CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Jesse Tanner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and called the meeting of the Renton City Council to order.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCILMEMBERS
DAN CLAWSON, Council President; KATHY KEOLKER-WHEELER; TERRI BRIERE; KING PARKER; DON PERSSON; RANDY CORMAN; TONI NELSON.

CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE
JESSE TANNER, Mayor; JAY COVINGTON, Chief Administrative Officer; ZANETTA FONTES, Assistant City Attorney; MARILYN PETERSEN, City Clerk; GREGG ZIMMERMAN, Planning/Building/Public Works Administrator; CLARK PETERSEN, Library Director; SUE CARLSON, Economic Development Administrator; BETTY NOKES, Economic Development Director; DENNIS CULP, Facilities Director; CHIEF LEE WHEELER, Fire Department; DEPUTY CHIEF GLEN GORDON, Fire Department; MIKE WEBBY, Human Resources Administrator; NEIL WATTS, Development Services Director; JACK CRUMLEY, Maintenance Services Director; MICHAEL STENHOUSE, Street Maintenance Services Supervisor; GEORGE STAHL, Maintenance Services Supervisor; LESLIE BETLACH, Parks Director; DEREK TODD, Assistant to the CAO; CHIEF GARRY ANDERSON, Police Department.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES
MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2001, AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
EDNSP: Economic Development Web Site (rentonmarket.com)
Betty Nokes, Economic Development Director, announced that the new Economic Development Web Site (www.rentonmarket.com), created as part of Renton’s Marketing Campaign, is now operational. She pointed out several of the website’s features which include information on topics such as About Renton/Living, Major Projects, and Marketplace. The website also contains testimonials from people working and living in Renton and “Did you Know” facts about Renton. Ms. Nokes commented that the website will be marketed through the use of digital business cards which will be distributed to key decision makers such as residential and commercial brokers.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
Public Works: Earthquake Damage Report
Mayor Tanner asked several staff members to present reports on the earthquake that occurred on Wednesday, February 28th.

Fire Chief Lee Wheeler stated that the earthquake struck at 10:54 a.m. and by 11:15 a.m. the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was established. He detailed the EOC’s operations and explained that the EOC was continuously in receipt of information from many sources including Olympic Pipeline and the Renton School District.

Chief Wheeler reported that emergency crews from the Fire Department responded to all areas of the City. A total of 61 incidents were handled throughout the day. In addition, he described measures that were taken as a result of the landslide that occurred near Ron Regis Park which included setting up an evacuation shelter at Maple Heights Elementary School, readying staff in case more landslides occurred, and touring the slide area via a helicopter.
Continuing, Chief Wheeler said that by 7:00 p.m., the EOC had scaled back to a skeleton crew and by 8:00 a.m. on March 1st, the EOC officially shut down operations. In conclusion, Chief Wheeler stated that emergency building inspections were conducted on March 1st and Fire Department staff performed post event neighborhood welfare checks and distributed neighborhood surveys.

Planning/Building/Publics Works Administrator Gregg Zimmerman reported that all public works facilities were inspected and the only noteworthy damages were to the Tiffany Pump Station and a water main located at S. 7th St. and Smithers Ave. S. Mr. Zimmerman described the damage that various streets sustained, and noted that power outages caused problems at the pump stations, and disabled many traffic signals.

Mr. Zimmerman continued to discuss actions taken by the various divisions of the Public Works Department. Some of those actions included: Transportation Division assisted with traffic control and bridge inspections, Utilities Division responded to water service disruptions, and Development Services Division assessed building conditions throughout the City.

Continuing, Mr. Zimmerman stated the biggest challenge the City faced was the Cedar River landslide. The landslide occurred in the vicinity of Ron Regis Park, creating a 600-foot long dam. He explained that water backed up and began to flood upstream residences and the river level below the landslide fell dramatically, threatening the 2000 salmon run. Mr. Zimmerman described the actions taken by two Maintenance Services Division employees to solve the problem and by 4:30 p.m., a 30-foot channel was dredged and the river was diverted into the Groundwater Spawning Channel.

