

Capitola to spend \$50,316 on conventional parking meters

The purchase of 201 parking meters at a cost of \$50,316, was approved Thursday night by the Capitola City Council.

The meters, which will be installed and operating in the next 45-60 days, will replace the controversial computerized parking banks that the council decided to scrap last month following a short-lived experiment.

In an effort to recover some of the \$75,000 cost of switching

from the parking banks to conventional meters, the council is considering extending the pay parking hours to 8 p.m. in the Village. Councilmen Dennis Beltram and Bob Bucher wanted to approve the change Thursday night but Mayor Michael Routh, and councilmembers Stephanie Harlan and Jerry Clarke opted to wait for two weeks after learning that a delay would not hold up delivery of the parking meters.

Routh suggested extending the hours that the parking meters operate after the council authorized their purchase, saying that the city needed to recover some of the money lost in the switch from banks to meters.

Harlan argued that it wasn't fair to the Village residents and business owners to decide on the extension without first consulting them.

Beltram said he didn't think

anyone could present new information to the council.

"I have all the public input I need — possibly more," Beltram said.

Bucher said he was just tired of the whole subject. "I don't want to listen to anyone. I have heard everything that anyone could say," he told the other councilmembers.

Clarke and Harlan said they wanted to wait and Routh pro-

vided the third vote needed for the delay, saying the council should wait "out of courtesy to the Village merchants."

The council will not hold a public hearing on the issue. Routh said the item would be scheduled under the "old business" section of the agenda and only a couple of group representatives would be allowed to speak.

The council did approve a request from City Manager

Steve Burrell to declare five of the nine parking banks "surplus" so they can be resold to other cities and companies who have expressed an interest in the \$9,000 machines.

Burrell told the council that the city might be able to recover 80-85 percent of the purchase price (approximately \$9,000 each) by selling the banks. The city spent another \$1,000 each installing the meters in the city.