

# Council to consider Rodgers House relocation

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WATSONVILLE — Alternatives for moving the historic Rodgers House on East Lake Avenue, proposed changes in the municipal code governing cable television franchises, and a grant proposal for a new child care facility at River Park are among the agenda item to be tackled by the Watsonville City Council Tuesday evening.

The Rodgers House, a designated historical building at 832 East Lake Ave., was purchased by Stewart Kett about 10 years ago and the Kett family has had the property up for sale for approximately one year. Formerly the residence of John Steinbeck's sister, the 1868 Italianate Victorian structure was placed on the local Historic Registry in 1987.

Current owner Melanie Kett says her family has recently opened escrow with Rite Aid and the home does not fit into the company's plans to build a large retail outlet. She says she realizes that the historical significance of the property is important to the city, but she has been unable to find a suitable location within city limits to move it to.

Community Development Director Dave Williams recommends that the council develop a financial plan to fund the purchase, relocation and rehabilitation of the Rodgers House without using city funds. The proposed site for the structure's relocation is at Buena Vista Park.

Other sites considered include the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, the Elks Lodge, the Landmark property and city-owned property in Corralitos. Although it is estimated that it will cost \$220,000 just to rehabilitate the house, Kett has offered to provide up to \$70,000 in relocation costs.

The council will vote on a new



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series of regulations governing the operation of a cable television franchise within the city, contained in a 71-page document which redefines terms, sets new guidelines and outlines rights to issue penalties to a cable service provider for inadequate service — ranging from faulty connections to unfriendly customer relations — as well as descriptions of cable system construction, installations, technical standards and operational requirements.

The local cable company for the past decade has been Sonic Cable Television, which was recently bought by the midwestern, multi-million dollar firm, Charter Communications.

The council will consider a resolution authorizing and directing City Manager Carlos Palacios to submit a \$50,000 planning grant proposal to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation on behalf of the city for a child care facility at River Park.

Last summer the city council approved a resolution to apply for funding from the David and Lucile

Packard Foundation to develop a neighborhood outreach program within the Enterprise Community Project Area and the city was awarded a \$153,908 grant in September.

If successful, the \$50,000 grant will secure funding to hire a short-term project consultant to coordinate and develop the facility and to work with the Expansion Committee of Comunidad Organizada Para la Educacion (COPE).

Other business scheduled for either discussion or action include the following:

- The council will vote on a resolution awarding \$123,500 to Maggiora Bros. Drilling Inc., for Well No. 5 pump station rehabilitation, to be funded from the 1996/97 Capital Improvements Carryover Budget.

- The council will vote on a resolution approving a lease agreement with Pajaro Valley Arts Council for a city-owned building at 37 Sudden Street.

- The council will decide whether or not to approve an agreement

with Santa Cruz County concerning a household hazardous waste collection program.

- The council will release proposed changes in the city's 1998-99 budget.

The City Council meeting will begin at 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, in the City Council Chambers, 250 Main Street.

WRP 6-8-98