Item 2

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 9, 2009
REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session of the Auburn City Council was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. M. Holmes presiding and City Clerk Joseph G.R. Labrie recording the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Keith Nesbitt, Kevin Hanley, Bill Kirby, Bridget Powers, J. M. Holmes

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: City Manager Robert Richardson, City Attorney Michael Colantuono, Community Development Director Will Wong, Senior Planner Reg Murray, Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi, Public Works Director Jack Warren, Administrative Services Director Andy Heath, Police Chief Valerie Harris

MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Holmes announced that he and Council Member Hanley met with representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation. He said Council Member Hanley would provide an update later in the meeting. Mayor Holmes said that on the 17th of March he and the City Manager will meet with County Administration representatives and the County Supervisor to discuss "items of mutual interest as far as City-County relations." He also announced that there is an effort to promote a building, antenna, space and earth (BASE) jumping event from the Foresthill Bridge. He said it will be discussed further as part of an economic stimulus plan to bring people to the area. He said there is a plan underway for a bicycle race in the City on the 24th of May.

Mayor Holmes advised that he has asked the City staff to bring the issue of the local wastewater treatment plant to the Council on the 23rd of March. He said anyone who has interest in that issue may present their concerns at that time.

Mayor Holmes presented a proclamation to Gerry Suskin naming March 25 through April 1, 2009 Auburn Association of University Women Week.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus of the Council

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Minutes**

   By **MOTION** approve City Council Minutes of January 30, 2009.

2. **Land Use Appeals Ordinance – Second Reading**

   By **ORDINANCE 09-02** amend Title XV of the Auburn Municipal Code to establish a uniform appeal procedure for land use matters.

3. **Repeal of Auburn Municipal Code Chapter 151 (Environmental Quality) – Second Reading**

   By **ORDINANCE 09-03** repeal Chapter 151 of the Auburn Municipal Code, Environmental Quality Law of the City of Auburn.

4. **Hearing Authority Appointments**

   Item removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

   ********** End of Consent Calendar **********

   By **MOTION** approve Items 1, 2 and 3 of the Consent Calendar.
   MOTION: Hanley/Powers/Approved 5:0

4. **Hearing Authority Appointments**

   Council Member Nesbitt stated that previously there were both police personnel and an administrative officer to hear citation appeals issued by an enforcement officer. He asked for an explanation of the "police policing themselves." City Manager Richardson stated that typically the citations are not police-related actions. He said they are mostly property-related issues. He said the appointments of two additional hearing officers will give him flexibility, if he thinks it is prudent, to utilize another hearing officer. He said, due to his busy schedule, the additional appointments are really to make it easier to have hearings set at a more convenient time for the appellants.

Council Member Kirby asked if the citations were police actions, would the appellant be allowed to request an administrator. City Manager Richardson stated that if the need arose, he would hear appeals that involved police enforcement issues.

By **RESOLUTION 09-26** approve Police Captain John Ruffcorn and Police Chief Valerie Harris to act as Hearing Authority Officers with respect to administrative citations pursuant to Auburn Municipal Code section 95.26. **MOTION: Nesbitt/Hanley/Approved 5:0**

5. **Public Comment**

Council Member Nesbitt said he is concerned about the traffic bottleneck at Hale Street. He said he would like Public Works to take another look at the area. He said it would make more sense for Finley Street to be one-way in the other direction and Hale Street a one-way street coming into the street instead of out of the school. He said if someone looked at it over a five-day period, his concern would be easily understood.

Mayor Holmes said he thought the Traffic Committee was hearing several appeals regarding those streets. He said he thought there was a survey being sent to residents for their opinions.

Council Member Powers spoke about "Seniors First." She said it is a program that provides meals-on-wheels, door-to-door rides, family visitor program, Health Express and information and assistance to seniors. She said there will be fund raiser on April 9th for them and encouraged the community to attend.

Gordon Ainsleigh explained that he represents two entities. He advised that one group is Climbing Resource Advocates for Greater Sacramento (CRAGS). He said he is also a businessman in the Auburn area. He said he would like to see Auburn succeed in difficult financial times. He said the community would benefit from a bicycle race in Auburn. He asked that Council use its influence to encourage other governmental bodies to open the canyon. He said the three things that would help the economy and not need funding would be to allow (1) parachute jumping from the Foresthill Bridge (2) the opening of a cavern under the old lime quarry to filming and (3) rock climbing. He said CRAGS has made changes to the resolution he presented to the Council in January. Mr. Ainsleigh presented the revised resolution to the Council.

