

# Employees Make Pitch Tonight For Raise From City Council

Santa Cruz councilmen face tonight's critical salary hearings with a \$101,815 balance in the key general fund unbudgeted reserve.

In front of them will be recommendations for general fund salary and fringe benefit increases totalling more than \$100,000.

In the audience for the 7 o'clock meeting will be representatives of the 290-man city employ force, which saw similar cost-of-living raises cut out in the same hearing last year.

City Manager Peter Tedesco said he expects Elwood Ennis, vice president of salary consultants Griffenhager-Kroeger, to be on hand to explain its recommendations, subsequently endorsed by the city civil service commission.

These include 4.9 per cent increases for all employees and additional 2.45 per cent hikes for clerical and building inspection employees. The total is \$64,965 for 21 general fund departments and \$32,552 for six independent departments.

An additional \$9252 for changes in the health insurance plan has been recommended by the commission, as has another \$33,842 to put retirement survivor benefits for safety employees on the same basis as other employees.

Councilmen also will review a list of 28 "deferred" capital improvement projects with total valuation of \$631,250.

Last night they snipped a net of \$3313 from the \$3,776,674 preliminary budget.

Major decisions included addition of \$1100 for a lifeguard at Castle beach; elimination of \$500 for the Miss California pageant; and cutting of all but underground conduit for a proposed Seabright avenue-Murray street traffic signal.

Also in jeopardy are a \$9500 advertising and promotion allocation to the Greater Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce and \$10,200 for electroliers on Front street south of Soquel avenue if the one-way street pattern is killed in elections Tuesday.

Action on the chamber items was delayed until Manager James Hammond can present his case tonight. Councilman Norman Lezin, a former chamber director and George Wilson questioned the item.

Budgets tentatively approved last night:

**PARKS** — A \$103,042 budget was approved. A proposed schedule of fees for out-of-city residents was taken under submission.

**RECREATION** — A \$54,862 budget was approved.

Director Carl Bengston said the state does not have funds to provide a Seabright beach guard. Councilmen decided that this spot, isolated from the guard network, should be covered because of the high number of local users.

**WHARF** — A \$143,063 budget was approved for this independent department. This includes a \$30,000 loan for sewerage and a \$20,000 general fund loan for widening and turnaround development.

**MUSEUM** — A \$3892 budget was approved.

**BUILDINGS**—A \$56,648 budget was approved. A \$5550 item for painting of the jail and civic auditorium and refinishing of the

council chamber floor was cut by \$2375. Possibility of charging the county planning commission for council chamber use was discussed.

**GOVERNMENT** — A \$95,847 budget was approved. Lezin, Wilson, and Mayor Bert Snyder proposed elimination of the Miss California item, set to cover auditorium rent. Snyder pointed out that there are many other civic groups which would like to use the auditorium rent free.

Clearer justification for the chamber allotment was asked.

**INSPECTION** — A \$151,562 budget was approved. This includes the electroliers and traffic signals. Signals at Center-Laurel and Branciforte-Water were left in.

**GARAGE** — A \$122,994 budget was approved for this independent department.

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