Mayor Kathy Keolker called the meeting of the Renton City Council to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

TONI NELSON, Council President; DENIS LAW; TERRI BRIERE; MARCI PALMER; DON PERSSON; RANDY CORMAN. MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCILMEMBER DAN CLAWSON. CARRIED.

KATHY KEOLKER, Mayor; JAY COVINGTON, Chief Administrative Officer; ZANETTA FONTES, Assistant City Attorney; BONNIE WALTON, City Clerk; GREGG ZIMMERMAN, Planning/Building/Public Works Administrator; ALEX PIETSCH, Economic Development Administrator; Economic Development Director; REBECCA LIND, Planning Manager; DON ERIKSON, Senior Planner; MARTY WINE, Assistant CAO; MICHAEL BAILEY, Finance and Information Services Administrator; TERRY HIGASHIYAMA, Community Services Administrator; CHIEF I. DAVID DANIELS and DEPUTY CHIEF LARRY RUDE, Fire Department, CHIEF KEVIN MILOSEVICH and COMMANDER KENT CURRY, Police Department.

Finance and Information Services Administrator Bailey announced that the City of Renton has once again won an award for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the Government Finance Officers Association. He explained that the association has a peer review program that reviews both the financial reports and the budgets. Mr. Bailey noted that in addition to being recognized for meeting the association's criteria, the peer review program also provides the City with comments and suggestions on how to more effectively communicate the fiscal integrity of the City to citizens.

This being the date set and proper notices having been posted and published in accordance with local and State laws, Mayor Keolker reopened the public hearing continued from 2/26/2007 to consider City Code amendments pertaining to: R-4 (four dwelling units per acre) zone development clustering; R-1, R-4, and R-8 zone design standards; tree retention; and animal regulations.

Economic Development Administrator Pietsch stated that the proposed amendments originated through the work of the East Renton Plateau Citizen Task Force, which was formed to discuss potential zoning for the East Renton Plateau Potential Annexation Area, and can be put to use within the existing City limits. Planner Manager Lind explained that currently, small lot cluster development is only allowed in the R-4 zone when within 600 feet of the R-8 zone. The proposed amendment allows clustering throughout the R-4 zone, which provides incentive for open space and helps achieve maximum density in the zone.

Turning to residential design standards, Ms. Lind reported that currently, design features are required only in cluster developments, and vertical facade modulation is required only in the R-4 zone. The proposal requires design features and a vertical facade modulation throughout the R-1, R-4, and R-8 zones. She noted that the three required architectural features are decorative
hipped or gabled roofs, trim on windows and doors, and projecting eaves.

Continuing with the tree retention and tree replacement regulations, Ms. Lind indicated that the proposal addresses strengthening the regulations and is part of an ongoing work program to maintain and improve Renton's tree canopy. She noted that established neighborhoods and developing neighborhoods (or infill neighborhoods) may have different priorities in tree retention. Regarding tree removal, Ms. Lind reported that the proposed changes: eliminate the standard based on intensity of development, allow removal of three trees on any lot 35,000 square feet or less, and allow removal of six trees on a lot larger than 35,000 square feet.

Regarding tree retention, Ms. Lind reviewed the proposed changes such as requiring 30 percent retention, or a minimum of 25 trees per acre, in the RC, R-1, R-4, and R-8 zones. In more intense residential zones, 10 percent retention, or a minimum of ten trees per acre is required.

Turning to animal regulations, Ms. Lind pointed out that the proposal addresses large animal regulations and that an additional work program currently exists for small and medium animals. She explained that the proposal allows property owners with at least one acre to keep two large animals. Additionally, the process is simplified to apply for more animals, and non-conforming uses are allowed to continue. Ms. Lind further explained that the permitting of the keeping of a greater number of animals than allowable will be decided administratively, and the keeping of animals that are a non-conforming use is transferable with the sale of the property and replacement is allowed.

Ms. Lind reported that the proposed amendments are still being reviewed by the Planning Commission. The matter will then go before the Planning and Development Committee, who will forward a final recommendation to Council.

In response to Council inquiries, Ms. Lind said the proposal provides that all removed trees must be replaced; however, they can be replaced in a different configuration. In regard to affordable housing and the potential cost increases due to the regulations, she indicated that input from a broader group of builders will be sought as part of this review process. Ms. Lind confirmed that under current regulations, if a property owner owns two large animals on a 4,000 square foot lot, the animals would be non-conforming and could not be replaced. She also confirmed that under the proposed regulations, the animals would be non-conforming but the animal entitlement would run with the land.

