

9-11-68

Council Blesses Mall, Then Names Architect

"Now we'll have a fighting chance of keeping sales tax and revenue within the city limits," Mall Committee Chairman Ken Wenzel told the Santa Cruz City Council last night after the council had given its blessing to the Pacific Garden Mall.

Committee members came before the council with a slightly lower percentage of property owners' signatures than it had expected, but the 68 per cent level still indicated a wide base of merchant support for the project.

Architect Kermit Darrow was named to draw plans for the project. He will be assisted by landscape architects Arthur Hyde and Roy Rydell.

Councilman Sam Leask expressed his appreciation of the effort expended by the mall committee.

Committeeman James Hammond said he expects work to begin on the mall early next April and that the project will be complete in mid-June.

The mall still faces a public hearing after architect's drawings are complete.

Other items acted on by the council last night include:

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT— Councilmen voted to advertise for bids on the sale of some \$800,000 in bonds for the West Santa Cruz Improvement Project.

The project will improve the old Swanton Subdivision and an industrial tract at the west edge of the city.

POSITION DROPPED — The position of city personnel assistant was abolished. City Manager Dave Koester said the action came when a reorganization of the personnel department revealed the post to be superfluous.

Barbara Councilman, who held the \$10,000-a-year post, was at the meeting but did not speak.

MOTORCYCLE— An international moto - cross motorcycle race November 23 and 24 at DeLaveaga Park received the council's approval. The race, sponsored by the Santa Cruz Ridge Runners motorcycle club, already had received the approval of the city parks and recreation commission.

The city's share of the receipts will be 10 per cent of gross profits — an estimated \$1000.

SEWAGE — The council endorsed a resolution by the county board of supervisors opposing plans of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Program to pump sewage into the Pacific Ocean above Santa Cruz.

NAACP — Councilmen failed to take action on a letter from the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Councilmen said the letter, charging the Santa Cruz Police were abusive to Negroes, dealt only in generalities.

Councilman Sam Leask said he couldn't "go along with this kind of insinuation" unless the

charges were backed up by specific accounts of malfeasance.

The letter apparently arose from an incident which occurred some three weeks ago when local police entered a home to enforce a warrant against a Negro.

AIRPORT — In the face of further complaints of noise by residents near the city's municipal airport, Leask said, "These people should be made aware who sold the airport to us and under what conditions."

Leask pointed out that Bill Graham, mayor of Scotts Valley, had sold Santa Cruz the airport and had then constructed the Spring Lakes mobile home park in the port's flight path.

Virtually all the complaints about the airport come from the trailer park.

In pointing out the need for public awareness of the transaction, Leask turned to Mayor Raymond Goodrich and said, "Wouldn't you rather have them mad at the mayor of Scotts Valley than the mayor of Santa Cruz?"

SURFERS — Agnes Bussone of 520 West Cliff Drive renewed her complaint against problems caused by surfers in her area. She said the teenagers caused traffic problems, committed vandalism, undressed in the street and went to the bathroom in public view.

The council informed Mrs. Bussone that the city staff was investigating the problem and would make recommendations.