

Fire and Fire Protection to 1989

Capitola Begins Procedure To Take Over Fire District

The Capitola City Council unanimously decided Monday night to begin work on taking over the Capitola Fire Protection District.

Outlining the reasons behind this action, City Manager Max Kludt said, "It would give the city control, number one, and it also allows for the use of funds other than direct property taxes for the operation of the fire district. So, we could probably reduce what people are paying in overall property tax for fire protection."

The change also would mean the council acts at district directors, rather than a separate elected board.

Kludt added that the city control of the district is far from finalized. The request must go to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFC) and the Board of Supervisors for approval.

If the fire district's board of commissioners doesn't unanimously approve the change in control, the proposal must go to a vote of the people, Kludt explained.

The move was prompted by a request by LAFC several months ago for the Capitola Fire Protection District and the Live Oak Fire Protection Dis-

trict to study possible changes in boundaries and department size to provide better fire protection.

Since Capitola annexed the Capitola Mall area on 41st Avenue, a confusing situation has come about. The Capitola Fire District boundaries extend outside the city limits, but the mall area is still within the jurisdiction of the Live Oak Fire District.

The council is suggesting that the district boundaries stay the same.

Parking was another matter on the council's mind Monday night as it voted to establish no parking zones on 41st Avenue between Capitola Road and Clares Street, Capitola Road from 41st Avenue to Bulb Avenue, and on the east side of Monterey Avenue from El Camino Medio to Escalona Drive.

The council also discussed the possibility of installing parking meters in the village area. Instead of this move, the council decided to enlarge the two-hour limited parking areas in the village.

Kludt said this decision came about after a request from the Village Association to preserve the village area parking for commercial purposes, rather than recreational purposes.

In another traffic-related matter,

the council generally concurred with a report by the county traffic engineering department on transportation changes in the Depot Hill area.

The report suggests Cliff Drive be one-way in a southerly direction, for Grand Avenue to remain one-way in an easterly direction, plus a three-way stop at Escalona Drive and Oakland Avenue.

Traffic problems at the 41st Avenue overpass area also cropped up, with Kludt informing the council that he will meet with a representative from CALTRANS Friday to discuss traffic signals at both ends of the overpass.

This would be a joint effort among CALTRANS, the city and the county, Kludt added.

Festivities also were on the council's agenda, with the council approving a parade permit for the grand opening of the Capitola Mall on April 21. A parade of antique cars will start out from the city hall at 9:45 a.m., head through the village area up to Bay Avenue, loop back through the village and up Capitola Road to the mall.

The council also approved a request by Sears to hold a parking lot sale from April 18-24.

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