

# Where Does Charter Revision Begin?

By BILL NEUBAUER  
Sentinel Staff Writer

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The reproof followed a lengthy, nondecisive committee discussion of 11 subquestions devolved from the central question of whether future Santa Cruz mayors should be

elected directly by the people or designated (through election) by the city council.

Nancy Matlock, a candidate for the city council, then elaborated on her reproof, saying: "Listening to you, I feel a great sense of frustration as a deductive reasoner. You are doing this inductively, trying to come to a decision from the ground up. It's like talking about a CETA position and discussing the salary, not the job."

Matlock suggested the committee might get somewhere much faster if it would "start from the premise of a strong mayor or a strong manager and work down."

Committee Chairman Paul Niebanck conceded he is indeed an inductive reasoner... then scheduled another committee discussion next week on a flock of subquestions and the main question still waiting to be decided.

Actually, only the main ques-

tion of how future mayors should be chosen was slated for committee discussion during its regular weekly meeting at Heiner House. However, Niebanck reported that the agenda subcommittee thought that more substantive progress might be made in deciding the main question if answers were first provided for pertinent subquestions.

The hope appeared to be that if specifics regarding the functions of future mayors could be agreed to, then these could be used as the bases for decision on how future mayors should be chosen.

But the committee bogged down in efforts to arrive at consensus agreements on answers to more than half the subquestions, and it never did get around to discussing the main question.

The 11 subquestions posed by Niebanck are:

1. Should the mayor chair the council? The consensus answer is that the mayor does this now and should continue to do so.

2. How shall a vacancy be filled if the mayor leaves office before the end of the term? The consensus answer is that the council shall appoint a mayor from citizens at large (but not excluding councilmembers) to serve until the next municipal election.

3. Shall there be a limit on the number of successive terms a mayor may have? There was no consensus opinion on this. The committee divided 7 to 5 in favor of no limits on terms, and the question will be back for more discussion.

4. Shall the mayor be given the right to vote, vote and veto, or veto? Consensus opinion is that the mayor should have voting powers but not veto powers.

5. Shall the mayor be given the power to control the city council meeting agendas? The consensus opinion is that the mayor should be involved in agenda preparation. However, a strong objection from Committeeman Michaelangelo Rosato was recorded.

6. Shall the mayor have budget responsibility? The consensus is that budget preparation involves the setting of policy, and the group divided 6 to 4 in favor of having the mayor participate in budget preparation. Others wanted the mayor to control the preparation.

7. How long should a mayor's term be? There was no consensus opinion. But this was tied into the answer to question 3 and there were indications the subject of the length of the term and the number of terms a mayor may have will come up for further discussion.

8. Shall the mayor serve full-time or parttime? There was no consensus opinion, for it was claimed this could not be decided until the committee has decided if the mayor will be strong individually, strong in combination with the council, or in much the same position the job has now.

9. How much salary shall the mayor be paid? There was no consensus opinion for the same reason cited on question 8.

10. Shall the mayor have the power to hire or fire department heads? The consensus opinion is that the mayor should participate as representative of the council.

11. Shall the mayor have political and administrative responsibility, or how shall this be differentiated? There was no consensus opinion.

It was this last question and the method used to approach it that troubled several on the committee, as well as Matlock.

Committeewoman Ann Garni several times declared for a strong mayor and she wanted to get to this last question so that the strength of the mayor could be defined. And others indicated unease with trying to cope with questions they felt could not be answered until the role of the mayor is defined.

In general, committee comments indicated there are now advocates for a "strong" mayor, for a strengthening of the mayor-council position relative to the city manager, for a stronger council.

But with the main question still to be approached, the committee now appears to be settling down for a long, long haul in developing a charter the city residents may live with as long or longer than they have with the current charter.

Still to be discussed, for example, are these other listed central questions:

1. The city council. 2. Top administration. 3. Subordinate administration (department heads). 4. Commissions and boards. 5. Neighborhood involvement. 6. Consideration of a charter preamble.

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### Capitola Airport, Over And In

If Capitola's city fathers ever decide to open an international airport, Santa Cruz's George Morse can lead them directly to a good landing site. Morris was flying his private plane over the ocean around midday Wednesday when it developed engine trouble. Rather than ditch the plane in the ocean, he looked for a prime landing spot on the ground; he rejected a plan to land on a beach, because of the number of people there, and instead chose this vacant lot off Capitola

Road and 45th Avenue, as reported in Wednesday's Sentinel. He flew the plane under the telephone wires and it coasted to a safe landing in the field. Nobody was hurt, and the plane was not damaged. The plane didn't stay around for long, however. Capitola police reported that Morris disassembled the plane within two hours and carted it off back home. Officers said he built the plane himself.

### Community Hospital Given Use Of Its Body Scanner

Authority has been granted by the California Department of Health for Community Hos-

pital to use its body scanner, according to Harold Sundean, Community's founder and administrator.

Additionally, the department has dismissed all causes of action against the hospital for its installation and use of the scanner under terms of recent state legislation governing purchase and use of hospital equipment in excess of \$150,000.

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However, the health department has dropped this issue.

The computerized X-ray device provides doctors and other health care specialists with the means to obtain quickly and easily much health information about a patient that was in the past extremely difficult to get.

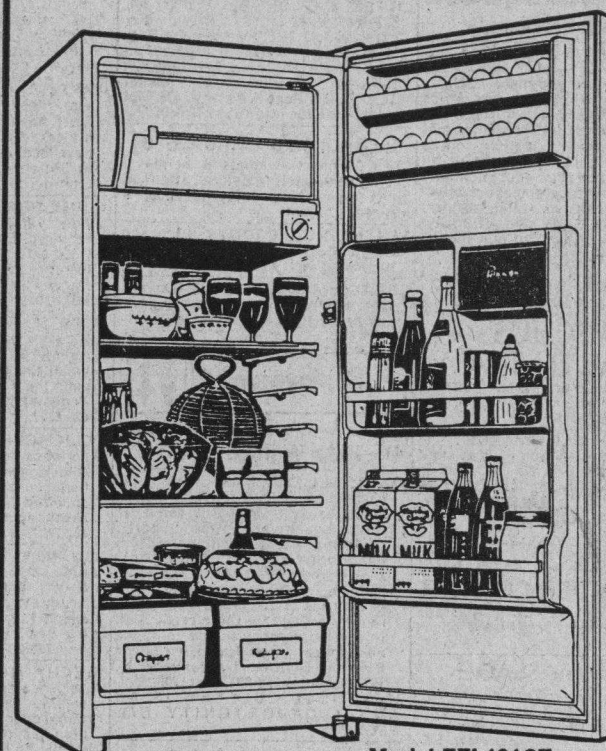
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