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
KING PARKER, Council President; DAN CLAWSON; KATHY KEOLKER-WHEELER; BOB EDWARDS; TONI NELSON; TIMOTHY SCHLITZER.

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY EDWARDS, COUNCIL EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCILMAN RANDY CORMAN. CARRIED.

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; JIM SHEPHERD, Community Services Administrator; MICHAEL KATTERMANN, Director of Neighborhoods & Strategic Planning; LESLIE BETLACH, Parks Director; BETTY NOKES, Director of Economic Development; ABDOUL GAFOUR, Water Utility Supervisor; JENNIFER TOTH HENNING, Senior Planner; DEREK TODD, Finance Analyst; SONJA MEJLAENDER, Special Events & Volunteer Program Coordinator; COMMANDER FLOYD ELDRIDGE, Police Department.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES
MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 3, 1999 AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Sister City Visit to Nishiwaki
Sonja Mejlaender, Special Events & Volunteer Program Coordinator, reported on the recent trip which City of Renton delegates took to visit Renton’s Sister City, Nishiwaki, Japan. Other Renton community members on the trip included Ray Sled, Water Maintenance Manager, and representatives from the Renton School District and the Renton Lions Club. Noting that Renton and Nishiwaki have been sister cities since 1969, Ms. Mejlaender said the goals of the relationship are to encourage citizen delegation exchanges, promote awareness of cultural diversity, increase opportunities for social and educational enrichment, and encourage trade and tourism.

Ms. Mejlaender described various activities undertaken during the visit, as well as sites seen. She presented two gifts from the city of Nishiwaki to Mayor Tanner (a ceramic vase and a clock). She concluded that all eleven Renton delegates returned home with a greater understanding of life in Japan, and look forward to welcoming the Japanese delegation in 2001.

Planning & Development Committee
Appeal: Labrador Ventures Preliminary Plat, 2700 Lk Wash Blvd N, SA-98-141
Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler announced that because a letter from the Washington State Department of Fisheries pertinent to this matter was received this afternoon, the Planning & Development Committee report will not be available until May 17th. She emphasized that, in the meantime, the Council cannot accept any testimony whatsoever on this subject.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
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 1999 and beyond. Items noted included:
Shirley Anderson, Recreation Program Coordinator, was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Washington Recreation Parks Association for her outstanding dedication and service as the chair of the WRPA’s Athletic & Fitness section.

Over 150 participants from the Renton Senior Activity Center performed in the 19th annual stage show at Carco Theatre on April 29-30.

Renton’s updated Water System Plan was approved by the Department of Health, with the next update not due until April 2005.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Citizen Comment: Holcomb – Tree-Cutting Variance for Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Larry Holcomb, 1755 Whitman Ave. NE, Renton, 98059, representing Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 1024 Monroe Ave. NE, stated that 24 cottonwood trees on the church’s property have grown too tall and now constitute a hazard. According to City Code, the church is allowed to cut down only six trees per year. Saying that other trees will remain on the property, Mr. Holcomb requested that the church be granted a variance to enable it to remove all the cottonwoods at one time, rather than over a four-year period.

Councilman Parker added that he was told by Development Services Director Jana Hanson that the church cannot remove more than six trees per year without a development permit; however, the church has no plans to develop this property—it wants only to remove the hazardous trees.

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL REFER THIS MATTER TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. CARRIED.

Citizen Comment: Brown – Sikh Temple Development & Use Violations

Janice Brown, 521 S. 51st Ct., Renton, 98055, speaking as president of the Summit Park Townhome Homeowners Association, said that the Sikh Temple on Talbot Hill is being occupied in absence of a valid occupation certificate. She was additionally concerned about the presence of a hydraulic flagpole on the temple’s site, saying this has lights which are left on all night. Ms. Brown also said that although this project was required by the City to have mature landscaping, this has never been completed. She added that the temple is currently seeking a variance for an on-site commercial use (grocery store), but not all of the residents adjacent to the temple received notice of this.

Gregg Zimmerman, Planning/Building/Public Works Administrator, confirmed that the temple has neither a temporary nor a final certificate of occupancy, although it was allowed to have one religious ceremony on-site in the past. The City has sent numerous letters requesting attention to health and safety issues so a conditional occupancy permit can be issued, without any response.

