

12-14-83

Council's prayers to be nonsectarian

SANTA CRUZ — The City Council Tuesday booted “a particular deity” from short prayer sessions at the beginning of council meetings.

At the suggestion of Councilman Arnold Levine, the council voted 6-1 to keep religious invocations nonsectarian.

They voted to ask ministers and priests who give the invocations to “omit reference to a particular deity.”

Levine said he “is completely in favor of opening the meetings with an invocation asking for God’s blessing.”

But, since the sessions are attended by persons of many religious beliefs, Levine said it is “insensitive” for such blessings to be invoked in the name of a particular deity.

Mayor John Laird dissented. Laird said he favors the invocations, but added, “I don’t think it’s proper for me to suggest to any minister what should be contained in the invocation.”