

# Council To Gripe To UC About Alarm Abuse At UCSC

By Don Righetti  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Santa Cruz City Councilman Eugene Fleming said the city is caught in an "unfair situation" but should not use "a big stick" to browbeat UCSC into shaping up its fire alarm situation.

Fleming referred at Tuesday night's council meeting to an agreement which calls for the city to provide the campus with fire protection. The contract was made in an effort to lure UCSC to this location, but since then the local fire department has been plagued by a rash of false alarms which Fire Chief Ted McEwen charges are mostly deliberately set. (See that story on Page 2.)

The council was concerned by the situation, and various means were discussed to pressure the university into alleviating it.

But Fleming thought the matter should be taken above the local campus to higher university authorities. "We must go beyond the local campus administration," he declared. "We're not getting anything done there."

The council agreed to that course of action.

But Councilman Samuel Leask thought the local campus should be called on to help with fire prevention in some areas. He pointed out the city's weed abatement regulations are not enforced on the campus and asked that a list of fire prevention measures be drawn up to be performed by UCSC.

Mayor Richard Werner agreed. "They should have to do all the fire prevention work required of ordinary citizens."

Triggering the discussion was an agreement the city decided to enter with the State Division of Forestry for protection of the forested areas of the campus. The division has agreed to protect 393 acres of the forested land at an annual cost of \$1004.

McEwen pointed out the agreement was a good insurance policy, since the city's equipment all is geared to fighting structural fires and is not suited to forestry service.

City Manager Dave Koester said he had asked UCSC to contribute part of the cost of the division's service, since the forestry protection was not a part of the ordinary fire service the city had agreed to provide.

He said the university did not interpret the situation that way and had refused to contribute.

Other items to face the council included:

**DOGS** — The council trotted out its whole list of animal problems as it agreed to increase impounding fees from \$3.25 to \$5 plus \$1 per day of confinement up to the five-day limit. For the second or subsequent pickups, the rate would go up to \$10 plus \$1 per day.

The matter brought up a long discussion of the city's animal problems and the many complaints received of stray dogs.

Councilman Ernest Wicklund noted he had been a leader in awarding the city's animal control contract to Steve Stevens, but now was disappointed in Stevens' performance.

Koester said he thought the trouble might lie with the terms of the contract rather than with Stevens himself. He noted, however, the city receives more complaints on dogs "than everything else put together."

He reported Stevens presently picks up strays only when he is called to do so, and said he thought a regular patrol of city streets might be the way to end the problem.

He asked that Stevens' contract be reviewed.

Commented Councilman Norhow many dogs he's picking up, but it's not enough or we would not be getting so many calls."

Fleming said he'd like to have more information on the entire problem, and asked that Stevens' monthly reports be made available to the council.

Fleming and Leask were against the hike in impounding

fees, calling it a piecemeal effort to solve the whole problem. But Councilwoman Lorette Wood noted some vacationing Santa Cruzans were having their dogs picked up deliberately because the impounding charge was cheaper than boarding costs.

The city's entire animal ordinance will be reviewed in an effort to come up with more effective means of control.

**USE PERMITS** — Council approved a zoning regulation amendment which would require a simple majority council vote to approve a use permit which had already been turned down by the planning commission. The city code currently requires a five-sevenths vote in such instances.

**DELAVERA PARK** — Council authorized the city staff to apply for federal matching funds in a \$170,000 project for road and other improvements to Delavera Park. Koester said the chances for approval of the grant are "not very good."

**STREET WORK** — A resolution was approved instituting an assessment district to pay for improvements to Berry, Roberts, Palm and Laguna Streets and Dellview Avenue and Oxford Way.

## Another Case Of Arson In Mid-County

An increasing number of "purposely set fires" continues to be a hot item for fire departments in Mid-County.

Most of the grass fires have been set within the Soquel Fire Protection District, where 12 have been reported since June. The Soquel department answered a call Tuesday to put out a fire at New Brighton Road at railroad track crossing.

A survey shows 18 grass fires have been reported in the Mid-County area in the past three years.

Oak firemen extinguished a grass fire at Paul Sweet Tuesday. The Aptos Fire Department reported two recent fires have been set purposely and "others are questionable."

Firemen say some of the fires are set simply from small children playing with matches. They have said that anyone noticing a fire who looks as though he is going to call the local fire department immediately.

**EARL HURT IN CRASH**  
Linda Erickson, 18, Burdette received minor injuries when her car was taken to County General Hospital for treatment Tuesday afternoon after her car was involved in a head-on collision with a car driven by Ruth Ekland, 46, of Empire Grade, at the intersection of High Street and High Street.

## Good For

It was fortunate now.

Councilmen the budget tune-ted the field for per year.

It was a list of offices in the county, trying to get for about visitors discussing.

Aptos attorney agreed to the court case, and aimed at the gypsies.

Sanson the fee months on the out the requirements office could art.

But he Supervisor reminded Stevens are forbidden persons by unscrupulous in the past he warned "would be used" by an