

# Next move up to the council

*City Council*

2-26-89

SANTA CRUZ — The six remaining members of the Santa Cruz City Council will have two alternatives to consider when it comes to replacing Mo Reich, who resigned Friday in the wake of his admission he had sent an obscene valentine's card to Scotts Valley's mayor.

The first alternative would be for the council to appoint someone to fill the seat. The other would be to call for a special election. Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt, however, said Friday that an election would be more expensive than an appointment, and would leave the council short one member for a longer time. She said she expects the council to appoint a new member.

Members will discuss the options at the council's scheduled meeting Tuesday.

The council has 60 days from Reich's resignation Friday to appoint someone. If it fails to do so, then a special election is required,

according to City Clerk Pat Kenyon.

If the council decides to appoint, the new member would have to run for election in November 1990, or give up the seat. If elected, that person would then only be able to serve out the remainder of Reich's term, or until November 1992, before the seat would again be contested.

Three other seats will come up for grabs in the 1990 election. Two of those seats are held by Wormhoudt and Councilman John Laird, both progressives and both prevented by law from running for third consecutive terms. Councilman Joe Ghio, whose term also ends in 1990, will then have served only four years and could run again if he so wishes.

Ghio, who is generally regarded as one of two conservative or moderate members of the council, said he favors a special election to fill Reich's seat.

But Ghio said that if the progressive ma-

jority does not support an election, he wants to make sure that the council will accept a wide range of applications from residents, and will interview qualified people before making an appointment.

The last time such an issue came before a Santa Cruz council was in 1978, after Councilman Jim Hammond died. Spiro Mellis was subsequently appointed to replace Hammond and was later elected in his own right.

None of this takes into account what will happen if former council candidate Steve Hartman is successful in forcing Wormhoudt and two other council members — Don Lane and Jane Yokoyama — into a recall election. Hartman said his recall effort has been buoyed by the card controversy.

He also said he does not want to serve on the council, but that the council should "keep the seat open" until the recall plays itself out.

— Donald Miller