

# E. Palo Alto studies trouble

By Tracie Thompson,  
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## Financial situation main topic of City Council meeting

The city's financial situation was the major topic at the Tuesday night meeting of the East Palo Alto City Council, but the questions of how the city got into, or will get out of its current problems apparently will not be answered for a few more weeks.

A new routine for keeping an eye on finances was initiated, when, for the first time, the council received

a list of recent bills to the city.

Approval of warrants and requisitions, as it is called, is standard practice for most city councils, according to East Palo Alto City Manager Stanley Hall. The list given out Tuesday showed \$21,000 in debts over the last month and a half, ranging from \$3,000 insurance payments to a \$60 check to a city ten-

nis instructor.

The city manager also presented a report on the city's financial situation.

Among the items mentioned in his report:

• Completion of an audit of the city's financial operation by a private accounting firm is expected within three and a half weeks.

• Completion of a new budget by the city manager is expected within four weeks.

• The County of San Mateo, while not offering a loan to the city, will wait until April for East Palo Alto's payments of \$313,000 due for a dispatching contract and the lease of the county-owned Municipal Building.

• Discussions of possible loans are continuing with three banks and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District.

An offer by local landlords of financial assistance in exchange for modification of the city's rent control ordinance was brought up by Councilman John Bestic, but not officially considered by the council.

Councilwoman Barbara Mouton said that the \$600,000 the city is seeking need not come from a single source.

"Maybe there are 600 people out there, friends of East Palo Alto, that each have \$1,000," Mouton said.

She then held up what she said was her \$1,000 check to the city, "to start the ball rolling."

"I want to show people that we can save ourselves," she said.

In response, Councilman War-nell Coats referred to the pending report on the city's past financial

Please see BILLS, A-3

## BILLS

Continued from A-1  
management.

"I'm not ready to write a check until I find out what happened to the check I wrote when I paid the taxes on my house," Coats said.

Around 75 people attended the

meeting, with laughter and applause punctuating the speeches by council members and the public.

The meeting, which began at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers, was attended by all of the council members, including Mayor James Blakey Jr. and Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica.

Among the additional items addressed by the council was approv-

al of a plan to move three houses from San Jose onto an empty set of lots in East Palo Alto.

The council also voted to allow one city police officer to work with the Ravenswood City School District in an effort to control truancy, drug abuse and other school problems. The officer's salary will be paid by the district during the school year.

At midnight, the council voted to extend the meeting in order to vote on creation of, and appointments to, a committee to work on the proposed redevelopment of the Whiskey Gulch area.

Developer Joaquin De Monet has proposed a hotel and office complex that would replace the existing stretch of shops and restaurants located between the Bayshore

Freeway and the border of Palo Alto.

California law requires that projects that will displace a substantial number of low and moderate income residents involve community participation.

According to city officials, 92 dwellings would be affected by the De Monet project.

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