Mayor Tanner suggested that the City step up enforcement efforts in this situation.

Citizen Comment: Bang – Tony’s Cleaners Relocation Assistance

Sun Ae Bang, 1057 - 1st St. N., Renton, 98055, stated that her business, Tony’s Cleaners, is being forced to move from its current location due to Renton’s Aquifer Protection Act. Saying there is no suitable site in Renton for the business to relocate to and that the business now has no resale value, she explained that she and her husband will therefore require a business loan to re-establish this business elsewhere. She requested that the City increase the reimbursement to them for relocating their business by an additional $14,000 to cover the cost of re-establishing the business. (See page 165 for additional discussion on this issue.)
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Citizen Comment: Stewart – Skateboard Park in Renton
Polly Stewart, 12121 SE Petrovitsky Rd., Renton, 98059, spoke in favor of having a skateboard park in Renton. Explaining that as a certified in-line skating instructor her goals are safety and expanding recreational opportunities, she said that getting youth off the street and out of traffic is very important. She claimed that skateboarders are the first to guard their parks against gangs, alcohol, fighting and other unwanted elements since the activity of skateboarding is a source of pride for them. Ms. Stewart emphasized that skateboarding is not a fad, but rather a sport and a form of recreation, and urged Council to consider the needs of youth for a skateboard facility in Renton.

Citizen Comment: Sager – Labrador Ventures Plat
David T. Sager, 1025 N. 28th Pl., Renton, 98056, inquired when public comment will be taken regarding the Labrador Ventures development proposal. Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler replied this will be allowed after Council has acted on the appeal, which will likely be next week.

Citizen Comment: Olson – Skateboard Park in Renton
Sabin Olson, 15807 SE 116th, Renton, 98059, supported the idea of a skateboard park in Renton and believed that the ideal spot would be underneath I-405 between the Cedar River and the Narco site, since the freeway would serve as a much-desirable cover.

Citizen Comment: Urback – Valley Zoning Code Amendments
Mary Urback, 12417 - 12th St. E., Edgewood, 98372, encouraged Council to approve the proposed Zoning Code changes to the Valley area as recommended by the Planning & Development Committee. (See page 167 for Council action.)

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

CAG: 99-049, Sunset Blvd Rockery Repair, AAA Rockery
City Clerk reported bid opening on 5/03/99 for CAG-99-049, Sunset Blvd. NE Rockery Repair; three bids; engineer’s estimate $75,000; and submitted staff recommendation to award the contract to AAA Rockery & Construction in the total amount of $64,962.50. Council concur.

Plat: Dalpay, Preliminary, NE 19th St (PP-97-174)
Hearing Examiner recommended approval, with conditions, of the Dalpay preliminary plat; 29 single family lots on 4.8 acres located at 3714 NE 19th Street (PP-97-174). Council concur.

Public Works: King Conservation District Watershed Forum Projects & Programs
Surface Water Utility Division recommended approval of the proposed Green/Duwamish and Lake Washington/Cedar River Watershed Forum projects and programs to be funded by the King Conservation District. Council concur.

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS
Utilities Committee
Public Works: Centex Homes’ Oversizing Reimbursement on East Renton Interceptor
Utilities Committee Chair Clawson presented a report recommending Council concur in staff’s recommendation that the request by Centex Homes for oversizing of the extension of the East Renton Interceptor be approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. The actual reimbursement amount will be based on actual cost of the construction;
2. If the oversizing amount requested upon completion of construction is equal to or less than the estimated amount of $89,707.01 (including WSST), Council authorizes staff to reimburse Centex Homes for that amount; and
3. If the oversizing amount requested exceeds the original estimated amount, this matter will be referred back to Council for consideration of additional
Utilities Committee Chair Clawson presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to award the SW 27th St. culvert procurement contract to the sole bidder, Utility Vault Co., in the amount of $86,836.56. Sufficient funds are available to pay for the procurement and installation of the culvert (including staff time) under the adjusted 1999 Surface Water Utility CIP budget. MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY KEOLTHER-WHEELER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Utilities Committee Vice Chair Schlitzer presented a majority committee report regarding Tony’s Cleaners business relocation incentive. The Committee met twice to consider the request from Tony’s Cleaners for an increase in business relocation incentive and for the disbursement of payment prior to incurring relocation expenses. A majority of the Committee recommended the following:

1. Not authorize an increase in the total relocation incentive from the current maximum limit of $60,000; and

2. Not disburse the relocation incentive payment until the applicant submits verification of relocation expenses. As an alternate, the City can deposit the remaining balance of relocation incentive funds into an escrow account. The funds can only be disbursed to cover the costs incurred by the applicant as allowed by the administrative rule for the business relocation assistance program. The estimated remaining relocation funds balance is $36,000.