Public comment was invited.

Garrett Huffman, South King County Manager of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, 335 116th Ave. SE, Bellevue, 98004, expressed his approval of the clustering regulations, and his concerns regarding the tree retention and design regulations and their negative affect on the affordability of housing. He noted that it is becoming more and more difficult for people to afford houses in this general region. Mr. Huffman indicated that members of the Master Builders Association would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments with the City. Additionally, he suggested the use of incentives to encourage added amenities to development projects.

Ronda Bryant, East Renton Plateau Citizen Task Force Member, 6220 SE 2nd Pl., Renton, 98059, pointed out the uniqueness of the East Renton Plateau area, saying that residents want to retain the flavor of their neighborhood and their
quality of life. She pointed out that unlike other areas that have already been
built out, the East Renton Plateau still has two- to five-acre parcels with lots of
trees and large animals. Ms. Bryant expressed support for having the animal
ownership entitlement run with the land, and she thanked staff for all of their
hard work with the task force.

There being no further public comment, it was MOVED BY NELSON,
SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.
CARRIED.

Annexation: Benson Hill Communities, S 200th St &
128th Ave SE

This being the date set and proper notices having been posted and published in
accordance with local and State laws, Mayor Keolker opened the public hearing
to consider the 10% Notice of Intent petition calling for an election on
annexation of 2,428 acres located to the south and west of the Renton City
limits, in the vicinity of S. 200th St. and 128th Ave. SE (Benson Hill
Communities).

Senior Planner Erickson reported that the 4.2-square-mile site has an estimated
population of 16,100, approximately 93 acres of parks, 45 linear miles of road,
and approximately 7,854 dwellings and 430,000 square feet of retail space. He
stated that public services are currently provided by Fire District #40, Soos
Creek Water and Sewer District, and the Renton (98%) and Kent (2%) school
districts. The services would remain the same upon annexation with the
exception of the fire service, which would change to the City of Renton.

Mr. Erickson reviewed Renton's Comprehensive Plan land use designations for
the site, and he reviewed how the proposal is consistent with relevant City
annexation policies. Mr. Erickson pointed out that although not the designated
sewer and water service provider, Renton will provide a full array of high
quality urban municipal services to the area, including police, fire, recreation,
street maintenance, land use and transportation planning, permitting, and
accessible government. He also pointed out that the proposed annexation is in
compliance with Boundary Review Board objectives.

For the fiscal analysis, Mr. Erickson used information from the 2005 Berk and
Associates annexation study. The estimated net operating cost to the City in
2005 dollars is approximately $681,000, including responsibility for Fire
District #40's Fire Station #42, but excluding the site's Renton Pool. He noted
that the preliminary costs are currently under review, and City departments are
also reviewing the transitional costs the City will incur upon annexation for
items such as equipment purchases.

Continuing, Mr. Erickson noted that because of the area's size and the State
Legislature's adoption of SSB 6686 in 2006, Renton qualifies for a 0.1% sales
and use tax rebate that could be used to cover the discrepancy between
revenues and operating costs for the first ten years. To qualify under SSB
6686, the City has to effectuate the annexation before 1/1/2010. He explained
that major efficiencies exist by bringing in the area at one time rather than
through multiple smaller annexations. These efficiencies include economy of
scale from allowing Renton policy to drive growth rather than King County
policy, and economic development initiatives focused on Cascade commercial
areas.

Mr. Erickson indicated that since the annexation petition was certified on
January 23, the deadline for Council action on this matter is March 24. He
stated that if Council adopts the resolution authorizing an election, staff
recommends not placing the issues of future zoning and assumption of a proportionate share of Renton's outstanding indebtedness on the ballot. Mr. Erickson noted that the City's voter approved outstanding indebtedness is small and near retirement.

Letters were read from Jeanette M. Millmann, 10620 SE 186th St., Renton, 98055, and Ruth Pearson and Otto Pearson, 19112 104th Pl. SE, Renton, 98055, each expressing support for the annexation of the Benson Hill communities area to the City of Renton.

Public comment was invited.

Matt Berntson, 12040 SE 188th St., Renton, 98058, voiced support for the annexation, noting that his neighbors are also enthusiastic about the proposal. Pointing out that he prefers Renton's development standards over King County's, Mr. Berntson urged Council to adopt the election resolution.