Mr. Ainsleigh asked that the item be placed on the March 23rd agenda as an informational item. He said he would like to make a presentation at which time the Council will be given a packet of background information. He said he completed a financial analysis and estimated that the average

climber would spend ten to twelve dollars in the Auburn with each visit. He said it would net Auburn about $100,000.00 per year. He said it would be a no-cost stimulus for the area. He said after the staff has time to review the item, he would like it as an action item on April 13, 2009.

Mayor Holmes suggested that the item be placed on the agenda for March 23, 2009 as an informational item. He said Council Members' questions may be presented that time.

REPORTS

6. Informational Reports from Committees/Commissions

Arts Commission

Arts Commission Chair Louise Gilbert outlined all the projects in progress and those that are being considered. She explained three mural projects, the events of the City Hall Gallery and Art Walk music. She advised that the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center is not a project of the Auburn Arts Commission, but Arts Commissioner Sue Dings reports on its activities. She said the Commission is also interested in the School Park Preserve, although the Commission has no role in the project. She said the Commission may like to utilize the park for a future event. Ms. Gilbert advised that the streetscape project is the Commission's most intense undertaking at this time. She said the Commission continues to consider the Auburn Arts Festival, but prize funding is an issue. She advised that the "Guide to Public Art Brochure" was a project from 2008, but the brochures are still distributed.

Chair Gilbert stated that the Commission has four vacancies on the Commission at the present time and is currently seeking applicants. She said she has asked a previous Arts Commissioner to assist with accounting functions of the Commission.

Council Member Hanley asked if the Commission budgets for maintaining current murals. Ms. Gilbert advised that Commission does not do so. She advised that the Commission has not been given a budget for two years and, due to the current economic situation, does not expect to be funded for three more years. She explained current projects have all been previously funded.

Council Member Nesbitt inquired about the Elk's Club Mural Project and asked if there would be a coating of the fabric. Ms. Gilbert said the original contract called for graffiti coating when the mural was going to be painted directly on the wall. She said that she did not know what arrangements have been made for the fabric protection.

Council Member Powers thanked Louise Gilbert for her presentation. She encouraged the public to attend the Commission meetings.

Mayor Holmes asked how additional arts commissioners are being sought. Ms. Gilbert said the Commission is advertising and seeking applicants by word of mouth. He also asked why an outside CPA is handling the books for the Commission. Ms. Gilbert advised that the CPA was a previous commissioner, who had kept the Commission's budget records, and simply volunteered to assist. Mayor Holmes said he felt it to be a part of the City's responsibility.

Mayor Holmes asked for quarterly reports to the Council to be on a more regular basis.

Library Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board Member Michael Otten stated that Friends of the Library would also like to congratulate the AAUW. He said the organization provides some of the funding for fifth grade students to be bused to the library.

He said one of the events of the year is the centennial of the Carnegie Library. He said there will be a special celebration in connection with the Art Walk on June 11, 2009. He provided some historical information regarding the founding and maintenance of the Carnegie Library. He added that the Auburn Library is the busiest library in the County.

7. **Annual SACOG Blueprint Project Comparison (2009 Report)**

Senior Planner Reg Murray advised that the SACOG Blueprint Project is a tool used by SACOG to encourage positive growth within communities. He said the report provides a variety of ideas such as transportation sources and open space opportunities. He said the typography of Auburn creates some limitations for the City. He said the economic climate over the past year has placed limitations on the type of projects that come to the community. He said the provisions of the Blueprint will be applied to the Baltimore Ravine Specific Plan, although there will be some changes in the initial plan.

Council Member Hanley stated that there is a form-base-code handbook produced by SACOG wherein one of the examples was the City of Auburn. He asked if staff has looked at the guide with the intention of integrating it into future plans. Community Development Director Will Wong said that SACOG advised that it had a program to possibly provide

more funds to do some more form-base-code, but he has not heard anymore about it. He said he would follow-up on it.

8. **Planning Commission Consensus Memo Regarding Priority Planning Issues (2009)**

Senior Planner Reg Murray explained that this item was another annual report to advise Council of the Planning Commission's priority issues. He said there were carryovers from the prior years wherein the Commission was interested in updating the sign ordinance, a review of parking standards, updating the zoning ordinance and a trails master plan. He said the Commission is requesting that the Council establish an ad hoc committee to begin work on the trails master plan. He added that the Historic Design Review Commission (HDRC) also expressed interest in an updated sign ordinance. He said there is interest in the City relaxing its temporary sign standard for banners, balloons, etc. given the economic climate. He said that issue will be brought to the Council in the near future.

Council Member Hanley asked if it is very time-consuming to revise the sign ordinance. Mr. Murray said that is part of the problem, but that there are a number of other issues involved, such as window and/or neon signs in Old Town and Downtown. He said a citywide survey needs to be conducted in order to acquire an inventory of those signs currently in place. Mr. Wong advised that a comprehensive sign ordinance update would involve working with the business community as well as the Chamber of Commerce. He said they are currently working on updating the zoning ordinance, which is a complete re-write of the entire zoning ordinance.