Mr. Zimmerman commended Street Maintenance Services Supervisor Mike Stenhouse, Lead Maintenance Services Worker Gregg Seegmiller, and KLB Construction for their efforts in redirecting the Cedar River. Mr. Stenhouse described his activities and thanked the KLB Construction machine operators for their assistance.

Responding to Council inquiry regarding the flow rate of the water, Mr. Zimmerman explained that the Spawning Channel can handle only half the water flow capacity of the Cedar River. Pointing out that a decision needs to be made as to how the City is going to deal with the landslide, Mr. Zimmerman advised that if the City declares an emergency, the Army Corps of Engineers would be able to provide assistance. Mr. Zimmerman concluded by saying that there are four options under consideration: do nothing, restore the original river channel, improve the Groundwater Spawning Channel, or create a new channel. (See page 67 for the consent agenda item concerning this matter and page 68 for related resolution.)

Facilities Director Dennis Culp stated that the City sustained little damage to its parks and public buildings. He reported that the Main Library was closed for a day and a half in order for the books to be restocked, and the water walks at Gene Coulon Beach Park were closed due to the presence of a crack.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (CONT.)

Chief Administrative Officer Jay 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 2001 and beyond. Items noted included:
The Renton Technical College Foundation begins their Celebrity Chef Scholarship Series with the Renton Centennial Classic on Thursday, March 15th, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the campus. For more information or reservations, call (425) 235-2352, ext. 5728.

The Renton Fire Department offers free Disaster Preparedness classes. For more information call (425) 430-7000. In addition, an emergency preparedness materials list can be found on the City’s website at www.ci.renton.wa.us.

A Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART) speed display unit is available for use by city residents experiencing speed-related problems in their neighborhoods. Contact Officer Hudson at (425) 430-7564 for further information.

AUDIENCE COMMENT
Citizen Comment: Chamberlin – Post Office (NE 4th St)
Access Problems

Kevin Chamberlin, Renton Highlands Post Office Manager, 1249 NE 168th St., Shoreline, commented that since the Highlands Post Office opened, a number of serious traffic accidents have occurred in front of the post office. Mr. Chamberlin detailed the various reasons for the accidents, pointing out that the most serious hazard is the left turn lane. He requested assistance from the City’s Transportation Department to help resolve the traffic circulation and safety problems on NE 4th St.

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington stated that the City is aware of the problem, saying that the City had discussed the potential traffic problems with the post office before it was built. Councilmembers Parker and Nelson expressed their concerns regarding the issue and described the traffic circulation problems they have observed at the post office.

Responding to Councilwoman Keolker-Wheeler’s inquiry, Neil Watts, Development Services Director, affirmed that federal government projects are exempt from many of the City’s State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements and the City’s site plan review process. He commented that although the City did review the post office plans and made recommendations, those recommendations were not heeded. Mr. Watts said that he was looking forward to working with the post office to help put an end to the traffic problems.

CONSENT AGENDA
Items on the consent agenda are adopted by one motion which follows the listing.

Community Services:
Landscape Maintenance Service, Facility Maintenance Contractors

Community Services Department recommended approval of a contract in the amount of $103,770.03 with Facility Maintenance Contractors to provide landscape maintenance services, including materials and supplies, for 22 sites including right-of-ways, parks, trails, traffic circles and Fire Station #14. Refer to Community Services Committee.

Community Services: 200 Mill Bldg Lease (1st & 6th Floor), American Mortgage

Community Services Department recommended approval of a five-year lease with American Mortgage, Inc. for the first and sixth floors of the 200 Mill Building. Refer to Finance Committee.

Development Services: Union Park Short Plat, ROW Dedication on NE 8th St

Development Services Division recommended acceptance of a deed of dedication for additional 30-foot right-of-way on NE 8th St. for public road use to fulfill a requirement of the Union Park Short Plat (SHP-99-076). Council concur.