Tom Reiter, 18001 113th Ave. SE, Renton, 98055, recognized the people in the audience from the Benson Hill communities area, and asked that the issue move forward.

Dave McCammon, 17221 125th Ave. SE, Renton, 98058, expressed support for the annexation, asking that Council adopt the resolution to give him the opportunity to vote on the issue.

Todd Fennell, 17223 116th Ave. SE, Renton, 98058, said although he looks forward to annexing to Renton, he is concerned about how annexation will affect the zoning of his property. Pointing out that he has made investments based upon R-18 zoning and will incur a loss if zoned R-8, Mr. Fennell asked that this specific area's zoning be re-evaluated.

There being no further public comment, it was MOVED BY LAW, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. CARRIED.

MOVED BY LAW, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE BENSON HILL COMMUNITIES ANNEXATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE AFFECTED VOTERS IN THE FALL; NOT PLACE ON THE BALLOT THE QUESTION OF FUTURE ZONING; NOT PLACE ON THE BALLOT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD ASSUME THEIR FAIR SHARE OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS; AND AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO INVOCATE THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD SO THAT A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD CAN BE HELD THIS SUMMER. CARRIED. (See page 89 for resolution.)

Planning and Development Committee Chair Briere presented a report regarding the appeal by Alliance for South End (ASE) of the 1) administrative decision designating The Landing master site plan application a planned action and; 2) the master site plan approval.

This appeal came before the Committee on 2/15/2007. The Committee reviewed the decision of the Hearing Examiner dated 9/5/2006, which dismissed for lack of standing the ASE appeals from: 1) the Director's designation of The Landing master plan application as a planned action; and 2) the Director's master site plan approval.
The Committee reviewed the file, including the briefs therein, and heard argument from the attorneys representing the various parties. Finding no substantial error in fact or law, the Committee recommended that the Council affirm the decision of the Hearing Examiner. The Committee further recommended that the Council adopt the findings and conclusions affirming the Hearing Examiner's decision. MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY PALMER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer Covington reviewed a written administrative report summarizing the City’s recent progress towards goals and work programs adopted as part of its business plan for 2007 and beyond. Items noted included:

- Washington State Department of Transportation will hold a Full Access Control Hearing for the I-405/I-5 to SR-169 State 2 - Widening and SR-515 Interchange project on 3/20/2007 at Renton City Hall.

- As part of Maplewood Golf Course's ongoing effort towards Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification, Eagle Scout Jordan Fagerlie and Boy Scout Troop #448 built and installed eleven bird nesting boxes in unplayable areas on the golf course last weekend.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Citizen Comment: High - Transition Planning for Annexations

Gwendolyn High, 13405 158th Ave. SE, Renton, 98059, stated her hope that although the Preserve Our Plateau Annexation was not successful, the lessons learned will help other communities with their annexation efforts. Commending the accomplishments of the East Renton Plateau Citizen Task Force, Ms. High noted the importance of transition planning and the need to educate the King County Council about the use of this type of planning.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are adopted by one motion which follows the listing. At the request of Councilmember Persson, item 8.f. was removed for separate consideration.


Administrative, Judicial and Legal Services Department recommended approval of settlement documents and related terms regarding the basic programming service rate related to the City's cable franchise. Refer to Committee of the Whole; set public hearing on 3/26/2007.

Administrative, Judicial and Legal Services Department recommended approval of settlement terms regarding the maximum permitted equipment and installation rates related to the City's cable franchise. Refer to Committee of the Whole; set public hearing on 3/26/2007.

City Clerk submitted 2/6/2007 Special Election certification from King County Records and Elections for Proposition No. 1 for the Preserve Our Plateau Annexation Area Annexation to the City of Renton. The result of the special election is as follows: 651 "for annexation" votes and 1,017 "against annexation" votes; FAILED. Information.

Economic Development, Neighborhoods and Strategic Planning Department recommended approval of the 2006 annual update of the City's Zoning Book and Wall Map. Council concur. (See page 89 for ordinance.)

Budget: 2007 Amendments

Finance and Information Services Department recommended approval of the
2007 Budget amendment ordinance. Council concur. (See page 89 for ordinance.)

MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED TO REMOVE ITEM 8.f. FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION. CARRIED.

