

# Cedar-Vine <sup>7-8-64</sup> Hearing To Be September 22

By Alan Jones  
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The city council last night set September 22 as the hearing date for a somewhat polished and refurbished Cedar-Vine street project.

The council figured September as the earliest time all seven councilmen could be convened, and as the project stands now a six-sevenths council vote will be needed to proceed with the project.

The council passed a resolution of intention to redistribute the assessments in the proposed district, a step which includes correction of some mathematical errors in the previously-announced assessment figures. The over-all cost estimate, \$607,000, is not affected. The changes make another protest hearing legally necessary.

City consultants presented the council several alternatives on the project. One proposal was to expand the project to include a cut-through on lower Cedar street from Sycamore street to Pacific avenue. Cost estimate for the lower cut was \$113,000. The project as previously proposed includes only a two-block cut-through connecting Vine street, which ends at Church street, and Cedar street, which ends at Lincoln street.

Another possible change recommended by consultant engineer Tom Polk Williams Jr., was an additional assessment against properties which actually front on the proposed new street. The fronting properties would be assessed \$64 a front foot, with adjustment for depth and for corner lots.

The frontage charge would reduce the over-all assessment by approximately 4 per cent.

The consultants rejected any plan to change the basic assessment, however, as some opponents of the project have suggested. Consultant Attorney Kenneth Jones said the assessment formula, based on land assessed value, is "as fair as any we can devise." He said the formula is not the only possible one, but does bear a "reasonable relationship to the benefit" the street link will produce.

The formula sets out five assessment zones, based on their nearness to the projected street and the benefit which they theoretically will receive. The zones are assessed on 100, 65, 50, 25 and 10 per cent.

Attorneys Donald Younger and J. Frank Murphy Sr. spoke against the project in its present shape. Both have been opponents for several months. Murphy told the council it should make a thorough study of the new assessment spread before taking any action.

Both attorneys said they favored consideration of an over-all downtown traffic plan, rather than the Cedar-Vine project by itself.

The council discussed the alternatives at length, then acted on Jones' recommendation that the original project first should be squared away—by the assess-

ment corrections—and a hearing set. After that, Jones said, the council can consider expansion or other project changes.

Murphy promised continued strong opposition to the proposed financing of the project, and told the council a lid should be clamped on land acquisition costs. He proposed getting purchase options from owners of property needed for the street.

Acquisition costs are estimated at \$467,000 of the project's total \$607,000 cost. The Sentinel, Salinas Valley Savings, and county engineering buildings are in the path of the project, as well as some smaller buildings.

Murphy also suggested the council wait and study the effects of the Chestnut street cut, the future bus line depot move, and the relocation of the courthouse, before deciding on Cedar-Vine.

Former Mayor George Penniman and Dr. Allen Pederson supported the project. Penniman said project backers felt the project was important, not the financing method. The proposal for study of bigger and bigger project is a "snow job," Penniman said. "Nothing will happen until we get one project started," he said.

The council cleaned up a pair of minor matters on the agenda. A resolution was passed asking the county to agree to placing a small out-of-city length of Isbel drive on the city's select street list. The street serves Carbonera Estates, which is inside the city.

Another resolution was approved granting a permit to Santa Cruz Ambulance to operate a limousine service.

## Mid-County Garbage Firm Is Picketed

Eight drivers, fired Tuesday, picketed the Mid-County Garbage Service office at 5736 Soquel drive today, while replacement crews continued garbage pickups.

A union official said the company co-owner Bud Tomlin had agreed to rehire the men, but that the men would not return without a contract. Tomlin, the union man said, wanted to consult with his partner, Gene Meschi, and attorney Ray Scott, before signing the contract, and the drivers set up the picket line this morning.

Tomlin said he would not sign the contract in its present form. The contract was not "negotiated" as promised, but only handed to him, Tomlin said.

The striking drivers joined Teamsters local 912 over the past few days. One driver said the union had called Tomlin Tuesday and scheduled contract talks for this afternoon. Later Tuesday, the driver said, the drivers returned from their routes and were handed their terminal pay checks.

Tomlin said yesterday he had