

# Radin sets June 1 retirement date

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Watsonville City Manager John Radin will begin his retirement June 1, according to a letter sent to the City Council.

Because of accrued vacation time, however, his official retirement date will be Oct. 31.

Radin, who has worked for the city for 28 years, indicated at the end of last year that he would be leaving in the fall.

Asked whether the earlier date was part of a retirement deal the council made with Radin — and later rescinded — Councilman Parr Eves said, "probably originally it was." Eves said Radin is planning to leave in June no matter what the council decides about the retirement deal that boosted his salary on paper in order to give him a bigger check in his retirement.

Radin was out of town and not available for comment this

morning.

The deal involved reporting the value of Radin's benefits as salary to the Public Employees Retirement System in order to increase his retirement benefits. Although council members unanimously approved a resolution giving Radin a pay raise, allowing his benefits to be reported as salary, and giving him free health benefits for life, several later said they didn't fully understand what they were approving. The council later rescinded the agreement.

Eves said a new resolution regarding Radin's pay raise and retirement agreement will come before the council at its May 8 meeting.

Radin will be out of town for three weeks starting at the end of the month, Eves said, so he will attend only one more council meeting, on May 22. Assistant City Manager Chuck Comstock will be acting as city

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manager until a new one is hired.

In the meantime, a committee consisting of Eves, Comstock, Councilwoman Betty Murphy, Mayor Todd McFarren, Comstock's secretary and City Clerk Lorraine Washington has begun the process of seeking a new city manager. Eves said the committee will be sending questionnaires to various local groups asking them what qualities they think are important in a city manager. Those re-

sponses will be included in recruitment brochures put out by the city, he said.

Resumes for applicants will be due June 30, Eves said. The resumes will be screened from July 1 to July 20 and interviews will begin Aug. 1, he said. Finalists will be selected by about Aug. 17. The new manager will be hired by Oct. 1.

Eves said that Comstock has not indicated whether he will be applying for the position, but that he will not be on the committee once recruitment begins. Comstock was also unavailable for comment this morning.