

# Capitola approves \$10 million budget

By DENISE FRANKLIN  
Sentinel staff writer

CAPITOLA — A \$9.97 million budget, which Councilman Mick Routh said was the tightest he has seen in 20 years, was unanimously approved by the Capitola City Council Thursday.

City Manager Steve Burrell said the only reason the 1991-92 budget is up \$500,000 from this year is because of money primarily from Measure E, the county's half-cent earthquake recovery tax. That money will go for capital improvement projects, Burrell said.

The new budget includes money for a 5-percent raise for city employees, which was approved by the council Thursday night. It also includes funds for a 100-percent salary increase the council granted itself Thursday. In a 4-0 vote, the council increased its pay from \$150 to \$300 per month. Routh left before that vote was taken.

It was the first salary increase the council has granted itself in 13 years. Unlike many others, Capitola's council doesn't receive health benefits.

The council also heard last-minute requests for more funding from the La Fonda Child Care Center and Community Resources for the Disabled. Jennifer Davis from the Seniors Council simply asked for funding for her organization,

which was not included in the budget.

The council made no changes in its funding to social services, which will total \$171,650 in 1991-92.

Burrell described the budget as one that does not increase the level of services the city now offers.

Routh praised the budget, noting that Capitola is the only city in the county that doesn't charge its residents fees for such things as utilities and sewers, and is still able to maintain its level of services.

Capitola has always been considered financially healthy because of the tax dollars pouring into the city's coffers from the 41st Avenue business district.

The 1991-92 budget includes funds to begin planning several projects, including beautification of the Village, improving and adding bathrooms to the Municipal Wharf, expanding bathrooms on the city beach, improving roads, and developing the Rispin Mansion into a community center and library.

The city next year also will begin to plan for the expansion of City Hall, recreation programs and the corporation yard.

If any additional funds come into the city, Burrell recommended they be spent on expanding the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in the schools.

Reg. Pay.  
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