Finance: Utility Rates, Repeal

Finance & Information Services Department recommended approval of an
Transportation: Remote Traffic Microwave Sensor Radar Count Stations Purchase

Transportation Systems Division requested approval to purchase and install three Remote Traffic Microwave Sensor (RTMS) radar count stations in the amount of $20,500 for the collection of traffic data which will be used for incident detection, determining transportation needs, and efficient traffic signal timing on Renton’s major corridors. Refer to Transportation Committee.

Airport: Airport Advisory Committee Facilitator, Hanson Engineers

Transportation Division requested approval of a consultant contract in the amount of $30,000 with Hanson Engineers, Inc. to serve as Airport Advisory Committee facilitators to provide expertise to research issues, prepare committee materials, facilitate meetings, and address citizen and airport operator disputes. Refer to Transportation (Aviation) Committee.

Public Works: Cedar River Landslide, Declaring an Emergency

Planning/Building/Public Works Department requested authorization for the Mayor to request the Army Corps of Engineers to invoke their emergency flood fighting authority in the event that it is determined that this is the optimal approach to correct reductions in the Cedar River’s flow capacity resulting from the February 28, 2001, earthquake and landslide. Council concur. (See page 68 for resolution.)

MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

Citizen Comment: Gullekson – Use of Property Owned by Tydico Const Co

Letter and petition signed by 14 members of the Fernwood North Homeowners Association, received from Ed and Sandy Gullekson, 111 Bremerton Pl. NE, Renton, 98059, requesting City assistance with use of property owned by Tydico Construction Company located adjacent to the One Union Place development. The letter states that residents are subjected to high noise levels, air pollution, contaminated soil and water run-off.

MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL REFER THIS MATTER TO THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH KING COUNTY TO BRING TYDICO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INTO COMPLIANCE. CARRIED.

Mayor Tanner reported that the City has been in communication with King County regarding this matter. Councilman Persson stated that the residents have legitimate concerns, and he agreed that water run-off from the site could be harmful to the City’s streams.

OLD BUSINESS

Finance Committee Development Services: Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector Contract Employee Temporary Hire

Finance Committee Chair Parker presented a report regarding hiring a temporary contract employee for building inspection and plan review services. The Finance Committee recommended approving a contract employee for the Development Services Division’s Building Inspections/Permits Department during staff’s medical leave, which began February 14, 2001. The contract employee will be responsible for conducting mechanical/plumbing inspections and plan review.

The temporary position is effective immediately, upon selection of a
contracting company, and will continue for a maximum of four months. There are sufficient funds within the Planning/Building/Public Works Department budget to cover this request. MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Library: Systems Librarian Hire at Step E
Finance Committee Chair Parker presented a report concurring in the staff’s recommendation that the open Librarian position in the Library Division be offered to the selected candidate at the Step E level, effective May 1, 2001. MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was presented for reading and adoption:

Resolution #3491
Public Works: Cedar River Landslide, Declaring an Emergency
A resolution was read declaring a local emergency as a result of the Cedar River landslide. MOVE BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS READ. CARRIED.

The following ordinance was presented for second and final reading and adoption:

Ordinance #4894
Finance: 2001 Carry Forward Ordinance
An ordinance was read appropriating funds from fund balance, increasing the expenditures in various funds and departments, creating a Park Memorial Fund, and increasing the 2001 Budget by $14,230,762. MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works: Groundwater Spawning Channel Renamed the Stenhouse-Seegmiller Channel
MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL RENAME THE GROUNDWATER SPAWNING CHANNEL THE STENHOUSE-SEEGLMILLER CHANNEL. CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY PARKER, COUNCIL RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 37 MINUTES TO DISCUSS LITIGATION. CARRIED. Time: 9:24 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:01 p.m.; roll was called; all Councilmembers present.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY BRIERE, COUNCIL ADJOURN. CARRIED. Time: 10:01 p.m.

Marilyn Petersen, CMC, City Clerk

Recorder: Michele Neumann
March 5, 2001