of the High street curve that lies to the west of the Dr. Mahlon McPherson residence.

Builder Gordon Palmer, faced with a sharp falling-away of ground that amounts to a bluff, originally asked for a reduction in front yard minimum requirements so he could build on solid earth.

Then it was found that the city owned a strip of land between the private property and the curb line. The variance, had not city ownership been discovered, would have authorized construction of the homes on city property.

The council solved the problem by appraising the city property — a narrow strip 12 feet wide and over 200 feet wide — and then splitting it approximately down the middle and offering the portion farthest from the curb for sale.

H. A. Sundean, the owner of the land on which the houses are to go, submitted the sole bid, \$500. The council accepted it last night and then completed the final bit of red tape by granting Builder Palmer his variance.

Jury Trial Set On Driving Charge

A jury trial was set for Thursday at 10 a.m. by Judge James J. Scoppettone after Joseph B. Gersbach of Brookdale, pleaded innocent to a charge of drunk driving.

Gersbach, 62, appeared in municipal court this morning. He was involved in a two-car collision near Felton which resulted in five persons suffering minor injuries. According to a California Highway patrol report, a car driven by Gersbach was in collision with a vehicle driven by a Kenwood logger. The mishap occurred on a sharp curve on Highway 9, March 20.

Severe cuts were sustained by the defendant. His wife and two children received minor cuts, and bruises.

Universal Way

Plastic Garden Hose



body — might take over the property in question some day and provide additional reimbursement to the city's general fund, which will have to take up the slack between state matching funds and the actual price.

A request for council approval of permitting the county to have a five-foot strip of land bordering Cherryvale avenue in the Soquel area was referred to the water commission for a recommendation.

The land is owned by the Monterey Bay Redwood company, but the city has an option on it — along with some 4500 acres of the Soquel creek watershed — against the chance of future purchase as a dam site.

The actual strip involved is part of the old Hihn railroad grade which is 40 feet wide altogether. The county wants five feet in order to widen Cherryvale avenue.

Along with a request for the commission's views will go Penniman's suggestion that if the commission is in favor of the transfer it recommend that the city retain an easement for utility lines.

Formation of a proposed assessment district for street improvements on Caledonia street and Peck terrace remained stalled by reason of the fact that owners of only 56 per cent of the property affected have signed the petition.

Ken Jones, San Mateo assessment lawyer, said under state law the council could order the district formed even if 60 per cent of ownership—the minimum in voluntary assessment proceedings — were not represented.

Penniman said he would go along with the suggestion if the owners of the remaining 44 per cent are not actively opposed to the district. But first the council should find out how they feel, he said.

A request from the Santa Cruz county youth committee for the council's permission to study city files and data concerning youth activities was turned over to the city manager's office for study.

The county probation committee is supporting the request, but there was some question among councilmen as to whether the survey would entail taking city personnel away from their normal duties.

Planning matters passed on to the council included a copy of the planning commission's recently-passed resolution of intention to amend the municipal code by creation of the classification of professional zone.

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