

Access To New Capitola City Hall Being Disputed

Capitola - 1970-1979

If you're handicapped, how accessible is Capitola's city hall?

City fathers were taken to task Monday by a local handicapped man who charged that the new city hall building lacks adequate facilities for the handicapped.

The handicapped man, Terry Brickley of Santa Cruz, told the city council during its regular meeting Monday that the city hall building included architectural features which acted as barriers to the handicapped.

City Manager Max Kludt disputed the claim, saying that the building meets state code requirements.

No action was taken by the council regarding the accusations, although Mayor Tom Mason indicated that "we'll look into it."

Brickley focused his displeasure on three features of city hall: the rest room, the bannister of a stairway and a raised platform in the city council chambers.

Brickley said that the bathroom at the city hall meets state requirements, but pointed out that it does not provide any privacy for those confined to wheelchairs.

The bannister, he said, is too narrow to allow a handicapped person to support himself. And the city council chambers, he said, is built so that a person in a wheelchair would not be able to climb onto the platform at the front of the room.

Kludt said that the building measures up to state standards. "We have an elevator to the second floor, and Terry doesn't mention the ramp leading to the police department." He added that he felt the bannister on the stairs was adequate.

Other council business Monday included:

APARTMENT ON 46TH AVENUE — The council unanimously denied an appeal by Walter King for a four-unit apartment house on 46th Avenue. The apartment house had been approved by the planning commission and the city council last March, but the building which was erected differed in style and placement on the property from the plans. King's attorney, Neal Anderson, had asked for a zoning variance to

allow the new building to be placed closer to the back of the property than is permitted, but that request was denied. Currently, a half-completed apartment house stands on the lot. Anderson said that the case may be appealed in court.

CABLE TELEVISION — City Manager Max Kludt reported that the the Central Coast Communications Corporation, the cable television firm that has a franchise in Capitola, will undergo a change in name. The city must approve any change in the cable television firm, he said, and consideration of that approval will be placed on the council's March 14 agenda.

The owners of the firm also control two television stations, and the company is shifting control of its holdings. Kludt said the new company, to be called Sonic Television, will be made up of "the same nucleus" as the old company.

DEPOT HILL TRAFFIC — Members of the Depot Hill Association, a neighborhood group comprised of residents of the cliff area just east of Capitola Village, presented a traffic plan which its spokesman said would ease traffic in the area. The plan would include changing portions of Cliff and Grand avenues to one-way streets, and erecting stop signs at several intersections.

The council did not approve the plan, but said it would study the traffic situation there. Kludt told the council that he would try to interest the county's traffic engineer in studying the area in order to make recommendations to the city.