Separate Consideration

Item 8.f.
Planning: Multipurpose Events Center (Sonics & Storm Basketball)

Economic Development, Neighborhoods and Strategic Planning Department recommended adoption of a resolution regarding the proposed King County Events Center.*

Councilmember Persson stated that he does not understand why this resolution has to be adopted this evening, as it is premature. He explained that it will appear as though the Council has already made a decision and then will proceed to ask for input on the matter, which is the wrong message to send to citizens.

*Moved by Briere, seconded by Nelson, Council approve item 8.f. as presented.*

Councilmember Corman indicated that the matter deserves further discussion. He stated that the City is paying a consultant to conduct an economic analysis to learn whether this project is suitable for the City, and yet some of the whereas statements in the resolution already assume the answer to the question. Mr. Corman pointed out that the resolution may be appropriate in the future; however, the data is not yet available.


Mayor Keolker noted that the matter was discussed by Council at its retreat, and that no comments were received regarding the resolution, which was sent out in advance of this meeting.

Councilmember Persson stated that the resolution does not reflect the comments he made at the retreat. He indicated that language stating that Renton has not committed any money should be listed first.

Councilmember Briere pointed out that the resolution states the fact that the proposed site is already zoned to allow arenas. She noted that the resolution also communicates that the City will not do anything until it is known how the proposal affects the fiscal health of the City, thus providing reassurance of that to the public. Ms. Briere stated that the resolution establishes a base for what the City will and will not do.

Council President Nelson stated that she was under the impression that Councilmembers were to submit their comments regarding the resolution prior to the Council meeting, and she expressed her disappointment that this did not occur. She questioned whether it is the resolution that is not wanted or the proposed stadium itself that is not wanted.

Councilmember Briere suggested that the matter be put on hold for another week to allow for the submittal of comments to the City Attorney.

Councilmember Palmer stated that the feedback she is receiving from citizens is overwhelming against having the arena on that site. She asserted that it does not matter what the resolution states, as she does not want the arena in Renton.

Councilmember Briere noted that the feedback she has received from people is
excitement for this potential opportunity.

Councilmember Corman questioned the need for a resolution at all, pointing out that the site is already zoned for a stadium and the City cannot prevent someone from building one if they have the capital to do so. He stated that he is undecided and wants to revisit the matter when more information is available, such as the results of the City's economic study and whether King County citizens vote to provide a subsidy.

Councilmember Law pointed out that some people may think that a decision has been made by the way the resolution is written. Mr. Law stated that there is not enough information to make that decision, and he does not want to send out the wrong message. Mr. Law indicated that he is willing to work on the resolution, with the emphasize that the City has yet to know anything about infrastructure dollars, revenues, and impacts.

Council discussion ensued regarding the whereas statements in the resolution, the placement of the language in the resolution, the hurdles that need to be crossed before it is known whether the stadium is even possible, the discussion of this matter at the Council retreat, and the requests for more information.

Mayor Keolker expressed her hope than an appropriate resolution can be crafted, as it will provide direction to the Administration.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Planning & Development Committee**

Vacation: Walkway, NW 6th St & Rainier Ave N, AHBL, VAC-06-001

Planning and Development Committee Chair Briere presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to accept the appraisal submitted by Jack Alhadeff for the vacation of a ten-foot walkway, approximately 163 feet in length, located between NW 6th St. and Rainier Ave. N. The Committee further recommended setting compensation at $9,800 for the walkway vacation. **MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

Vacation: Walkway, NW 6th St & Rainier Ave N, JDA Group, VAC-05-002

Planning and Development Committee Chair Briere presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to accept the appraisal submitted by Jack Alhadeff for the vacation of a ten-foot walkway, approximately 187 feet in length, located east of NW 6th St. The Committee further recommending setting compensation at $6,000 for the walkway vacation. **MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

Vacation: Field Ave NE, ESM Consulting Engineers, VAC-06-004

Planning and Development Committee Chair Briere presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to accept the appraisal submitted by Matt Cyr, ESM Consulting Engineers, for the street vacation of a 30-foot by 30-foot portion of Field Ave. NE, approximately 318 feet north of NE 2nd St. The Committee further recommended setting compensation at $6,850 for the street vacation. **MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY PALMER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

**Transportation (Aviation) Committee**

Transportation: Trails and Bikeways Study and Map, MacLeod Reckord

Transportation (Aviation) Committee Chair Palmer presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract with MacLeod Reckord in the amount of $158,131.20 for a trails and bikeways study and map. **MOVED BY PALMER, SECONDED BY BRIERE, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