Council Member Hanley also inquired about a traffic-mitigation fee in the general plan update. He asked who would pay the fee. Mr. Wong said there is a lot of different ways to approach it. He said some cities have a citywide traffic-mitigation fee. He said benefit areas could be updated. He said the effort it would take typically would require the hiring of a traffic engineer. He said the easiest way would be for a citywide traffic-mitigation fee to be paid prior to the issuance of a building permit. Mr. Wong said Public Works would be the lead department in the effort and not Planning.

Council Member Nesbitt said that the business associations are interested in having some input on sign approval. He said he was pleased to see that parking issues are being addressed.

Council Member Powers asked if the staff's issues on the priority list are to be addressed in 2009. Mr. Murray said they are all ongoing projects to greater or lesser degrees.

Mr. Wong said that he and the building official are working on the procedures to rent the School Park Preserve. He said they are trying to be consistent with other City rental procedures and policies. He said the agreements with non-profit groups and the management of the park are separate issues. He said those will be formalized after the rental procedures are completed.

City Manager Richardson said rentals are being allowed on a case-to-case basis through the City Manager's Office until a policy is set in place. He said there are a number of activities in the planning stage with the first event to be the Endurance Expo on May 16, 2009.

Council Member Kirby asked for more information on the trails master plan. Mr. Murray said it involves recognizing the trails that border the City with an interface to the current bike trail system. Mr. Kirby advised that the County Visitors' Center has a great deal of information on the subject.

Mayor Holmes asked about the suggested ad hoc committee. Mr. Murray advised that it will be brought before the Council to decide whether or not a committee should be created. Council consensus was that staff should pursue the effort and bring it back as an agenda item.

9. **Auburn Fire 2008 Incident Response Report**

Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi introduced the 2008 Incident Response Report. He discussed the number of calls: fire, medical aid, false alarms, and response time. He provided information regarding the volunteer program. He explained grant projects and proposals throughout the City. He outlined the emergency preparedness program.

Council Member Hanley questioned the rise in EMS and Rescue services. The Chief advised that traffic accidents, canyon accidents and in-town events have required more emergency services. He said services to the aging population have remained about the same.

Council Member Nesbitt asked about the status of the damaged fire truck. Chief D'Ambrogi advised that it is currently being fixed. Council Member Nesbitt asked about the "good intent calls." The Chief said it's a matter of categorization between those calls and false alarms.

Council Member Kirby asked for the national standard for response time. Chief D'Ambrogi said the standard for all calls is four minutes. The Chief said there are skewed statistics because of the differences in rural areas vs. urban areas. Dr. Kirby asked if there has been any thought given to contracting medical services and not having fire personnel respond. The

Chief said that under State statute the Fire Department is required to respond under the EMS agency. He said the EMS agency determines what the contract is under the medical service. He said the Fire Department is not the medical service; it is the first responder.

Mayor Holmes asked how many fires to which the department responded were fully involved. The Chief said there were four or five.

10. **City Council Committee Reports**

Council Member Hanley said the Fire Chief arranged a meeting with himself, Mayor Holmes, two representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and three representatives from the State Parks and Recreation Department. They discussed fire safety in the canyon. He said the BOR will sign a state-wide agreement with Cal Fire Forestry and Fire Protection for fire suppression. He said it was a positive meeting and he is hopeful that a future agreement with the Federal Government can be developed. He said the Fire Chief will work on the details.

Council Member Hanley said he, and Council Members Powers and Nesbitt attended a ribbon-cutting at the Boys & Girls Club at the E.V. Cain site. He said Community Development Director Wong assisted with the paperwork and obtaining $5000 to help build the classroom module. He said it is a great program for the youth of the community.

Council Member Nesbitt stated that he is the representative to the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) and on the Board of Directors of the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority. He said the Capital Corridor ridership continues to increase and with one exception has the "best on-time percentage in the nation." He said PCTPA unmet transit needs discussions involve Auburn paying its "fair share" for a call center. He said the Council will be discussing it a future meeting.

Council Member Powers advised that some of the discussions of the Economic Development Commission will entail how to allocate funds held from previous years. She said EDC will also discuss ways to work with the Redevelopment Area Funds utilized for the streetscape and Project Auburn.

Council Member Powers said she has spoken with Arts Commission Chair Louise Gilbert regarding quarterly reports to the Council. She said Ms. Gilbert has made a commitment to report regularly. She said the Commission will discuss the streetscape and new membership.

Council Member Kirby stated that he and Mayor Holmes discussed the concept of the shuttle in that it may be appropriate for significant events.

