

Anatomy Of Santa Cruz' 75 - 76 Budget

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A thickish book decorated with a red-white-blue motif and a sassy eagle is introducing to City of Santa Cruz residents a final \$19,034,269 budget they'll have to help support during fiscal year 1975-76.

Then on a pink page inside (it's never well to use red in financial documents) the budget details are introduced by photographs of the Santa Cruz City Council members who approved them: Mayor Sally DiGirolamo, Vice Mayor

John Mahaney, Lawrence Edler, Carole DePalma, Charlotte Melville, Bert Muhly and Joseph Ghio.

From the viewpoint of these officials and City Manager David Koester the budget highlight is that the city was able to cut its tax rate by 5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation despite inflation costs and pay raises for the city workers.

The feat was in part accomplished by dipping somewhat into the city's reserve, cutting some half-million dollars from requested departmental budgets, the elimination of some city jobs... and then a final effort by the council to pare some costs still further.

The tax cut was the fifth consecutive annual cut in the city tax rate, reducing it to \$1.98 per \$100 of assessed value.

When the cut was made the council members frankly told their constituents they would still pay out more tax dollars this year than last year because of increases in property valuations.

The city's whopping budget calls for operating costs of \$12,287,583 and for capital expenditures totaling an estimated \$6,746,686.

To pay the difference between total expenditures and estimated revenues, the city will take \$4,544,265 from appropriate bond accounts and reserves which were held available for appropriation at the start of this fiscal year. The bonding accounts and reserves were about \$9.3 million last July 1.

These appropriations will leave about \$5.3 million in these accounts for appropriation at the start of next fiscal year.

The final budget shows that estimated revenues will be as follows from major income sources.

General Property Taxes (including secured, unsecured, state property tax and back taxes) — \$1,675,300.

Other Local Taxes — \$1,139,500. Major taxes in this category are expected to yield the following revenues: sales and use tax \$825,000, cigarette tax \$135,000, transient occupancy tax \$70,000, electric and gas franchise \$48,000, television franchise \$23,500.

Licenses and Permits — \$157,200.

Fines and Forfeits — \$106,500 (including \$100,000 from parking violations).

Investments — \$300,000.

Revenues From Other Agencies — \$523,000 (such as state motor vehicle in-lieu tax yield of \$330,000).

Gasoline Tax — \$826,000.

Library — \$847,060, including a \$490,560 contribution from the county and a city library tax.

Water — \$2,331,250.

Sewer Service — \$764,750.

Refuse Service — \$1,083,000.

Parking — \$180,000.

Wharf — \$262,400. Golf Course — \$225,000.

Federal Revenue Sharing — \$570,000.

Federal Housing and Community Development — \$350,000.

The city taxes are levied against land with an estimated assessed valuation of \$49,365,820, according to budget figures. Assessed value of improvements is put at an estimated \$76,132,680, while personal property is put at an assessed value of \$21,206,400.

Net taxable property assessed valuation is put at an estimated \$125,623,530.

The city tax rate of \$1.98 per \$100 against property includes a \$1.25 general fund plus tax levies as follows for other fund categories: retirement 35 cents, library fund 26 cents, library bonds 3 cents, flood control fund 4 cents and bond debt service 5 cents.

In the offstreet parking district an additional tax of 60 cents per \$100 is levied.

Expenditures for major city operations are given in the budget in detailed summaries.

Some are: police \$1,534,084, fire \$823,220, parks and recreation \$686,957, library \$1,017,380, public works \$2,968,587, water \$5,033,812, planning \$394,422, finance \$194,285.

It should be noted that sewer and refuse collection operations conducted by the public works department generate revenues that make them basically self-supporting. Water service and timbering provided by the water department make this activity essentially self-supporting, as well.

Indeed, income earned by the city's "enterprise" activities, comes to \$4,886,500, or close to a third of the total revenues the city expects to have in 1975-76.

In addition to water, sewer and refuse operations, the city's "enterprise" activities are parking, the Municipal Wharf and the DeLaveaga Golf Course.

The city's capital expen-

ditures for this fiscal year cover a multitude of projects, all of which are detailed in a special section at the rear of the budget book.

The water department will expend \$2.97 million for projects, including the Felton Dam and the Bay Street reservoir

roof.

The city will continue its parks program and neighborhood beautification projects through an outlay of \$567,660. There will be \$956,800 worth of improvements to sewers and storm drains, \$882,000 worth of street improvements and even

\$75,000 worth of improvements to the old civic auditorium.

The 1975-76 budget has a major improvement over that presented last year: now the interested taxpayer can find in each department breakdown the salary ranges of directors and other workers, as well as

the traditional listing of other costs.

And speaking of personnel: the council has authorized 411 city positions, with 104 of these assigned to public works, 68 to the police, 51 to the finance department and 42 to the fire department.

The finance department handles much more than money: its responsibilities include purchasing, management of the city corporation yard and its maintenance and repair services, maintenance of city buildings and the auditorium, and data processing.

PG&E Official Issues Downed Line Warning

"Complacency can be dangerous, even fatal, when it comes to downed power lines," according to Wayne Matthews, district manager for PG&E.

Even the experts treat all downed lines as hot lines, although safety features on the equipment normally de-energize a line when trouble occurs.

The warning is especially important at this time, Matthews pointed out, as the fall winds and winter rains will bring down thousands upon thousands of tree limbs, snapping power lines and bringing the danger.

Capitola Zone Hearing Monday

Revision of the City of Capitola's zoning ordinance will be the subject of a public hearing before the city council Monday, convening at 7:30 p.m. in city hall.

The council also will hear an appeal of Eric Horn on the Capitola Planning Commission's decision to require placement of sidewalks as part of a mini-storage project near 41st Avenue.

Second reading of an ordinance annexing and zoning the Sutter Hill shopping center property on 41st Avenue also is slated, as is consideration of a use permit for a drive-in photo shop at 41st and Capitola Road.

Other business will include discussion of planning commission appointments.

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