

Sonic Cable TV seeks renewal

CAPITOLA — Sonic Cable Television is offering to expand its current 19 channel capability to 24 within two years if the City Council accepts its current renewal offer.

The offer will be discussed Thursday night by Capitola's cable television committee. Sonic's offer is part of its attempts to renew its operating franchise in the city.

Sonic has been the franchiser in Capitola for about eight years. The franchise, extended last spring by the City Council, will expire at the end of this year.

City Manager Steve Burrell, however, has been directed to prepare an emergency ordinance which would extend the franchise until March 30, 1984 in order for public hearings to be conducted.

Sonic senior vice president Les Johnson maintained that the company's offer is simply "to keep pace with any other cable system in the tri-county area."

The new channels that Sonic is committed to at this time include Disney, USA Cable Network, Nashville Network, Christian Broadcasting Network and Daytime and the Arts, according to Johnson.

If requested by the city, Sonic is also prepared to offer the Playboy Channel as well.

The FM radio stations available on cable will be increased from 13 to 25 stations. The present system is capable of two-way transmissions, which means that services such as television banking and television shopping could be available.

Schools will have the ability to be interconnected over Sonic's system. The company is also proposing to continue to maintain the existing community access channel (Community Channel 8).

Thursday night's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Capitola City Hall.