The City’s offer of the $60,000 payment is an incentive for business owners to expedite the relocation of their business out of Zone 1 of the Aquifer Protection Area by the end of 1999, thereby reducing the risk of contamination of the aquifer. The relocation incentive was not intended to compensate for all relocation costs or to buy out existing businesses.

Staff will work with the applicant and the applicant’s lending institution to assure that funds are available for use consistent with City Code and with the administrative rules regarding the business relocation assistance program. All agreements related to the disbursement of funds will be subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney. (The minority committee report follows.)

Utilities Committee Chair Clawson presented a minority committee report regarding Tony’s Cleaners business relocation incentive. The Committee met twice to consider the request from Tony’s Cleaners for an increase in business relocation incentive and for the disbursement of payment prior to incurring relocation expenses. A minority of the committee recommended the following:

1. Authorize an increase in the total relocation incentive from the current maximum limit of $60,000 to $74,000; and

2. Not disburse the relocation incentive payment until the applicant submits verification of relocation expenses. As an alternate, the City can deposit the remaining balance of relocation incentive funds into an escrow account. The funds can only be disbursed to cover the costs incurred by the applicant as allowed by the business relocation assistance program administrative rules.

With Council concurrence, the Chair further requested that the Administration
prepare an ordinance for Council’s consideration that would amend the City Code to raise the maximum relocation incentive to $74,000. (See page 167 for Council action.)

Noting that Tony’s Cleaners is the only business to have applied for reimbursement of business relocation expenses under this incentive program, Councilman Clawson felt it would be best to approve the additional $14,000 for the Bangs. Although he understood that the original offer of $60,000 was generous, he said the additional funds would give the Bangs a good chance of succeeding in a new location. He suggested that a larger business with more clout would fare better in this situation.

Mayor Tanner clarified the Administration’s position on this matter, saying that it proposed approving the additional funds as a way of bringing closure to a matter that has been pending for five years. He emphasized that he was not speaking in favor of either the minority or the majority committee report.

Councilman Schlitzer reiterated that five years have transpired since Council adopted the incentive program, which was specifically designed to encourage businesses to relocate sooner rather than later. He noted that other businesses affected by the aquifer protection regulations have already made changes to comply with the law, whether by modifying their business practices or discontinuing the use of certain substances. Mr. Schlitzer said that just because Tony’s Cleaners chose not to relocate until the deadline for doing so was upon them is not sufficient reason for the City to change the program at this time. He encouraged Council to approve the majority committee report.

Councilman Parker supported the minority committee report, emphasizing that Tony’s is the only business seeking reimbursement under this program. He added that the business has operated in its current location for 17 years but is now being forced to move.

Councilman Edwards recalled that the regulations allow reimbursement of relocation expenses only if the business is relocating in Renton. Planning/Building/Public Works Administrator Gregg Zimmerman explained that the ordinance allows for “administrative rule-making” relating to payment of relocation expenses. Earlier this year, the Bangs sought—and were granted—an administrative rule allowing the payment of reimbursement for relocation outside of the City.

Mr. Edwards was concerned by this decision, noting this issue had been a topic of much discussion at the time the program was established. He felt that Council’s intent had been very clear regarding this, and suggested that Council would not have approved the ordinance without this provision. He said it might be possible that other affected businesses did not apply for reimbursement of relocation expenses due to this requirement, adding that it did not seem appropriate to give money to a business to move out of Renton. Mr. Edwards concluded that any further expenditures should only be made if Tony’s relocates within Renton.

Councilmember Nelson commented that another dry cleaning business affected by the regulations has simply chosen to contract out its dry cleaning to another location, but retain the rest of its operations at its current site.

Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler agreed that the administrative rule allowing payment for relocation out of the City reversed not only the intent of the regulation, but its actual language as well. She felt that such an action was
outside the purview of the administrative rule-making process. Mr. Schlitzer noted that the Bangs have already been told that they will still qualify for the program although they are not relocating within Renton. He believed that the majority committee report follows the original intent of the ordinance.

Assistant City Attorney Zanetta Fontes confirmed that because administrative procedures cannot amend the terms of an ordinance enacted by Council, any funds paid to the Bangs to relocate their business out of the City will require Council action to specifically permit reimbursement for moving elsewhere.

MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL REFER THIS MATTER BACK TO THE UTILITIES COMMITTEE. CARRIED.

RECESS

MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL RECESS FOR FIVE MINUTES. CARRIED. Time: 9:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:07 p.m.; roll was called; all Councilmembers present.

Utilities Committee Chair Clawson presented a report recommending concurrence with the staff recommendation to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Oakesdale Business Park wetland buffer averaging easement with the developer, Zelman Renton LLC.

The wetland buffer averaging easement will allow the developer to use adjacent City-owned property purchased by the Surface Water Utility to mitigate for 21,370 square feet of wetland buffer that will be used as parking for the Oakesdale Business Park. In exchange, Zelman Renton LLC has granted the City a 225-foot ingress/egress easement and a 100-foot drainage easement along the southwest portion of the site. The Oakesdale Business Park is located north of SW 43rd Street and west of Oakesdale Avenue SW.

MOVED BY CLAWSON, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Planning & Development Committee

Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report regarding the zoning for the Davis Annexation. The Committee has reviewed the plans of the applicant for the 3.8-acre annexation, and discussed potential impacts with staff. Based on this information and the review that will necessarily occur during the project application, the Committee is satisfied that the issues raised during the public hearing can be addressed for this specific project under the proposed R-8 zoning.

The Committee therefore recommended that Council adopt the ordinances for annexation and R-8 zoning as recommended by the Administration at the May 3, 1999 Council meeting. The Committee further recommended that the land use and zoning designations for the unincorporated area between Renton and Newcastle be reviewed during the next annual Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle. MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY EDWARDS, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED. (See page 169 for ordinances.)

Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler added that the net density for development in the annexation area will be approximately six dwelling units per acre, which is comparable to the R-5 zoning which Council had been considering imposing on the property.
Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report recommending that the Employment Area Valley Zoning Code amendments and additional Zoning Code housekeeping amendments be approved as follows:

1. The amendments shown in the document dated April 8, 1999 be adopted, with the changes recommended by the Planning Commission as modified by the Planning & Development Committee. These modifications regulate some uses allowed in the portion of the Medium Industrial (IM) zone falling between SW 16th Street and I-405. The Committee’s intent is to enhance the image of Renton at this gateway location by regulating uses which may have visual, noise or odoriferous impacts.

2. Additional staff review is to occur in the future as part of further Zoning Code housekeeping amendments to evaluate the issue of screening and site maintenance of industrial uses such as heavy equipment sales and storage, taxi and transportation services.

3. The draft Code amendments be forwarded to the City Attorney’s office for development of an ordinance.

MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELEER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Councilman Schlitzer commended the involvement of many interested businesses in this matter.

Finance Committee
Finance: Vouchers
Finance Committee Chair Edwards presented a report recommending approval of Claim Vouchers 170324 - 170805 and two wire transfers totaling $3,116,452.51; and approval of Payroll Vouchers 166266 - 166531 and 528 direct deposits in the total amount of $1,324,716.72 (May 5, 1999). MOVED BY EDWARDS, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Community Services Committee
Community Services Committee Chair Nelson presented a report regarding a skateboard park in Renton. The City of Renton adopted its Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan in 1993. At that time, there was discussion about including a skateboard park as a recommended project, but the need and demand had not been defined and there were major concerns about liability. In 1997, the Washington State Legislature amended the recreational land use law to include skateboarding, which had the effect of limiting the City’s liability. In addition, the City’s current insurance carrier covers skate parks at no additional premium charge.