**Finance Committee**

Finance Committee Chair Persson presented a report recommending approval
Finance: Vouchers of Claim Vouchers 257571 - 257962 and three wire transfers totaling $4,626,332.03; and approval of Payroll Vouchers 67932 - 68063, one wire transfer, and 789 direct deposits totaling $2,127,185.67. MOVED BY PERSSON, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Community Services: 200 Mill Building Leases (5th Floor), Network 211 & Children’s Home Society & United Way Finance Committee Chair Persson presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to approve leases with United Way of King County, Washington Information Network 211, and Children’s Home Society of Washington, for collocated space on the fifth floor of the 200 Mill Building. The Committee further recommended that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the leases. MOVED BY PERSSON, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Utilities Committee SAD: Central Plateau Interceptor Phase II Utilities Committee Vice Chair Briere presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to approve the preliminary Central Plateau Interceptor Phase II Special Assessment District (SAD). The Committee further recommended that staff proceed with the establishment of the final SAD upon completion of the construction of the Central Plateau Interceptor Phase II Sanitary Sewer Main project. MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES The following resolutions were presented for reading and adoption:

Resolution #3863 Annexation: Benson Hill Communities, S 200th St & 128th Ave SE A resolution was read calling for the annexation, by election, of contiguous unincorporated territory to the City of Renton and referred to as the Benson Hill Communities Annexation; stating the number of registered voters residing therein as nearly as may be; calling for an election on 11/6/2007 to submit to voters of the territory the proposal for annexation; and authorizing the City Clerk to file with King County Boundary Review Board a notice of intention as well as to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of County Commissions of King County and the King County Review Board, and to take those actions necessary to place Proposition 1 before the voters, including the preparation of information for the voter's pamphlet. MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS READ. CARRIED.

The following ordinances were presented for first reading and referred to the Council meeting of 3/19/2007 for second and final reading:

Zoning: 2006 Annual Update of Zoning Book & Wall Map An ordinance was read adopting the 2006 amendments to the zoning classifications of properties located within the City of Renton. MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL REFER THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING ON 3/19/2007. CARRIED.

Budget: 2007 Amendments An ordinance amending the City of Renton Fiscal Year annual 2007 Budget as adopted by Ordinance 5245, in the total amount of $26,405,693. MOVED BY PERSSON, SECONDED BY PALMER, COUNCIL REFER THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING ON 3/19/2007. CARRIED.

The following ordinance was presented for second and final reading and
Ordinance #5266
Annexation: Merritt II, SE May Valley Rd & Coal Creek Parkway

An ordinance was read amending Ordinance 5207 by changing the effective date of Phase II of the Merritt II Annexation to the City of Renton. The annexation will be effective on 12/31/2007, or 30 days after the awarding of the construction for the Duvall Ave. Improvement project, whichever comes first. MOVED BY BRIERE, SECONDED BY PALMER, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS
Finance: Fund Balance Reserves, Annual Capital Improvement Plan

MOVED BY PERSSON, SECONDED BY LAW, COUNCIL REFER THE FUND BALANCE RESERVES AND THE ANNUAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. CARRIED.

AUDIENCE COMMENT
Citizen Comment: Paholke - Jet Center at Airport, Gangs in Neighborhood

Diane Paholke, 243 W. Perimeter Rd., Renton, 98057, stated that as a result of the potential changes at the Renton Airport, her business, Pro-Flight Aviation, receives numerous questions and requests for information. In response, she developed a website, which provides basic aviation information and information regarding the potential changes. On another subject, Ms. Paholke thanked the Police Department for helping to eliminate the gangs in her neighborhood.

Citizen Comment: Duffie - Council Meeting

Joe Duffie, City of Tukwila Councilmember, 5332 S. 140th St., Tukwila, 98168, indicated that it was a great pleasure to attend the Council meeting tonight, and he encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Citizen Comment: McOmber - Multipurpose Events Center (Sonics & Storm Basketball)

Howard McOmber, 475 Olympia Ave. NE, Renton, 98056, stated that the Council is wise to use a measured approach in regards to the potential siting of a multipurpose events center in Renton.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL ADJOURN. CARRIED. Time: 8:56 p.m.

Bonnie I. Walton, CMC, City Clerk

March 12, 2007

Recorder: Michele Neumann