He said possibly it could be utilized for the Home Show, May 15-17th. He said the shuttle would allow people to travel around the area during such events as the antique fair and the endurance expo.

He said there is an upcoming meeting of the Cap-to-Cap Water and Sewer Committee of which he is a member. He said they will discuss the Lincoln Basin Drainage and regional and local sewer issues. He advised that he is the vice chair of the Placer-Nevada County Water Agency and will meet with Supervisor Weygandt to discuss the City and County working more closely on certain water issues.

Mayor Holmes stated that he and Council Member Kirby agreed that the prospect of shuttle service needed to involve the Old Town Business Association, Downtown Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce. He said the objective would be to provide enticements to get the public to shop and visit local restaurants.

Mayor Holmes advised that City submitted grant applications to the Placer County Air Pollution Control District for possible funding. He said it appears that none of the submittals are being considered for funding.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

11. **Annual Housing Element Progress Report (2008)**

Senior Planner Reg Murray explained the State requires an annual report due by April 1, 2009. He said it contains a report on housing activity to include affordable housing programs. He said there was a significant downturn in the number of building permits requested and none were specifically affordable units. He said the Council adopted the Housing Element in December 2008. He advised that the City of Auburn is the only jurisdiction in Placer County that has a certified housing element.

Mr. Murray advised that staff will be creating a brochure regarding the Density Bonus Ordinance. Mr. Murray stated that the Building Official enforces energy conservation requirements.

By **MOTION** adopt the 2008 Annual Housing Element Progress Report and direct staff to submit the report to the State Office of Planning and Development and the State Department of Housing and Community Development. **MOTION: Hanley/Nesbitt/Approved 5:0**

12. **General Plan Implementation Work Plan (2009 Report)**

Senior Planner Reg Murray advised that the State requests that jurisdictions review their General Plan Implementation Work Plan to

provide information to the State Office of Planning and Research and the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Murray stated that last year the City conducted workshops relative to the hillside ordinance. He said the Council adopted the second unit ordinance, the density bonus ordinance and the 2008-2013 Housing Element. He said, in conjunction with the Housing Element, the staff is currently working on a grant application for housing rehabilitation systems.

Mr. Murray confirmed for Council Member Hanley that the Southwest Specific Plan is basically the Baltimore Ravine Plan. Mr. Murray advised that a landscape ordinance is outside of the zoning ordinance and staff is working to have it included.

Council Member Nesbitt questioned the time frames, dating back to 1993, in the report. He suggested that since development is down, the City should take the time to work on some of the projects. He asked if Council should review the items for prioritizing. Community Development Director responded that, besides the Baltimore Ravine Plan, the biggest effort he plans to undertake is the zoning ordinance. He said it is a huge project since it has not been done in thirty years. Council Member Nesbitt also asked about the status of the separated sidewalks projects. Mr. Wong said the mandate was mainly for major roads.

Council Member Powers also questioned the work task list. Mr. Murray advised that the items stay on the listing after completion to show that they have been satisfied.

Council Member Kirby said that there are small projects around the airport. He said it is a highly critical area. He asked about the task to prepare a proposal for a new sphere of influence. Mr. Wong advised that it was initiated by a City-driven proposal for annexation in previous years. He said it remains on the list because now annexation efforts come from the property owners or developers. Council Member Kirby asked if any part of the plan encourages homeowners to decrease landscape water usage. Mr. Wong advised that the main agency to handle that issue would be Placer County Water Agency. He said the City has no ordinance to regulate landscaping for single-family homes.

By **MOTION** adopt the 2009 Annual General Plan Implementation Work Plan and direct staff to submit the plan to the State Office of Planning and Research and the State Department of Housing and Community Development. **Powers/Kirby/Approved 5:0**

Mayor Holmes asked the City Manager to organize a workshop relative to the Cap-to-Cap trip to adopt a coordinated plan for Council Members traveling to Washington, D.C.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holmes, without objection, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

J. M. Holmes, Mayor

Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 17, 2009
SPECIAL SESSION

The Special Session of the Auburn City Council was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. M. Holmes presiding and Deputy City Clerk Anne M. Cooey recording the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present:	Keith Nesbitt, Kevin Hanley, Bill Kirby, J. M. Holmes
Council Members Absent:	Bridget Powers absent for roll call; attended closed session

Staff Members Present: City Manager Robert Richardson

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

By **MOTION** adjourn to a Closed Session under Government Code Section 54957:6 **MOTION: Nesbitt/Hanley/Approved by Voice**

(1) **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**
Agency Designated Representatives: Robert Richardson
Employee Group: All Bargaining Units

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holmes without objection adjourned the meeting.

J. M. Holmes, Mayor

Anne M. Cooey, Deputy City Clerk