In the past several years, the need and demand for such a facility has become apparent and many other cities have built skateboard parks. Their experience has shown no increased liability and very few problems.

Therefore, the Community Services Committee recommended that the City begin the process to identify potential locations for a skateboard park facility, and include the facility in the update of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation and Open Space Plan.

It is the intent of this recommendation to expedite the siting and construction of a skateboard park in the City of Renton. This may require an amendment to the existing Comprehensive Plan, a grant funding application, and the development of a public/private partnership to build the facility. This effort will not displace any existing project currently identified in the adopted Comprehensive Plan.
This item will remain in the Community Services Committee for periodic updates. MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.

Mayor Tanner noted that, while staff can identify potential locations for a skateboard park and include such a facility in the update of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation and Open Space Plan, at some point Council will need to appropriate funds for the park’s design and construction.

Community Services Committee Chair Nelson presented a report recommending concurrence in the staff recommendation to approve the Letter of Understanding between the City of Renton, the King County Department of Transportation, and the King County Parks Department for continued maintenance by Renton of a portion of the Cedar River Trail between 131st and 149th Avenues SE (excepting the bridge structure). The Committee further recommended that the resolution regarding this matter be presented for reading and adoption. MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED. (See later this page for resolution.)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

The following resolution was presented for reading and adoption:

**Resolution #3392**
Parks: Cedar River Trail Maintenance by Renton of Portion Owned by King County

A resolution was read authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an interlocal cooperative agreement with the King County Department of Transportation and the King County Department of Parks and Recreation regarding the maintenance of a portion of the Cedar River Trail. MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

The following ordinances were presented for first reading and advanced to second and final reading:

**Annexation: Davis, Union Ave NE (132nd Ave SE), A-98-003**

An ordinance was read annexing approximately 3.8 acres located east of 132nd Ave. SE (Union Ave. NE) (Davis Annexation, A-98-003). MOVED BY EDWARDS, SECONDED BY PARKER, COUNCIL ADVANCE THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING. CARRIED.

**Ordinance #4780**
Annexation: Davis, Union Ave NE (132nd Ave SE), A-98-003

Following second and final reading of the above-referenced ordinance, it was MOVED BY EDWARDS, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

**Annexation: Davis, R-8 Zoning**

An ordinance was read establishing the zoning classification of approximately 3.8 acres annexed to the City of Renton to R-8 (Residential, 8 Dwelling Units per Acre) (Davis Annexation, A-98-003). MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY EDWARDS, COUNCIL ADVANCE THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING. CARRIED.

**Ordinance #4781**
Annexation: Davis, R-8 Zoning

Following second and final reading of the above-referenced ordinance, it was MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY EDWARDS, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**
Franchise: TCI Cable Rate Increase Proposal

Referring to TCI’s recent cable rate increase proposal, it was MOVED BY SCHLITZER, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL REFER THIS MATTER TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE. CARRIED.
AUDIENCE COMMENT
Citizen Comment: Olson – Skateboard Park in Renton

Sabin Olson, 15807 SE 116th, Renton, 98059, offered to assist in the siting and design of the skateboard park in order to maximize the City’s resources and eliminate any unnecessary expenses in this endeavor. Emphasizing that the City should not, in any case, retain the services of a landscape architect for this purpose, since such a person would probably not be familiar with skateboard parks or what specific features would make them attractive to youth, he suggested contracting with a certain Oregon-based company which has considerable experience designing this type of facility.

Mr. Olson then relayed his conversations with the property services manager at the Washington State Department of Transportation regarding whether the State would be willing to allow construction of a skateboard park on the State-owned property beneath I-405 near the Cedar River.

Citizen Comment: Evans – Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tree Cutting Variance

Ralph Evans, 3306 NE 11th Pl., Renton, 98056, suggested that if Bethlehem Lutheran Church succeeds in obtaining a variance to remove 24 cottonwood trees on its property, it be asked to replace them with a more hardy species since the trees screen the Good Shepherd group home from neighboring residences.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 20 MINUTES TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION. CARRIED. Time: 9:42 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL ADJOURN. CARRIED. Time: 10:02 p.m.

MARILYN J. PETERSEN, CMC, City Clerk

Recorder: Brenda Fritsvold
May 10, 1999